



ATTACHMENT B

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Declaration of William Weiser

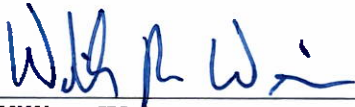
I, William Weiser, state as follows:

1. I am the Fire Chief of the Riverside County Fire Department. My business address is: Riverside County Fire Department, 210 W. San Jacinto, Perris, CA 92570. I have held this position since August 3, 2020 .
2. My experience in firefighting consists of 42 years in the Fire Service, the last 36 serving Riverside County as a Fire Apparatus Engineer , Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, Division Chief and currently Fire Chief. I served 2 decades on Incident Command Teams throughout California.
3. I am familiar with the area where an overhead 230 kV transmission line is proposed to be constructed as part of the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP).
4. The area of the Santa Ana River bottom in the vicinity of the RTRP is overgrown with grass, brush and bamboo. All of these fuels are highly flammable especially during our southern California dry wind events (known as Santa Ana winds).
5. This area is known for recreational horseback riding, cycling and hiking. During the recent crisis of homelessness in the counties adjacent to the Santa Ana River, the river bottom has also increasingly become an outlet for homelessness. This unique human crisis has increased the risk of human loss from wildland fires in the area. This area does have an extensive history of wildland fires
6. The risk of fires within this area is increased every afternoon when westerly winds blow from the coast up the river bottom. The area planned for the RTRP overhead transmission line is also heavily impacted by the powerful Santa Ana winds in the fall which dry the fuels in the area and have the potential to quickly spread wildfires.
7. Aerial firefighting assets are trained to work in and around power lines, and there are existing power lines in the area. However, the addition of tall high voltage power lines in this area will complicate aerial firefighting, and will limit the effectiveness of firefighting fixed wing aircraft and helicopters.
8. Underground electrical transmission lines would create far less opportunity for causing fires that would threaten nearby communities. Underground transmission lines would enhance the ability of aircraft to quickly suppress fires while they are small, before fires increase in size and intensity and escape our ground resource control.
9. There are seven categories of wildland fire-caused fires, electrical is one of those seven categories. Electrical transmission lines that are undergrounded represent far less of a hazard. In my professional opinion, undergrounding the remainder of the RTRP transmission line would

significantly reduce the threat of wildland fires to the community of Norco, Corona, Jurupa and Riverside.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the statements and information contained in this Declaration are true and correct.

Executed this 8th day of September, 2023, at Perris, California.



William Weiser

Fire Chief – Riverside County Fire Department