Palomar Mountain
Planning Organization
P.O. Box 145
Palomar Mountain, CA 92060-0145

August 8, 2024

To: Eric Oesterling, Fred Bauermeiste, NextEra Energy, Inc.
Cc: Save Palomar Mountain Task Force

Dear Eric and Fred,

Thank you for taking the time to visit the Palomar Mountain region and meet with our community Tuesday. We appreciate your early engagement with us concerning the Imperial Valley-North of SONGS Transmission Line Project. We understand the importance of thorough site evaluation and believe Tuesday's visit has highlighted the significant risks and negative impacts associated with the Palomar corridor.

We respectfully urge you to eliminate Palomar Mountain from consideration for the transmission line route. Our position is grounded in the following critical factors:

1. **Extreme Wildfire Risk:** Palomar Mountain is a Tier 3 High Fire Threat Area, indicating an exceptionally high risk of utility-caused wildfires. The combination of strong winds, limited evacuation routes, and the potential for downed power lines creates a severe and immediate threat to our community and the environment.
2. **Unparalleled Public Value:** Palomar Mountain is a cherished community resource, providing outdoor recreation, education, and economic vitality. Tens of thousands of people, including children and families, enjoy the mountain each year.
3. **Ecological Significance and Endangered Species:** The mountain is home to the endangered Laguna Mountain Skipper Butterfly, among other critical species. Constructing a transmission line would irreparably harm this delicate ecosystem.
4. **Historical and Cultural Significance:** Palomar holds deep cultural and historical importance to Native American communities.

We believe that siting a transmission line in this area is incompatible with public safety, environmental protection, and the preservation of our community's quality of life.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with NextEra to identify a more suitable route for this project.

Sincerely,

Jim Hamerly
Chair, Save Palomar Mountain Task Force