

DATE: 7/6/99 AGENDA ITEM # 17
() APPROVED () DENIED
() CONTINUED

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER
FROM: BOB LATA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR *BL*
SUBJECT: PG&E REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON POWER LINE
ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES
DATE: JULY 6, 1999

Needs: For the City Council to determine the appropriate form of review for a set of power line alignment alternatives presented by PG&E. The project is a proposal by PG&E to provide an addition 77 kV electrical transmission line that would connect to the Paso Robles Substation at the intersection of Niblick and South River Roads.

Facts:

1. PG&E has delivered the attached letter and exhibit map to the City, requesting comments on power line alternatives. Recognizing that the request for comments was received after the June 15 City Council agenda report deadline, PG&E has extended the deadline for receipt of comments until the end of July 1999.
2. The purpose of this memo is to seek City Council direction regarding the appropriate form of review of these alignment alternatives.
3. The options include:
 - Schedule a presentation by PG&E for a separate workshop, on a date to be selected by the City Council, at which time the City Council would consider the information received and respond with comments on the presented alternatives;
 - Schedule a presentation by PG&E for the regular City Council meeting of July 20, 1999, at which time the City Council would consider the information received and respond with comments on the presented alternatives;
 - Determine that the range of additional alternatives does not warrant a presentation / workshop and that the most expeditious way for the City to respond with its comment would be to have the individual Council members communicate their questions / concerns to staff. Staff would then compile the comments and forward them to PG&E.

Analysis
and

Conclusion:

As illustrated by the attached plan and description prepared by PG&E, most of the alignment options involve alternative locations in areas south of the City. All but two of the options continue to use the South River Road alignment within the City of Paso Robles and would, therefore, not address concerns expressed by residents along South River Road.

Please note that the alternative alignment would be the location for the second 77 kV line (the current line would stay in its present location).

The two new alignments that do not use the South River Road route are summarized as follows:

- The alternative calling for installation of a new 70kV line along Niblick Road (# 4 C) would be in a location in which the City recently expended substantial resources to underground the pre-existing overhead utilities. Installation of a new overhead 70kV power line, in an area that is longer and thereby adjacent to a larger number of residents, would seem to be counter to the intent of this investment. Further, the PG&E analysis notes that "This alternative would pass through a heavily populated area of Paso Robles near the Country Club and in front of a School as well. These issues negate this alternative as viable."
- Establishment of a new set of 70kV lines along the west side of the Salinas River (Salinas River Alternative) could create a potential complication for the Charolais Road Bridge extension project, and would establish new visual impacts and constraints on future development along the west side of the Salinas River. Further, the impacts of crossing the Salinas River and the relationships to the Niblick Bridge and other properties in the area needs further clarification.

One of the other new alternatives, along Charolais Road, not only fails to mitigate the problems for South River Road residents but adds new impacts to the City and County residents along the Charolais Road corridor (where all new developments in the City have been required to underground utilities).

None of the described alternatives addresses the option of undergrounding utilities along the South River Road alignment. This undergrounding could take two forms:

1. Underground both the transmission and distribution lines where they are directly adjacent to urban development; or
2. Underground only the distribution lines, leaving the transmission lines in place.

PG&E is suggesting that the discussion with City Council be in a "workshop" format that would provide for more informal opportunities to pose questions and obtain responses. Additionally, PG&E anticipates that the discussion of alternatives may take two or more hours, and they are concerned that the time impact on a regular City Council meeting might not be acceptable.

Policy
Reference: Land use compatibility concerns.

Fiscal
Impact: None at this time.

- Options:
- a. Adjourn to a special City Council meeting in a workshop format, as suggested by PG&E, to discuss the range of alternative alignments. Public notice would be provided to interested parties in the City of Paso Robles.
 - b. Determine that the discussion of alternative alignments should occur at a regular City Council meeting, and request PG&E to plan for the discussion to occur at the July 20, 1999 regular meeting of the City Council. Public notice would be provided to interested parties in the City of Paso Robles.
 - c. Determine that the lack of new, viable alternatives do not warrant the scheduling of a public workshop on this subject, and that Council members will provide informal comments to staff that are to be forwarded to PG&E, including raising questions and concerns about the Niblick Road, Salinas River and Charolais Road alignments, and seeking PG&E consideration of the two undergrounding options.
 - d. Amend, modify or reject the foregoing options.

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**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company**

Land Rights Office

4325 South Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 8592
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-8592

June 9, 1999

City of Paso Robles
Community Development
Bob Lata, Director
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, CA. 93446

*Rec'd 6/9/99
3:55 pm
Mr. Lata
City of Paso Robles*

RE: North County Electrical Deficiency
SO# 7023485

Dear Mr. Lata:

Currently, the North San Luis Obispo County area, which includes the cities of San Ardo, San Miguel, El Paso de Robles, portions of San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Cayucos and Cambria, is served by a 70 kilovolt (kV) power line system. The 70 kV system in the North San Luis Obispo County area receives its electric supply from a single transformer at San Luis Obispo Substation in the City of San Luis Obispo and from Gates Substation in Fresno County through existing 70 kV power lines. No local generation is within the area.

Due to the continuing growth in the North San Luis Obispo County area, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has identified the need to increase capacity on this 70 kV system to provide safe and reliable service.

In order to correct the electrical deficiency, PG&E is currently evaluating alternatives to increase the capacity to Paso Robles Substation by (a) building a new single circuit 70 kV power line from Templeton Substation and replacing the existing wires and some structures on the existing Coalinga-San Luis Obispo 70 kV power line with larger wires between Paso Robles Substation and Templeton Junction; or, (b) replacing the existing single circuit Coalinga-San Luis Obispo 70kV power line with a new double circuit 70 kV power line between Templeton Junction and Paso Robles Substation.

Currently a PG&E project team is updating environmental, engineering and economic information on each alternative. In order to complete our evaluation I need your assistance with obtaining current information in the project area.. I have included a map and description on each alternative being considered. Your comments are important to us and would be utilized in selecting the preferred alternative. Once each alternative has

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City of Paso Robles
June 9, 1999

been evaluated, I would provide you with our findings on the adoption of the alternative selected.

PG&E plans to start developing the environmental assessment in July and expects to file its application for a Permit To Construct with the CPUC in November 1999. Your comments on or before June 30, 1999 would greatly assist us in achieving this schedule.

I look forward to working cooperatively with you on this project. If you wish to discuss any of the information pertaining to this request or need additional information on the project, please contact me at 559-263-5239.

Respectfully,


Galen Raymond
Senior Associate Planner

San Luis Obispo Reinforcement

ALTERNATIVE 1 - REBUILD - 4.9 miles

Replace existing single circuit power line with a new double circuit 70 kV power line along existing route.

Leaving the existing Templeton S/S, the proposed double circuit Transmission line must cross under the existing Morro Bay - Gates 230kV & Diablo - Gates 500 kV Tower lines. The proposed location to make this crossing is currently occupied by a 21kV pole line. In order for the proposed 70kV line to occupy the vacant Templeton - Cholame 70kV easement, the 21kV currently in the alignment must be moved. The existing R/W runs along the south side of county road El Pomar Drive in a 2 foot private position for approximately .3 mile, then leaves the roadway crossing private property for .2 mile until reaching the existing Coalinga - San Luis Obispo 70 kV near the intersection of El Pomar Drive and Vaquero Dr. The easement describes a 40 foot strip for the facility. Here the proposed double circuit turns at pole 52/2 and runs northerly along the east side of Vaquero Drive, meandering from one side to the other for about .8 mile. Here it leaves the Vaquero Drive and continues northerly through open grazing land towards Paso Robles substation. This area has a 12 Kv underbuild with numerous service drops and tap lines. The line continues through graze land, crossing the Santa Ysabel Ranch, then exiting into Santa Ysabel Road.

The proposed line continues north toward Paso Robles S/S along the west side of Santa Ysabel Road, which is an unimproved county gravel road, until reaching South River Road where it continues North along the West side of the roadway. At the intersection of South River Road and Charolais Road the line jogs west to a position behind the sidewalk. This portion of the line was relocated for new housing tracts for the next .3 mile. At pole 48/2 the line returns to its original alignment following the "old" River Road alignment, crossing to the East side of the road.

The line continues for another .3 mile until reaching the Paso S/S near Niblick and River Road.

ALTERNATIVE 2 - 5.5 miles

Build a new single circuit 70 kV power line from Templeton Substation to Paso Robles Substation and replace wires and some poles on existing 70 kV single circuit power line between Templeton Junction and Paso Robles Substation.

Begins at Templeton S/S and runs north to the existing 21kV line within county road El Pomar Drive. The line overbuilds the 21kV along the road for .8 mile, then turns northerly onto Neal Springs Road, continuing to overbuild the 12kV

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for 1.1 miles until reaching River Road. Here the line turns westerly onto River Road, continuing to overbuild the 21kV for .3 mile. Here the line must cross under the Morro Bay - Gates 230kV and Diablo - Gates 500kV Tower Line's. It appears the 230kV tower line may have to be raised to allow the crossing, maybe 1 tower on the North side of the road. After crossing the tower lines, the line runs along River Road overbuilding the 21kV for .9 miles. Oak trees have been trimmed to maintain the clearance from the 21kV. Here the 21kV turns and runs north. The new line would continue along River Road for .3 mile. Here it picks up another 21kV and continues for another .2 mile where the 12kV turns again. From here the oak trees crowd the roadway and clearing the line becomes more difficult for the next .6 miles until reaching the existing 70kV at pole 48/17. (This is pole @ curve in South River Road and Santa Ysabel Avenue)

ALTERNATIVE 3 NEAL SPRING & RIVER ROAD - 10.2 miles

Build a new single circuit 70 kV power line from Templeton Substation to Paso Robles Substation and replace wires and some poles on existing 70 kV single circuit power line between Templeton Junction and Paso Robles Substation.

Continue along Neal Spring Road overbuilding 21kV for 1.7 miles where the existing 21kV turns and the proposed line continues for another .6 miles to Creston Road. Here the proposed line turns west for 2.1 miles to the Diablo - Gates 500kV and the Morro Bay - Gates 230kV tower lines. Prior to reaching the tower lines there is a small airstrip on the North side of Creston Road which is used by the rancher on the South side of the road. He keeps his planes near the roadway in plain view. The proposed line continues West for from the tower lines over building the distribution for .8 mile to Charolais Road. Then continues for 1.4 miles to reach the existing line at the intersection of Charolais Road and South River Road. The route is the same as route 1 from here to the Paso Robles Substation.

ALTERNATIVE 4A - 5.4 miles

Build a new single circuit 70 kV power line from Templeton Substation to Paso Robles Substation and replace wires and some poles on existing 70 kV single circuit power line between Templeton Junction and Paso Robles Substation.

This alternative originate at the Templeton Substation and follows the existing 500kV tower line running northeast. The location of the new line can be constructed within the vacant 500 kV easement if the approval is granted by the California State Independent System Operator and the line is constructed

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on steel towers. After reaching the intersection of South River Road, the new line turns and follows Alternative 2 to the Substation.

ALTERNATIVE 4B - 6.3 miles

Build a new single circuit 70 kV power line from Templeton Substation to Paso Robles Substation and replace wires and some poles on existing 70 kV single circuit power line between Templeton Junction and Paso Robles Substation.

This alternative follows Alternative 4A to the intersection of South River Road then continues northeast until reaching Charolais Road. Here the line turns and runs Westerly along Charolais road overbuilding the existing facilities where possible until reaching the existing line at South River Road. Here the line turns North following the rebuilding alternative of #1.

ALTERNATIVE 4C - 8.3 miles

Build a new single circuit 70 kV power line from Templeton Substation to Paso Robles Substation and replace wires and some poles on existing 70 kV single circuit power line between Templeton Junction and Paso Robles Substation.

This alternative is an extension of Alternative 4B. At the intersection of Charolais Road, this alternative continues northeasterly, away from the Paso Robles Sub, until it intersects with Niblick Road. Here the line would turn and run West along Niblick until it reaches the Paso Robles Sub. This alternative would pass through a heavily populated area of Paso Robles near the Country Club and in front of a School as well. These issues negate this alternative as viable.

SALINAS RIVER ALTERNATIVE - 5.3 Miles

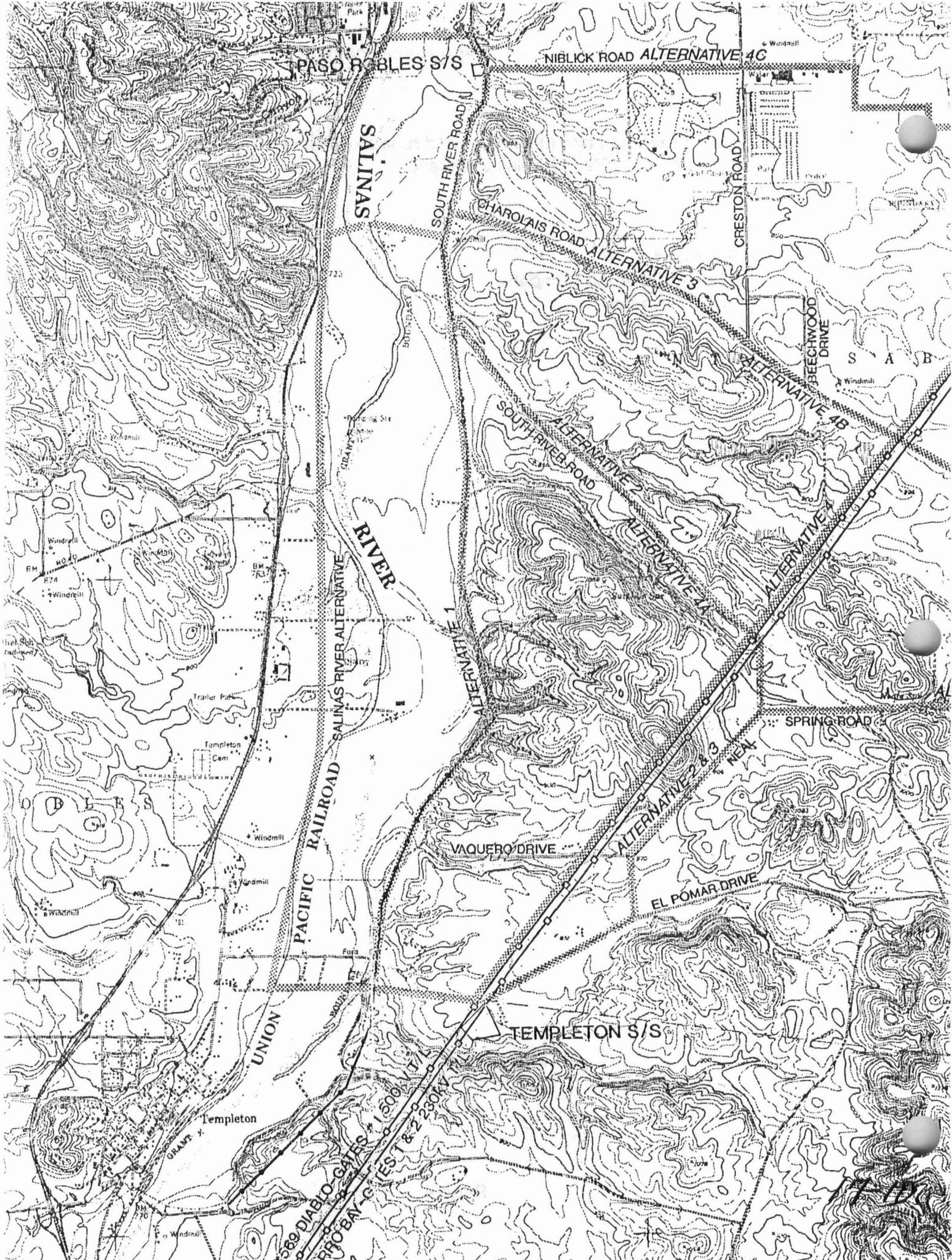
Build a new single circuit 70 kV power line from Templeton Substation to Paso Robles Substation and replace wires and some poles on existing 70 kV single circuit power line between Templeton Junction and Paso Robles Substation.

This alternative suggests following the Southern Pacific Railroad by crossing the Salinas River directly West from the Templeton Junction. After crossing the river the route continues West to the West side of the railroad. Here the alternative turns northerly and runs generally with the railroad until reaching a point just North of the Niblick Road alignment. Then the route turns easterly crossing the river once more and running easterly until reaching South River

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Road. Here the route turns southerly and runs along South River Road until reaching the existing Paso Robles Substation.

Galen Raymond
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Sr. Associate Planner
June 1998



PASO ROBLES S/S

NIBLICK ROAD ALTERNATIVE 4C

SALINAS

SOUTH RIVER ROAD

CHAROLAIS ROAD ALTERNATIVE 3

CRESTON ROAD

BEECHWOOD DRIVE

S A B

RIVER

SALINAS RIVER ALTERNATIVE

ALTERNATIVE 1

SOUTH RIVER ROAD ALTERNATIVE 2

ALTERNATIVE 3A

ALTERNATIVE 4B

SPRING ROAD

PACIFIC RAILROAD

Vaquero Drive

ALTERNATIVE 2 & 3

EL POMAR DRIVE

UNION

TEMPLETON S/S

Templeton

1500 VTL
EST. R-2 280VTL
DIABLO GATES
BAY GATES