

EDITORIAL

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Long-Range View Needed

The Transmission Association of Northern California (TANC), a consortium of 15 Northern California public power agencies, has aroused the proverbial hornets nest with a proposal to run power lines through the Livermore Valley Wine Country.

There seems to be almost unanimous opposition by Valley vintners, residents and officials.

Though the project aims to stimulate the growth of highly desirable solar and wind power, it would undermine several other environmental desirables, the beauty and ambiance of South Livermore foremost among them.

TANC is not only the applicant/developer of the proposal, but also the decision-maker; it holds the authority over whether or not these power lines will be approved. Pleasanton Councilmember Matt Sullivan said it's like a developer proposing to build a subdivision and having the power to approve it without the city council's okay.

At the May 27 meeting, TANC officials expressed an openness to the Valley's concerns. Whether that will translate into an outcome acceptable to the Valley remains to be seen.

One thing has become clear: the proposal should not be addressed as an issue unto itself. This is a regional and statewide issue, with a myriad of broad public policy questions concerning power line routes and means of transmission needing to be discussed and resolved before a decision on this particular route is made.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty is calling for a state plan to be in place. The recommendation makes sense. We hope TANC will slow the process down and bring a long-range view to the issue -- in other words, do it right.