STATE OF CALIFORNIA–THE RESOURCES AGENCY
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor*

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September 23, 2010

Ms. Juralynne Mosley
Presidential Substation Project
c/o Environmental Science Associates
1425 North McDowell Blvd, Suite 105
Petaluma, California 94954

Presidential Substation Project (A.08-12-023)
Scoping Comments

Dear Ms. Mosley:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) is the primary State open space planning agency in the subject project area. We are concerned with the project's potential impacts on habitat and wildlife connectivity. Although transmission lines are relatively low-impact infrastructure, the associated maintenance roads and tower footprints may have a significant impact on biological resources. We are also concerned with the potential aesthetic impacts on public viewsheds, particularly as seen from public hiking trails.

The Conservancy encourages that the alignment of the proposed transmission lines and the location of the proposed substation follow existing, disturbed rights-of-way as much as feasible. To that extent, Alternative 2 appears to follow Olsen and Madera Roads and would therefore be the preferred route. Both the proposed project and Alternative 1 alignments appear to partially deviate from existing linear infrastructure and would therefore increase impacts to biological resources. The proposed substation site would also impact biological resources as the presently vacant site includes habitat beneficial to wildlife crossing Madera Road. The Alternative Substation Site is already disturbed and opposite Madera Road from existing residential development, reducing its value for habitat and connectivity.

The environmental document must fully assess these impacts. The environmentally superior alternative will be one that minimizes the project footprint outside existing, disturbed rights-of-way.

Sincerely,

PAUL EDELMAN
Deputy Director
Natural Resources and Planning