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ENVIRONMENTAL  
UNIT

Re: Canyon Hills Project—Electromagnetic Fields and effects on Cancer, etc.  
ENV-2002-2481-EIR SCH#2002091018

The conclusion in the DEIR section on hazards and hazardous materials, with respect to electromagnetic fields created by the Edison transmission lines traversing the housing project, is that, "the projects impact would be less than significant prior to implementation of the recommended mitigation measure."

The mitigation measure requires, for lots within 150 feet of the edge of the transmission line, that the developer provide an electromagnetic field, (EMF), information and disclosure statement to each prospective buyer and that the statement include the following:

- a) The location of the SCE transmission line
- b) The fact that the subject has been addressed in the EIR and is on file with the Department of Planning, Los Angeles
- c) That additional health information may be obtained from sources listed in the EIR basically the State Department of Health and the Internet

44-1

There have been a myriad of studies on electromagnetic fields created by power lines, home appliances, home wiring, etc. The DEIR refers to a report by the Special Committee of the National Research Council which reviewed 11 epidemiological studies relative to powerlines and childhood leukemia. They concluded that children living in such high configuration houses are 1.5 times more likely to develop childhood leukemia than children in other homes. They were, however, unable to explain this elevated risk and recommended more research. Your experts indicate that one explanation could be that houses with "high wire codes" have higher electromagnetic fields levels but may "also be a proxy for some type of exposure besides magnetic fields that is not yet understood." What does that statement mean?

A 1997 National Cancer Institute report found no association between living in high wire code houses and childhood leukemia but children did have higher rates of cancer in general.

In 1998 a group of experts gathered together by a federal agency reviewed the research on possible EMF health risks. A majority of this panel felt that the epidemiology studies of childhood leukemia provided enough evidence to classify EMF as a "possible human carcinogen", meaning, from the person writing the DEIR, that it MIGHT cause cancer but it does not mean that it DOES cause cancer???

44-2

The final report in 2002 was conducted by three experts who reviewed the most relevant existing scientific literature, discussed it with peer reviewers and contracted with various specialists to make sure the literature was up to date through June 2000. While there were some important differences, the scientists were more inclined, in some cases significantly more inclined, to believe that EMF exposure increased the risk of certain health problems, more so than other groups such as the British National Radiological Protection Board and the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences Working Group!! These three scientists were also inclined to believe in varying degrees that EMF can cause some unspecified degree of increased risk of childhood leukemia, Adult brain cancer, ALS and miscarriage. One scientist strongly believed that EMF contributed to childhood leukemia while another believed that EMF can contribute to adult brain cancer.

44-3


The writers of the DEIR downplayed these reports with such comments as, "No significant impacts associated with developing homes in proximity to the Transmission Line Right of Way (ROW) have been identified." And, "existing EMF exposure to existing homes along the Transmission ROW would not be increased or diminished by development of the proposed project."

My research uncovered about 90 articles, pro and con, respecting EMF and its connection to cancer and leukemia. One study by a Dr. David Savitz, an epidemiologist, found that Electric Utility workers with high exposure to magnetic fields were more than twice as likely to develop brain cancer as those with lower exposure. A UCLA epidemiologist praised the study stating that "it's a well designed and executed study." Published research by Dr. James Trosko, a professor of pediatrics and human development at Michigan State University indicated that EMF, similar to those found in overhead power lines, can have a biological effect on human cells, an effect that could contribute to the complex cellular process that leads to cancer. Other studies claim that EMF bears no relation to cancer or leukemia.

44-4

In conclusion, the DEIR writer's rather ludicrous mitigation factors lead me to believe that, despite the controversy, even they believe there is a danger, some danger of childhood leukemia, childhood cancer, and adult brain cancer infecting the people who may purchase these homes. While there appears to be no out and out, set in concrete proof that electromagnetic fields cause cancer and/or leukemia, there is enough evidence to show that, among other things, children are especially vulnerable to EMF radiation. Therefore, the powers that be should indicate, in no uncertain terms, that building homes under or in reasonable proximity to overhead power lines should neither be advised nor accomplished.

This Canyon Hills project should be totally reconsidered. Thanks for your consideration.

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