CITY OF SACRAMENTO





CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

725 "J" STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. 95814 TELEPHONE (916) 449-5604 MARTY VAN DUYN
PLANNING DIRECTOR

April FLEDI

By the City Council
Office of the City Clerk

Cont 40

5-5-81

City Council Sacramento, California APR 2 8 1981

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Transmission Facility Permit Request by Sacramento

Municipal Utility District (SMUD) (M-507)

LOCATION: South of Meadowview Road along Western Pacific Railroad

tracks

SUMMARY

This is a request by SMUD for a Transmission Facility Permit in order to construct a transmission line along the Western Pacific Railroad tracks north of the City limits to almost Meadowview Road. The SMUD Board of Directors selected the proposed route and incorporated mitigation measures. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the subject request.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SMUD prepared an Environmental Impact Report on three proposed projects (A, B, and C) of which only a portion of Project A is located within the City limits. Project A is the installation of a new double circuit 230,000 volt transmission line for approximately 16 miles from U.S. 99 and Valension Road (south of Elk Grove) to the Pocket Substation (Gardendale Road and Western Pacific Railroad tracks).

The City Planning Commission reviewed the draft EIR on October 4, 1980, and transmitted their comments to the City Council (November 12, 1980) and to SMUD. The draft EIR evaluated eight alternative alignments for Project A.

The EIR for this project determined there would not be any significant effects on residents' health and radio/television reception. The Final EIR addressed the City's concern on undergrounding transmission

lines to reduce visual impacts. SMUD has calculated that it is not technically feasible to install four underground 230,000 volt pipe cable systems entirely within the railroad right-of-way. The SMUD Board of Directors on January 8, 1981, determined the EIR adequate, that the project would not have a significant effect, and selected alignment Alternative 3 (see Exhibit 1). Consequently, SMUD has requested a Transmission Facility Permit for that protion of the proposed line within the City.

VOTE OF COMMISSION

On March 26, 1981, the Planning Commission, by a vote of nine ayes, recommended approval of the Transmission Facility Permit for Alternative 3.

RECOMMENDATION

The staff and Planning Commission recommend that the Council adopt the attached resolution that indicates the following:

- 1. Determination that the Final EIR is adequate;
- 2. Certification that the EIR has been prepared in compliance with the State EIR Guidelines and that the decision-making body has considered the information contained in the EIR.
- 3. Determination that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 4. Approval of a Transmission Facility Permit for SMUD's chosen Alternative 3 with appropriate mitigation measures as adopted by SMUD Board for Phase III.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Van Duyn Planning Director

FOR TRANSMITTAL TO COUNCIL:

Walter J. Slipe, City Manager

MVD:CC:jm Attachments M-566 April 28, 1981 All Districts

RESOLUTION No.

Adopted by The Sacramento City Council on date of

April 28, 1981

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PHASE III PROJECT A FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (M-507)

WHEREAS, the City has had public hearing on that certain document entitled "Phase III Project A Final Environmental Impact Report"; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission on March 26, 1981 and the City Council on April 28, 1981 have duly noticed and held public hearings on Phase III Project A Final Environmental Impact Report and considered the oral testimony and documentary evidence introduced at said hearings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is in receipt of recommendations on the Phase III Project A Final Environmental Impact Report by the City Planning Commission and had considered and deliberated the oral testimony and documentary evidence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Sacramento that the Council hereby certifies and determines:

- 1. That the document has been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, the State EIR Guidelines, and the City Environmental Procedures, and that the decision making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in the EIR:
- 2. That the Final Environmental Impact Report is adequate;
- 3. That the project will not have a significant effect on the environment;
- 4. Approve a Transmission Facility Permit for Phase III Project alignment Alternative 3 with appropriate mitigation measures.

This approval is based on the following Findings of Fact:

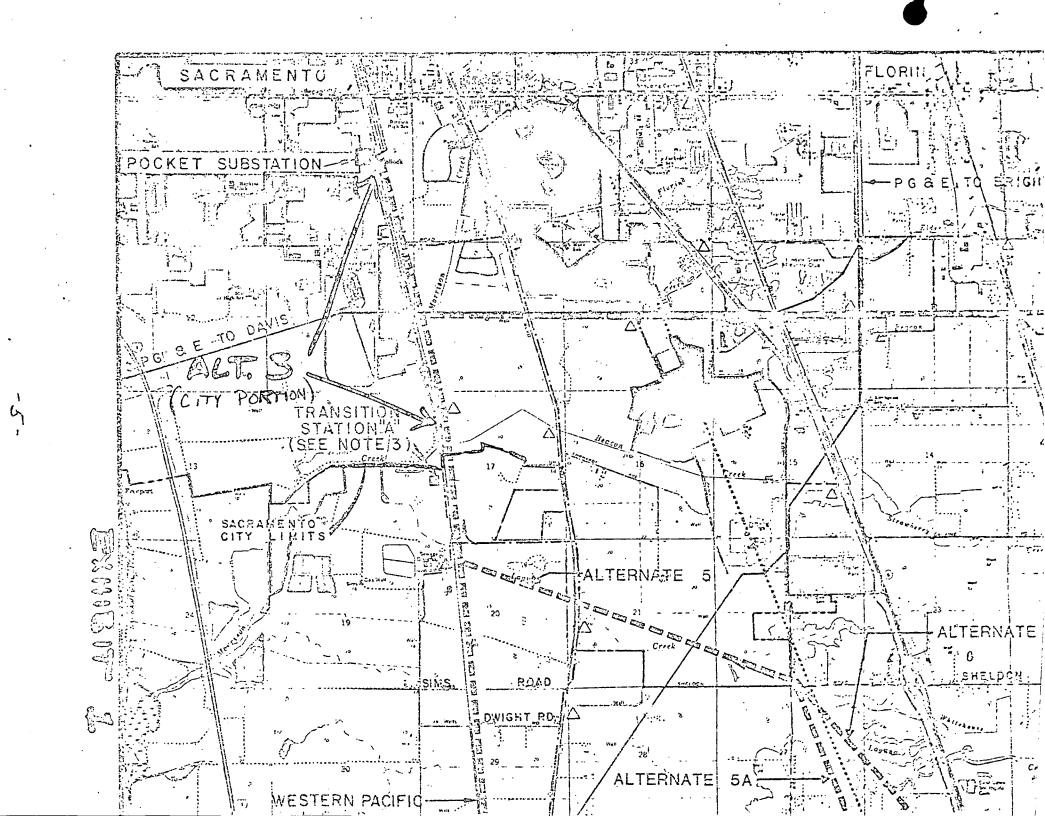
- a. The transmissiin line will provide additional electrical energy in response to anticipated community demand resulting from urban growth consistent with the City's 1974 General Plan, 1965 Meadowview and Southgate Community Plans.
- b. There are no feasible alternatives other than the individual or combined measures: electrical connections; moratorium on new construction; massive conservation effect for the entire service area; and an acceptance of a less reliable electric system.

- c. The transmission line will provide a redundant transmission link for uninterrupted power supply to Sacramento in the event of failure of one transmission line between Rancho Seco and Hedge Substation.
- d. The EIR determined there would not be any significant effects on resident's health and radio/TV interference.
- e. The alignment is adjacent to an existing railroad track and along a railroad right-of-way.
- f. Poles will be used instead of lattice towers.

MAYOR	 	 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK



•							
•				•			
. .							
						•	
				•		•	
							•
			•				
		•					•
					•		
							•
	9						

City Planning Commission Sacramento, California

Members in Session:

Subject: Transmission Facility Permit Request by Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) (M-507)

Summary: The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is requesting a Transmission Facilities Permit pursuant to Section 29 of the City of Sacramento Zoning Ordinance, for a major transmission facility location and construction. Of the three projects (A-C) discussed in the Final EIR, only one, project "A", is, in part, located within the boundaries of the City of Sacramento. The route selected by the SMUD Board for Project "A" is designated in the Final EIR as Alternative 3.

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve this report along with any comments it deems appropriate, ratify the Final EIR, recommend granting of a Transmission Facility Permit for SMUD's chosen Alternative 3 including appropriate mitigation measures as adopted by the SMUD Board for Phase III, and transmit the above to the City Council.

<u>Background Information</u>: In 1978 the SMUD General Plan EIR described 13 separate projects in general terms, with the intention that site specific environmental documents would be prepared. The Final EIR evaluates three of the projects addressed in the General Plan.

These projects are being proposed to meet the projected electrical demand of industrial and commercial sectors as well as the 70,000 new residences in the south Sacramento area. In addition, the projects will provide a redundant transmission link for uninterrupted power supply to Sacramento in the event of failure of one transmission line between Rancho Seco and Hedge Substation. The three proposed projects are:

Project A: Installing new double circuit 230,000 volt transmission line for approximately 16 miles from U.S. 99 and Valensin Road (south of Elk Grove) to the Pocket Substation (Gardendale Road and Western Pacific Railroad tracks). There are eight alternative alignments for this project (see Exhibit A) and would require additional right-of-way acquisition.

<u>Project B</u>: String additional 230,000 volt transmission line on vacant side of existing towers for approximately 13 miles from Rancho Seco to U.S. 99 and Valensin Road.

Project C: Construction of a new 230,000 volt substation near Grant Line Road and Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and constructing a new 69,000 volt transmission line from that proposed substation northward along the Southern Pacific tracks and existing transmission line corridor to just south of Florin Road.

Item 25

Of the three projects, only portions of Project A are within the City boundaries (see Exhibit B):

 Alternative 1 thru 4 - north from Transition Station A along the east side of Western Pacific Railroad tracks to Pocket Substation

Alternative 5 - northwest from Bruceville and Sheldon Roads thru Laguna Creek drainage area to Transition Station A

Alternative 6 - west from Transition Station C along PG & E's right-of-way to Western Pacific Railroad tracks

The EIR determined there would not be any significant effects on resident's health and radio/TV interference. The document states that SMUD responds to the anticipated community demand for additional electrical energy. This demand occurs as a result of City-County agencies that control and regulate development within the SMUD service area. The EIR indicated that the No Project or Delayed Project Alternative 7 could be feasible if major changes in community plans were implemented. These major changes identified required, in part or total, the following measures:

- 1. Moritorium on new electrical connections;
- 2. Moritorium on new construction;
- 3. Massive conservation effort by the community;
- 4. Acceptance of a less reliable electric system along with more frequent outages and possible large scale blackouts.

The delaying of the project's construction to a future date could be feasible under changes as listed above. Only the degree of change and the degree of feasibility would be different.

Mitigation measures adopted by the SMUD Board of Directors on the Phase III transmission line project (Projects A and B) are shown in Exhibit C. Alternative 3 has the transmission line overhead within the City. If the City portion of Alternative 3 was placed underground (Alternative 3UA) there would be an additional cost of \$17,022,000.00. The City Council recommended that Project A's transmission line alignment be adjacent to either the railroad tracks (Alternatives 1-4) and suggested SMUD consider the transmission line installation be underground to reduce visual impacts.

At its meeting of November 12, 1980 the City Council filed the staff report which the Planning Commission had approved with additions which:

- 1. Recommended the transmission line be adjacent to the existing railroad tracks (Alternative 1-4).
- 2. Suggested SMUD consider the transmission line be underground.

Item 25

- 3. Asked SMUD to identify whether they propose to underground future transmission line facilities within the current City limits. Indicated the pioritization for undergrounding future facilities.
- 4. Stated that the City has a policy that transmission facilities should incorporate into a project mitigation measures such as undergrounding or rerouting transmission lines to reduce visual impacts and antenna reception interference, reducing the number of poles or towers and using landscaping to screen or soften the visual impacts of projects (City Zoning Ordinance, Section 29, Ordinance 4319, adopted February 1980).
- 5. Remind SMUD that any project within the City will require a Transmission Facility Permit which is reviewed by the Planning Commission and acted on by the City Council pursuant to City Zoning Ordinance, Section 29.

SMUD's responses to those comments follow:

"The City Planning Commission and its staff has concurred with SMUD staff in recommending alternate routes 1 through 4.

At the October 30, 1980 Planning Commission meeting, the question was asked of SMUD staff as to the feasibility of installing an underground transmission line in the area immediately south of Meadowview Road entirely within the Western Pacific Rail-road right-of-way. Since that meeting, SMUD has calcualted that, in fact, it is not technically feasible to install four underground 230,000-volt pipe cable systems entirely within the railroad right-of-way. If an underground alternate route is selected through this area, it will be necessary to obtain 20 to 25 feet of additional SMUD right-of-way on private and residential property east and west of the existing railroad right-of-way. If an underground alternative is chosen, the exact amount of additional right-of-way and its specific location along the route will be determined during the project final design phase.

If an overhead alternative is chosen through this area, the poles will be located entirely on the railroad right-of-way. An additional SMUD easement may have to be obtained adjacent to the railroad right-of-way to accommodate the area underneath the areas of the poles and the maximum side-swing of the overhead conductors.

Finally, the following responds to the Planning Commission's request for information on SMUD's future plans for proposing underground transmission lines (greater than 100,000 volts) within the City limits:

On August 4, 1977 the SMUD Board of Directors adopted resolution No. 9318 (Appexdix E of DEIR) outlining the transmission facility location criteria to be

used by the Board in approving transmission lines. SMUD staff follows these criteria, which include overhead versus underground policies, when selecting the transmission line routes and proposed design for examination in the environmental review process. For all future transmission lines within the City limits and elsewhere, SMUD will continue to recommend the installation of underground cables in areas where mandated by SMUD resolution No. 9318."

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve the following:

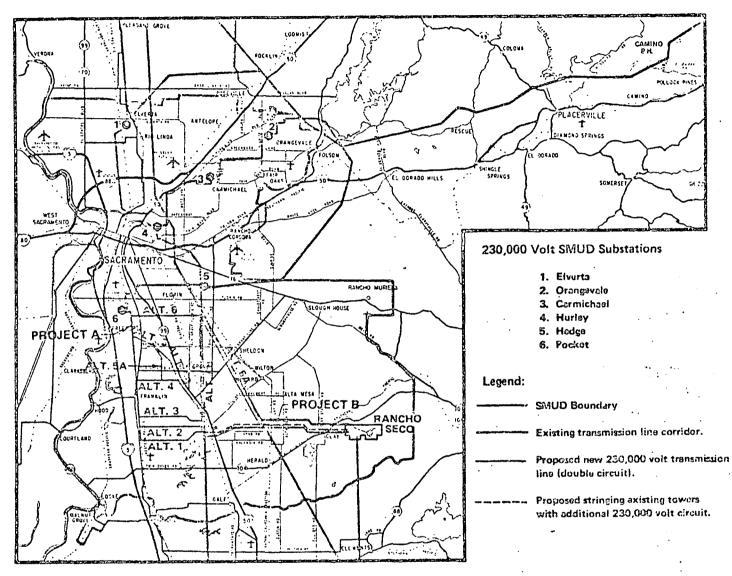
- 1. Determination that the Final EIR is adequate.
- 2. Certification that the EIR has been prepared in compliance with the State EIR Guidelines and that the decision-making body has considered the information contained in the EIR.
- 3. Determination that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 4. Recommend approval of a Transmission Facility Permit for SMUD's chosen Alternative 3 with appropriate mitigation measures as adopted by SMUD Board for Phase III, and
- 5. Transmit these actions to the City Council for action.

Item 25

E-AHBIT A

REGIONAL MAP PHASE III PROJECT A AND B

230,000 Volt Transmission Line



PROJECT DESCRIPTION :

PHASE III PROJECT A

- 1) New double circuit 230,000 volt transmission line.
- 2) Length 16 miles.
- 3) Additional SMUD right-of-way required.
- 4) Transmission line termination equipment to be installed at Pocket Substation.

PHASE III PROJECT B

- 1) Stringing vacant side of existing towers length 13 miles.
- 2) No additional right-of-way required.

M-507

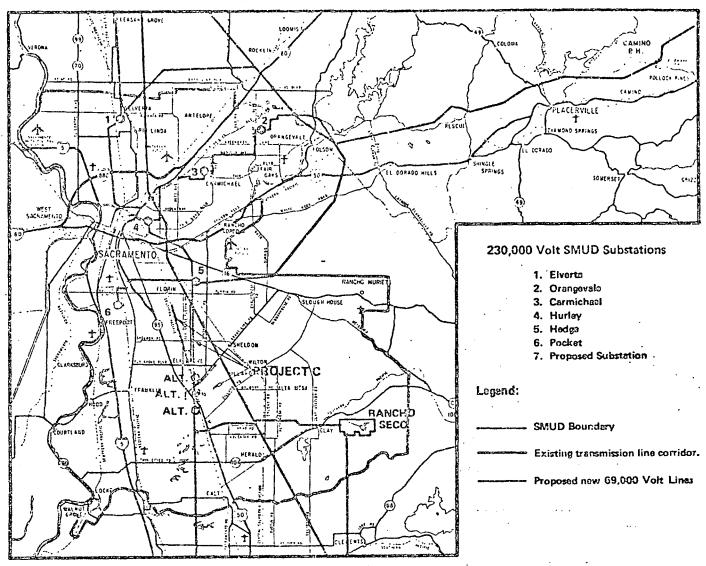
October 23, 1980 March 26, 1981

Item 15 Item 25

EXHIBIT B

REGIONAL MAP PHASE III PROJECT C

230,000 Volt Substation and 69,000 volt lines



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PHASE III PROJECT C

- 1) Construction of a new 230,000 volt substation.
- 2) Construction of new 69,000 volt lines out of the substation.
- 3) Additional SMUD right-of-way required.

MITIGATION MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE SMUD BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE PHASE III TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT (PROJECTS A&B)

NO.	MITIGATION MEASURE	REFERENCE PAGE IN EIR
1.	Access to the transmission line right-of-way will be along existing roads where possible. Where existing roads are not available, routes will be chosen so as to cause the least damage and inconvenience to the property owner. Access routes will be maintained by the District during the construction period and returned to original or better condition upon the project's completion. No major interference with agricultural work is expected during the construction phase.	6- 1
2.	After the construction activity is completed, the excess dirt will be removed and/or used to restore the grade and area to its original or better condition.	6- 2
3.	Construction of the transmission line will take place during daylight hours only. Watering will be used where excess dust may occur and existing roads used where possible. Shoring, traffic control, and barricades will be used where appropriate to ensure public safety.	6- 3
	If the owners or occupants of the affected area have a complaint on the projects during the construction period about excess dust, noise, traffic, access, destruction of property, etc., they should contact the following person at SMUD who will be available to mitigate the problem:	
·	Project A and B - 230,000 volt transmission line Mike Bregar - 916-452-3211	

17) arch 26,

6- 7

SMUD Board of Directors resolution No. 9318. (See EIR Appendix E)

Sacramento City Ordinance, Section 29 of the "Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance".

Sacramento County Ordinance, No. SZC 78-107

5. The transmission line routes described in the EIR were selected to follow both the letter and the intent of these criteria as noted above. Routes initially not

6- 7

6. Mitigation measures to prevent excess loss of agricultural areas will be accomplished by locating (where feasible) the transmission line route in or very close to fences or property lines rather than midfield or at headland. Also, poles are being proposed instead of four-legged towers for most of the route. This would save approximately 1,477 square feet per structure of agricultural land.

meeting these requirements were not selected for any of the proposed alternatives.

6- 7

NO.	MITIGATION MEASURE	REFERENCE PAGE IN EIR	
7.	To avoid damage to the vernal pools located along Project B between Colony Road and the Water and Power Resources Service aqueduct, a consulting biologist will be used to identify, locate, and mark in the field the possible vernal pools that would be impacted by the construction of the transmission line. The construction forces will be informed of the action and will be required to confine all construction work other than that which is necessary, to outside the marked areas.	6- 9	
8.	In the riparian woodland area between the Cosumnes River and existing SMUD Tower 942, new transmission structures will be located so that no mature trees or large areas of woody vegetation will be removed. Existing road tracks will be used for access, with travel taking place on grassy areas only when necessary.	6-10	
9.	Any disruption from overhead construction along the Western Pacific Railroad to drainage ditch flow patterns or marshy areas will be repaired. Spoils from the dirt removed from the pole footing will be properly disposed of so that the original drainage patterns will not be obstructed. Construction access will avoid marshy or wet areas where possible.	6-11	
10.	In the Laguna Creek riparian grassland area existing roads or trails will be used where possible. The blocking of drainage canals will not be allowed and no marsh areas will be destroyed. The spoils from the pole footings will be disposed in such a way as to avoid polluting any marsh areas or canals.	6-11	

NO.	MITIGÄTION MEASURE	REFERENCE PAGE IN EIR
11.	In order to protect any potential habitat of the Giant Garter Snake (Thamnophis couchi gigas - classified by the California Fish and Game as rare) marshy areas will be avoided where possible for the location of the poles. Construction access roads, avoiding the marshy areas will be utilized where feasible. No marsh areas will be destroyed.	6-12
12.	Once the final tower placement has been selected through the riparian woodland habitat adjacent to Tower 942, the area will be field checked to ensure that no California black walnut trees (Juglans hindsii - classified by the California Native Plant Society as endangered) will be affected.	6-12
13.	In the Cosumnes River area near Tower 942, the placement of new towers will be located so that the footing and the construction will not jeopardize the levee or significantly affect the flow of the flood waters contained within the levee system.	6-14
14.	Any tower or pole will be located at least 10 feet from the outside toe of any levee.	6-14
15.	The gravesite east of Tower 898 will be avoided. Because Project B involves only stringing a vacant side of the existing tower, the project can readily avoid the gravesite by pulling the cables overhead through the area.	6-15

NO.	MITIGATION MEASURE	REFERENCE PAGE IN EIR
16.	An archeological field survey shall be performed for that portion of the transmission line route that has not previously been field surveyed. Poles and towers will be located as to avoid impacting any significant sites found in the field survey.	6-15
17.	Should artifacts or unusual amounts of stone, bone, or shell be uncovered during construction, an archeologist will be consulted for an on-the-spot evaluation.	6-15
18.	Radio and TV interference from the transmission line will be minimized by proper design of the line, adequate level of clearances, and care and installation of the conductors and all hardware. If the conductor is damaged during installation, or if faulty hardware becomes a source of radio or TV noise, that portion of the line will be repaired or replaced to eliminate any problem.	6-16
19.	Since possible discovery of future health effects is still unknown, this transmission line project will be designed to use the same conservative approach as the New York Public Service Commission. The right-of-way width and construction of the line will be such that no permanent homes will be closer than an electric field value of 1.0 kv per meter at one meter.	6-19 & Page 48 of SMUD's Response in FEIR.
20.	The necessary metallic objects will be properly grounded by SMUD to avoid any nuisance shock hazards.	6-20

٠.

NO.	MITIGATION MEASURE	REFERENCE PAGE IN EIR	
21.	The following measures have been or will be taken to reduce adverse visual effects:	6-22	
	(1) Selection of line routes, method of construction, and substation site with less visual impact, also taking into consideration the other variables of the project.	·	
	(2) Poles will be used for most of the route instead of transmission line towers for Project A.		
	(3) Longer spans will be used on the transmission line thereby requiring fewer poles.		
	(4) To mitigate the 69,000 volt line route through Elk Grove, alternate route "C" was chosen.	·	
22.	The poles will be installed where feasible so that the minimum amount of poles will be located within the 10 degree area of interference of PT&T's micro wave path.	6-23	
23.	The right-of-way potential for aerial seeding, fertilizing and crop dusting underneath the lines will be investigated with the land owners. The minimum clearance of the lines to the ground will be raised from 30 feet to 50 feet in those areas required to allow for continued use of aerial methods.	6-24	
	Area marker balls will be installed on lines in close proximity to landing fields that would be adversely impacted by the lines.		

NO.	MITIGATION MEASURE	REFERENCE PAGE IN EIR
24.	Prior to the final siting of the towers/poles SMUD staff will consult with the Arc Manager of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the specific locations of sensitispecies referenced in the FEIR (SMUD's Responses to comments made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - p.4) and appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented if necessary.	ive _SMUD's n Response in
25.	All purchases of circuit breaker oil shall specify that the supplier test the oil certify that it complies with the latest EPA Regulations and contains less than 50 parts per million of PCB.	
•	PCB's will not be used for any of the equipment to be installed under this project All oils are essentially PCB free with only background trace concentrations. All will meet EPA requirements for the oil at the time of purchase.	
26.	The placement of poles will be at the following points in the vicinity of Mr. Kataproperty.	z's Page 24 of SMUD's Response in
	a. Location of a pole west of the western fence line of Mr. Katz's property, eigoff the east or west side of Bruceville Road (with the most probable location west of Bruceville Road).	ther FEIR
	b. Location of a pole west of the dirt access road running roughly north-south through Mr. Katz's property. Pole location would be midway between the west edge of the dirt access road and the irrigation line which runs north-south. (Care would be taken during installation to avoid any disturbance of the irrigation line.)	ern
	c. Location of a pole at the eastern fence line of Mr. Katz's property.	

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ISSUING A PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSMISSION FACILITIES COMPLYING WITH ZONING
CODE SECTIONS 301-10 THROUGH 301-12 (PROJECT
IS KNOWN AS SMUD PHASE III, PROJECT A,
230,000 VOLT TRANSMISSION LINES)

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 53091 provides that -local governments zoning regulations are applicable to public utility projects for transmission facilities of 100,000 volts or larger capacities; and

WHEREAS, Public Utilities Code Section 12808.5 requires that for projects of 100,000 volt capacity or larger, transmission facilities utility providers and local governments shall hold noticed public hearings relative to the project and that specific findings be made for approval of such projects after due consideration of impacts, project consistency with local government plans, an evaluation of the necessity of the project and the consideration of feasible alternatives to the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, Sacramento County Zoning Code Sections 301-10, 301-11, and 301-12 were adopted to implement the above statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, after public hearings, may by resolution approve, approve an alternative, or disapprove the subject proposed facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has conducted a public hearing relative to the subject project; and

WHEREAS, the Final Environmental Impact Report adopted by the

Sacramento Municipal Utility District Board of Directors discusses the recommendations of this Board of Supervisors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento, State of California after receiving recommendations from local residents, community groups and Planning staff makes the following findings relative to Sacramento Municipal Utility District's preferred Alternative 3 as described in the Final Environmental Impact Report;

- 1. The project is inconsistent with Sacramento County's

 General Plan and the Elk Grove Community Plan in

 that said plans include policies regarding the preservation of the viability of agricultural pursuits

 for lands in agricultural use along the proposed rightsof-way, and due to the effect that overhead transmission

 lines would severely impact necessary agricultural
 operations such as crop dusting by air; and
- 2. The Board of Supervisors pursuant to Sections 301-10 through 301-12, above, finds that the necessity for the proposed facilities as described in Alternative 3 cannot justify the impact of said facilities on the health, convenience, safety and welfare of the County residents. Specifically, only two alternatives have an acceptable impact on health and safety; namely, complete undergrounding of the entire line or utilization of existing overhead right-of-way north along Waterman Road and the undergrounding the balance of the line westerly along

			_
			•
			· •
			•

(Identified as Alternative 6-B in the SMUD Mack Road. Final EIR).

3. A number of feasible alternatives to the proposal were considered, and in light of the identified impacts and above consideratiins, the Board of Supervisors recommends, Alternative 6-B as described in the Final Environmental Impact Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Sacramento, by this Resolution, does not approve the request for Transmission Facilities as described in Alternative 3 in the Environmental Impact Report for the SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT (SMUD).

On a	motion by	Superviso	or Bry	an	, se	econded	рÀ	
Superviso	or Johns	on	, the f	oregoin	ng Resolu	ation wa	as passe	∍đ
and adopt	ted by the	Board of	Supervi	sors of	f the Cou	inty of	Sacrame	ento
State of	California	a, at a re	egular m	neeting	thereof	this 26	oth day	of
March	, 1981,	by the fo	ollowing	, vote,	to wit:			
AYES:	Superviso	ors, Bryan,	Johnson	, Smoley,	, Collin			

Supervisors, Bryan, Johnson, Smoley, Collin

NOES:

Supervisors, None

ABSENT:

Supervisors, None

ABSTAIN:

Supervisors, Sheedy

Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors of Sacramento County, California

(SEAL)

Board/of Supervisors

MER 26 1981

SOARD OF SUPERVISORS

	, -	
		• •
		•
	•	