



**A Community Committed to the Responsible  
Delivery of Renewable Energy for California**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Chino Hills Residents Overwhelmingly Oppose Edison's Proposed  
Route for a Transmission Line through Neighborhoods**  
*Residents are concerned about significant health and public safety risks if nearly  
200-ft tall transmission towers are placed close to homes and schools*

CHINO HILLS --- On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> the City of Chino Hills received a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/EIS) for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project TRTP which will bring wind power to the Southern California region. The document was released for a 45-day public review period. The Chino Hills segment of the route has been a matter of contention since the City of Chino Hills and the community became aware of the project.

“Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> was the appropriate day to deliver the document,” said Acting City Manager Mike Fleager. “The City of Chino Hills is disappointed that the DEIR/EIS has listed the Southern California Edison-proposed TRTP route as the preferred route.”

There is overwhelming opposition among Chino Hills residents to Edison's proposal to double the size of currently inactive transmission towers and place them through densely populated Chino Hills neighborhoods and near schools, according to a statistically valid survey of local residents commissioned by the City.

During the 45-day public review period, the CPUC will be holding a series of public meetings. Residents are expected to turn out in large numbers to express their opposition during the upcoming Chino Hills public meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2009. The CPUC has scheduled a Public Information Workshop from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., during which residents can learn more about the project and ask questions. The Workshop will be followed by a Public Hearing from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Chino Hills City Council Chambers, 14000 City Center Drive in Chino Hills.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will ultimately be deciding whether to approve Edison's route, or choose an alternate route for the transmission line which is strongly favored by residents and city leaders because it uses existing and energized lines through Chino Hills State Park.

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“It will be more important than ever for our residents to attend the March 19<sup>th</sup> meetings in great numbers as they did when nearly 400 residents participated in the public scoping meetings in September of 2007,” said Fleager. “We intend to demonstrate to the CPUC that the City of Chino Hills does not intend to give up our fight to ensure that 200 foot tall towers and 500 kV lines are not built within 50 feet of any of our Chino Hills families. We proposed an alternate route that deserves additional consideration.”

A grassroots group of residents in Chino Hills formed when they learned about TRTP. They have been learning as much as they can about transmission lines.

“We support bringing wind power to Southern California but we want it done safely,” said Jim Prindiville, spokesperson for C.A.R.E. (Citizens For Alternate Routing of Electricity). “Edison’s proposed route will put at risk thousands of residents and children, which is just not necessary when there are safer routes that are viable and more acceptable.” CARE is a group of Chino Hills residents who are very concerned about the public safety risk of Edison’s proposed transmission route. “We live in an active seismic area and it is a serious risk to the health and safety of our families to place 500,000 kV power lines with nearly 200 foot tall towers near our homes and schools.”

According to Mike Fleager, Chino Hills Acting City Manager, the City has conducted extensive research and learned that Edison’s proposed route would be the first of its kind in the nation. There has never been a 500kV transmission line placed in an earthquake susceptible area so close to existing residents and schools. There are seven active fault lines in the vicinity of Chino Hills with its most recent earthquake in July 2008. In addition, a portion of the proposed route through the heart of Chino Hills is susceptible to landslides.

Fleager added that even without these added risks, transmission towers do collapse. For example, in 2006 an Edison-installed 500kV tower collapsed due to high winds, and in 1994, 18 Edison-installed towers collapsed during the Northridge earthquake. Currently, Edison proposes to place these towers as close as 50 to 500 feet from more than 1,000 homes, five schools, and day care centers impacting over 3,000 residents and about 500 students.

“We will get right to work to review the DEIR/EIS and develop our comments,” said Fleager. “We will use the extensive data we have collected to develop our comments relative to our significant concerns about public safety.”

The City’s survey found that 85 percent of Chino Hills residents strongly preferred the alternate route that uses and merely redirects the energized lines that already exist in Chino Hills State Park. Edison’s proposed route garnered only 6.6 percent support from residents.

Chino Hills residents actively use Chino Hills State Park and do not believe the alternate route will significantly impact the Park. The survey found that 82.4% of residents who visit Chino Hills State Park regularly and 87.1% of residents who live within one mile from the Park, favor the proposed alternate route through the Park.

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“We support the goal of increasing alternative energy and believe the City’s proposed alternate route through Chino Hills State Park is a win-win solution,” said Chino Hills Mayor Pro Tem W.C. “Bill” Kruger. “The City’s preferred alternate route will protect residents and their homes, and provide Chino Hills State Park with mitigation funding to restore and enhance the Park.”

The alternate route through Chino Hills State Park would benefit from construction cost savings and EMF mitigation funds that could be utilized to provide additional funding to improve the Park as well as create a bio-corridor for wildlife to migrate to and from the Park to the Prado Basin. The State Park was severely damaged by fire and the funding would help enhance and restore the Park. (*See attached fact sheet.*)

The DEIR / EIS is available for review at the City Hall in Chino Hills, 14000 City Center Drive during business hours – Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Tuesdays 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and on Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The document is available on the CPUC’s website at [ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/gopher-data/enviro/tehachapi\\_renewables/index.htm](ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/gopher-data/enviro/tehachapi_renewables/index.htm). The City’s website, [www.chinohills.org](http://www.chinohills.org), provides a link to the site.

The statistically valid survey was commissioned by the City of Chino Hills and conducted by Mercury Public Affairs. Registered voters in Chino Hills and other cities along the route were interviewed. Both the City of Chino Hills and CARE have partnered to form the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Green Partnership ([www.21stcenturygreen.net](http://www.21stcenturygreen.net)). CARE has their own website [www.saynotopowerlines.org](http://www.saynotopowerlines.org).



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## THE GREEN SOLUTION: CITY OF CHINO HILLS ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Green Partnership has identified a win-win solution to protect the public safety of residents and avoid litigation over the route selection which could delay the introduction of Tehachapi wind power for years. The City of Chino Hills has proposed an alternative solution for TRTP that would use existing lines that already traverse the Chino Hills State Park. This alternative solution actually benefits the Park as:

- It would relocate and remove existing 500kV and 220 kV active transmission lines away from ridgelines and other prominent areas to protect and improve the view shed.
- It would remove more than one mile of 500 kV of active transmission lines and several transmission towers from the environmentally sensitive Water Canyon Natural Preserve.
- It would seek removal of up to 61 existing towers, 10.45 miles of inactive 220 kV transmission lines within the State Park that have been identified as having potential for removal.

## MITIGATION PLAN

As a part of this proposal, there is a mitigation plan to make use of construction cost savings from a less expensive transmission solution alternative and EMF mitigation funds to fund critical improvements for Chino Hills State Park. These improvements are consistent with the State Park's Master Plan including:

**Creation of a Bio-Corridor:** Acquisition of land totaling 2,517 acres that would connect the State Park to the 10,300-acre Prado Basin open space area, creating a bio-corridor for wildlife to migrate between the two vast, protected open space areas.

**Habitat Improvements:** Habitat improvements on 60-acres within the State Park - including improvement of riparian habitat, removal of invasive plants, and re-vegetation of native Coastal Sage.

**Restore & Enhance Park:** Reconstruction of the State Park entrance in Chino Hills, including guard shack and gate improvements, installation of an informational kiosk, enhancements to the entry rest area, installation of a payment device, and a substantial endowment to fund ongoing operations for many years to come.

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- A "win" for a "Green" California through increasing the use of renewable energy to meet the state's goals to increase the delivery of renewable energy by 20% by 2010.
- A "win" for Chino Hills State Park by removing existing transmission lines from ridgelines and sensitive areas within the Park.
- A "win" for Chino Hills State Park by providing funding for enhancements and ongoing operations.
- A "win" for Southern California residents and Southern California Edison by keeping the TRTP project on track to deliver renewable energy without delay.
- A "win" for quality of life and public safety by moving transmission lines away from homes, schools, and parks.