

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor John Tavaqlione

SUBMITTAL DATE: December 18, 2007

SUBJECT: Letter to the California Public Utilities Commission: City of Riverside Transmission Reliability Project

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to submit a letter to the California Public Utilities Commission opposing the alignment selected by the City of Riverside Public Utilities Department for its Transmission Reliability Project.

BACKGROUND: The City of Riverside's "Transmission Reliability Project" is an effort to provide a second connection to deliver electricity from the Southern California Edison power grid to the City's power system. The need for this second connection is exceedingly clear, as was demonstrated last month when an auto accident on Interstate 215 caused a city-wide power outage for several hours. This outage would have been averted had this second connection been in place.

The Riverside Public Utilities Department has studied several alternate routes to make this second connection. The Department has selected a preferred route that essentially follows Van Buren Boulevard from a point near State Route 60 in the unincorporated community of Mira Loma, to a point near the Riverside Municipal Airport, in the City. This route places all the impacts of these lines on residents of the unincorporated communities of Mira Loma, Glen Avon and Pedley. The route comparison and selection process used by the City considered many factors including visual, biological, cultural, geologic hazards, and the proximity of sensitive land uses such as homes and schools. However, the process did not place any value on alignments that stayed, wherever possible, within the city limits of Riverside. As a result, the Van Buren alignment has virtually no negative impact on City residents but places them all on the residents of the Jurupa Valley. If consideration had been given for alignments that place the greatest impacts on those who receive the benefits of the project, the eastern alignment that crosses into the City at Market Street would likely have been the preferred alignment. The impact of this eastern route on the unincorporated area would be far less.

For these reasons, The County of Riverside should oppose this route and request the City to re-evaluate its selection criteria for identifying the alignment for this project.



John Tavaqlione, Supervisor
Second District

3.77