



ATTACHMENT A

FILED
10/02/23
04:59 PM
A1504013

September 29, 2023

Alice Bushing Reynolds, President
Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner
Darcie L. Hauck, Commissioner
John Reynolds, Commissioner
Karen Douglas, Commissioner

505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: A.15-04-013 – Full Undergrounding of Riverside Transmission Reliability Project

Dear Madame President and Commissioners

We write this letter in support of efforts by our communities in Riverside county to fully underground the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP). We understand the need for this project and in no way want to stand in the way of construction of the project. However, we have become quite concerned about how it is to be built, and where it is to be constructed.

We understand that the RTRP has been considered several times over the last two decades by the CPUC. However, we believe that the circumstances related to how the project will be built have changed radically since the 2020 decision that approved the project. Our communities are now seriously threatened by wildfires to an extent never seen in the past. Fighting those fires, as you know, has become one of the major undertakings of our state and local communities. Overhead transmission lines limit firefighters from using planes and helicopters to fight the fires. Yet these air attack resources are critical to stopping the spread of wildfires. Even worse, overhead transmission lines can be the cause of the conflagrations.

Another issue that has gained in prominence since your last review relates to the fact that the location of the project tends in some cases to run through the poorest of our communities. We believe that undergrounding the project would reduce the impacts on those affected communities.

While we understand the Commission's desire to avoid unnecessary costs and keep utility rates as affordable as possible, it is important to recognize that the financial impacts of full undergrounding on our communities will be very slight indeed. It is estimated that the costs of fully undergrounding this project by replacing the remaining 5 miles of overhead lines, when allocated to all transmission customers by the California System Operator (CAISO), will require an increase in residential rates of a small fraction of one dollar per year for each customer. Given the substantial risks and costs associated with damage from wildfires, and the cost of fighting such fires, that minimal cost appears to be a very reasonable investment.

Please support full undergrounding of the RTRP for our communities.

Sincerely,



Ken Calvert
41st Congressional District



Mark Takano
39th Congressional District



Kelly Seyarto
Senate District 32



Bill Essayli
State Assembly District 63



Karen Spiegel
2nd District Supervisor



Chuck Conder
Member, Riverside City Council



Steve Hemenway
Councilmember Ward 7
City of Riverside

9/18/2022

Alice Bushing Reynolds, President
Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner
Darcie L. Hauck, Commissioner
John Reynolds, Commissioner
Karen Douglas, Commissioner

505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: A.15-04-013 – Full Undergrounding of Riverside Transmission Reliability Project

Dear Madame President and Commissioners

Thank you for listening to community members regarding the RTRP. I believe this entire line should be underground. I expressed this belief during the public comment period in 2018. Unfortunately, not enough of us spoke up at that time.

I worked for PG&E for 30 years and I was the San Francisco Division Manager when I retired in 1998. /I subsequently worked for the City of Riverside as the Riverside Public Utility General manger from 2000 to 2004.

I clearly understand the benefits of underground transmission lines and the associated pros and cons. If there was ever a line that should be constructed underground, it is RTRP. Beside the section you have already ordered be underground, the remainder is along a scenic Santa Ana River and is also subject to low flying aircraft, private aviation, and public safety agencies. It is also on the approach to the Corona Airport.

RTRP should be 100% underground. Attached is an editorial I recently wrote for a Riverside newspaper.

Thank You,

Tom Evans
2855Mc Allister St

Riverside Ca. 92503



Riverside Transmission Reliability Project - aka RTRP

RTRP is an excellent example of the difference between “Doing things right” and “Doing the Right Thing”.

SCE and the City of Riverside recognized the need for a second connection to the state transmission grid. The city followed SCE to justify this project. However, they justified the Wrong Thing: a 215,000-volt overhead transmission line constructed on 180-foot-tall steel poles, 600 feet apart, marching along the scenic Santa Ana River habitat and Ward 7 neighborhoods. Each pole will have 6 wires on which large orange “beach balls” will be installed for visibility and aircraft safety.

The Right Thing would have been designing this line for 100% underground.

The city of Jurupa Valley sued SCE over the project’s overhead design and was successful in having it changed to underground construction through their city.

Installing the wires underground is feasible, affordable, and consistent with projects in other areas of Calif. Underground construction is more expensive, but justified because undergrounding has the overall values of being inherently safer (including to low flying aircraft), more esthetically pleasing, less impactful to the values of adjacent properties, and more reliable since they aren’t affected by wind, other weather, or physical impact.

I worked in the electric utility business for over 30 years. In that entire time no underground high voltage transmission lines failed. In fact, on one occasion a 500,000-volt overhead line failed due to high winds.

Since the 1970’s it has been the policy statewide that new electric distribution lines be underground. This was for the purpose of Safety, Reliability, and Esthetics. Additionally, PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E were mandated by the CPUC to have a program to pay to convert existing distribution lines from overhead to underground. Over the years, these private utilities have spent \$100’s of millions putting overhead lines underground. The customers of the utilities pay for these through their rates.

It is ridiculous to hear justification to keep constructing high voltage transmission lines overhead for same reasons why distribution lines are required to be underground: Safety, and Reliability

RTRP fundamentally puts the interests of SCE ahead of Riverside residents and businesses. The state transmission grid is paid for by all electric customers equally. Thus, SCE wants to construct RTRP as inexpensively as possible to save their customers money. SCE wanted RTRP to be overhead from the start.

Riverside leaders supported the overhead design. SCE has stated the underground line would cost every customer about \$1.00/yr. Thus, the overhead line might cost \$0.50/yr. The difference is worth paying to prevent the long-term impact of the overhead line.

Riverside electric customers are already paying their share of the cost of underground high voltage transmission facilities in other areas served by SCE.

During the time RTRP has been proceeding at glacial speed, a 500,000-volt underground transmission line in Chino Hills and a transmission line under San Francisco Bay have been completed – and Riverside electric customers are paying our proportional share.

Riverside customers will pay for our proportional share of cost of RTRP that is underground through Jurupa Valley, along with SCE customers.

It will be the Right Thing and Equitable that all customers share in the cost of RTRP being installed underground on Riverside's side of the Santa Ana River too.

It is never too late to do the Right Thing.

Thank You,

Tom Evans RPU General Manager 2000-2004



September 6, 2023

Alice Bushing Reynolds, President
Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner
Darcie L. Hauck, Commissioner
John Reynolds, Commissioner
Karen Douglas, Commissioner

505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

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CITY COUNCIL

ROBIN GRUNDMEYER
Mayor

KEVIN BASH
Mayor Pro Tem

KATHERINE ALEMAN
Council Member

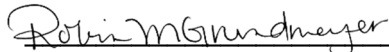
BERWIN HANNA
Council Member

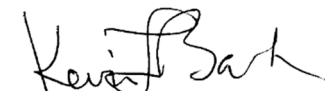
GREG NEWTON
Council Member

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Please support full undergrounding of the RTRP for our communities.

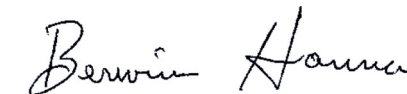
Sincerely,


Robin Grundmeyer, Mayor


Kevin Bash, Mayor Pro Tem


Katherine Aleman, Council Member


Greg Newton, Council Member


Berwin Hanna, Council Member



OFFICE OF: Mayor

Phone: 951-736-2371
Fax: 951-736-2493

400 S. Vicentia Ave. P.O. Box 940, Corona, California 92878-0940
City Hall Online All The Time – <http://www.coronaca.gov>

September 20, 2023

Alice Bushing Reynolds, President
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Support for A.15-04-013-Full Undergrounding of the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP)

Dear Madame President and Commissioners,

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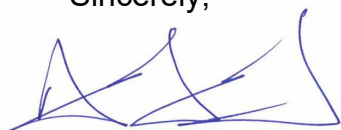
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Please support full undergrounding of the RTRP for our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Daddario', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Daddario
Mayor
City of Corona

CC: Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner
Darcie L. Hauck, Commissioner
John Reynolds, Commissioner
Karen Douglas, Commissioner