



June 22, 2009

David Young, NEPA Document Manager  
Western Area Power Administration  
Sierra Nevada Region  
114 Parkshore Drive  
Folsom, CA 95630

RE: Comments on Notice of Preparation of a Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Transmission Authority of Northern California (TANC) and Western Area Power Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy

Dear Mr. Young:

This letter outlines the City of Pleasanton's concerns related to the proposal of the Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC) to build and upgrade 230-kV and 500-kV transmission lines, substations, and related facilities along a 600-mile total route in California. Of particular concern to the City of Pleasanton is that portion of the West Segment that traverses the Pleasanton Planning Area from the vicinity of Sunol traveling north-east roughly following the alignment of Route 84 to the junction of Vallecitos Road and East Vineyard Avenue.

Based on the information provided at the Public Scoping Meeting held in Santa Clara on April 1, and on information available on the TANC website and in the Notice of Preparation (NOP), there appears to be potential significant environmental impacts to Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley region that will need to be analyzed in the EIR/EIS. Although the NOP states that the proposed routes were selected in order to "avoid, to the extent possible, residential and known environmentally sensitive areas", Attachment 1 to the NOP includes a lengthy list of potential impacts or issues, including Aesthetic/Visual, Agricultural Resources, Biological Resources, Electric and Magnetic Fields, Land Use and Recreation, Noise, and Socioeconomics.

The City of Pleasanton is particularly concerned that the following potential impacts be thoroughly analyzed in the EIR/EIS:

- The proposed alignments of power lines and towers directly impact the Ruby Hill neighborhood in the vicinity of Vallecitos Road and Isabel Avenue. The direct impacts including visual/aesthetic, noise, health, and socioeconomic on these residents must be analyzed.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**P. O. BOX 520, Pleasanton, CA 94566-0802**

<b>Planning</b>	<b>Building &amp; Safety</b>	<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Traffic</b>	<b>Inspection</b>
200 Old Bernal Ave. (925) 931-5600 Fax: 931-5483	200 Old Bernal Ave. (925) 931-5300 Fax: 931-5478	200 Old Bernal Ave. (925) 931-5650 Fax: 931-5479	200 Old Bernal Ave. (925) 931-5650 Fax: 931-5479	157 Main Street (925) 931-5680 Fax: 931-5484

The proposed alignments of power lines and towers may directly impact a conservation easement and habitat area for the long-term protection of the California Tiger Salamander. The conservation easement is located directly to the south of the Ruby Hill area. The impact on biological resources here must be analyzed.

- The proposed alignment also may directly impact other conservation easements and properties under State Williamson Act contracts which is a tool to preserve and enhance the agricultural land in the region. The impacts to these contracts must be analyzed.

The health impacts to animal species needs to be analyzed.

The City of Pleasanton also requests that the following project alternatives be thoroughly studied in the EIR/EIS:

Instead of constructing new towers and power lines, the EIR/EIS should analyze a project alternative that utilizes existing towers and/or lines in existing easements, many of which are already located along the proposed project alignments in the Pleasanton area.

- The EIR/EIS should analyze a project which locates the transmission lines and other facilities to avoid residential neighborhoods, environmentally sensitive areas, and scenic wine country areas.

The EIR/EIS should analyze a project that undergrounds the project facilities in those areas with potential aesthetic impacts.

In addition to the above, the City of Pleasanton shares the concerns expressed by Alameda County, the City of Livermore, and the Tri-Valley Conservancy regarding the inconsistency of the proposed TANC project and the adopted policies, actions, and goals of the South Livermore Valley Area Plan, which encompasses part of Pleasanton. The proposed project has the potential to have a significant adverse impact on the wine country atmosphere and rural character of the area, and could lead to indirect economic impacts on viticulture and tourism.

The City of Pleasanton also understands that there are other agencies/groups that are planning other transmission projects in California and is concerned that there could be additional, possibly redundant transmission projects that could impact the City of Pleasanton. Therefore, the City of Pleasanton requests that the EIR/EIS explain how the project is being coordinated with other transmission projects to minimize environmental impacts and to ensure the prudent use of resources.

Finally, while the City of Pleasanton understands the need to improve the reliability of the State's power grid and acknowledges that the project would provide a benefit if it results in the development of new renewable energy sources, we feel that more attention needs to be paid to the project's impacts on local communities, such as the City of Pleasanton.

We request that we be kept informed of all project updates and public meetings. Correspondence on this project should be sent to:

Brian Dolan  
Community Development Director  
City of Pleasanton  
P.O. Box 520  
200 Old Bernal Avenue  
Pleasanton CA 94566

Your consideration of our comments is appreciated. Please call me or Janice Stem, Principal Planner at 925-931-5606 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Dolan", written in a cursive style.

Brian Dolan  
Community Development Director

Cc: Mayor and City Council  
Alameda County  
City of Livermore  
Tri-Valley Conservancy