



***Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council***  
Rosemary Allison, Mark Burley, Kevin Cannon, Amy Elliott, Michael Adams

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March 24, 2022

Rudy Gonzales  
Southern California Edison  
P.O. Box 800  
Rosemead, California 91770

RE: Undergrounding Power Lines in Santa Rosa Valley

Dear Mr. Gonzales,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) to thank you and Southern California Edison (SCE) for your partnership with Ventura County to underground power lines on Santa Rosa Road between Moorpark Road and Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School. We appreciate SCE's investment in this project with the County and hope more efforts by SCE to underground power lines will continue to create safer conditions for high fire severity communities such as Santa Rosa Valley.

The Santa Rosa Valley MAC has expressed great support for undergrounding power lines in our community and would like this project expanded to include the remainder of Santa Rosa Road, which is the only entrance and exit road for the community. Undergrounding power lines is not only the most durable safeguard against powerline-ignited fires, it also precludes the need for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and protects communities from the added danger of downed poles and wires blocking escape routes. In a community such as Santa Rosa Valley where there is one major road for residents to get in and out, a downed power line blocking the only escape route during a disaster could be the difference between life and death.

We have heard from you at our public meetings about projects to insulate power lines and strengthen poles in Santa Rosa Valley. While our MAC does appreciate these efforts, they do not fully address the risk faced by our fire prone community that has endured several PSPS events. While shutting off power may afford some protection, affected customers suffer from the lack of power for hours and sometimes days at a time. We have heard from many residents who have been stuck for days without power due to a PSPS, particularly residents on the Zone Circuit, many of whom did not receive notification as to when to expect the power to be turned back on. The PSPS not only causes major interruptions in daily living, but it also further threatens residents' safety with the loss of essential power to operate garage doors, wheelchairs, elevators, and telephones, and ability to receive vital information from other communication devices and the internet.

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Our MAC is encouraged by the recent partnership between the County and SCE to create a utility district for the purpose of undergrounding power lines on a section of Santa Rosa Road and we urge SCE to continue this effort to complete the entire length of the road in this residential community in a very high fire severity zone. The long-term benefits of an investment in underground power lines will curb the potential for future fire disasters and create a safer community.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary Allison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary Allison, Chair  
Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council

cc. Ventura County Board of Supervisors