

April 10, 2006

Jim Keselburg
Regional Manager, Sierra Nevada Region
Western Area Power Administration
114 Parkshore Dr.
Folsom, CA 95630

Dear Mr. Keselburg,

We're writing to ask for your help in resolving two important issues we have with the WAPA facility in Folsom.

You're no doubt aware of these issues—the highly annoying noise emanating from your chillers at all hours and the visual impact of the mammoth new power pole on the natural environment and on our homes.

As discussed with Charles Cooper and David Christy on March 27, 2006, we want you to eliminate the chiller noise through any or all of these methods by May 31, 2006:

- Remove the sound walls currently reflecting the noise across the lake (this idea has been validated by a professional architect specializing in large office buildings), or build a sound wall on the lake side
- Move the chillers behind the building (away from the river) or bury them
- Schedule them to run only as needed (not on weeknights or weekends)

While he agreed to hire a sound engineer to look into possible solutions, Mr. Cooper seemed resistant to these suggestions.

Regarding the power pole, he stated that he has decided not to replace it with something smaller despite his awareness that it does not need to be that tall or wide and that a guy-wired pole would suffice.

WAPA now has four alternative sources of power: SMUD as primary source, the Folsom generators; the Nimbus generators, and the on-site emergency generators. This seems to preclude the need for a free-standing pole, especially since the sources from the two dams are relying on several other poles that DO use guy wires.

To his credit, Mr. Cooper did go back to his engineers to see what size pole would be required if guy wires were permitted. A 22-inch diameter pole would blend better with the existing environment than the 42-inch diameter pole that was installed. The original specifications for the pole detailed guy wire requirements, but then, in a single sentence,

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stated that guy wires would not be permitted. It appears that the original design was modified and the engineer was instructed to insert the ban on guy wires. Why? Using guy wires would have been considerably less expensive and intrusive (see attached data).

In addition, Mr. Cooper justified not removing the pole with the assertion that this process would pose a safety/security problem. We reject this idea. If you can erect a pole and modify it as he agreed to do in his letter to us dated February 24, 2006, you can certainly replace it.

We're committed to resolving these issues. There is a long history of community activism and organizational action undertaken to protect the Sacramento region's number one asset, the American River Parkway. Prominent citizens have been unsuccessful in attempts to build within the setback requirements adjacent the river. Unauthorized tree removal has been fined and landscapers jailed. WAPA may be a government facility, but that doesn't give it the right to interfere with the natural peace and beauty of the river.

It's not too late for WAPA to do the right thing for its neighbors, the environment, and the public who enjoy the bike trails and lake.

We would appreciate a detailed response within 10 business days.

Thank you,

The residents of Arden Bluffs and other concerned local citizens

c/o Jonathan Ganz, XXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX
Orangevale, CA 95662

cc:

Michael S. Hacsckaylo, WAPA administrator
Dianne Feinstein, senator
Dan Lundgren, congressional representative
John Doolittle, congressional representative
Dave Cox, senator/Vanessa McCarthy-Olmstead
Roger Niello, assemblyman
Kerri Howell, vice mayor, City of Folsom
Charles Brown, congressional candidate
Bill Durston, congressional candidate
Sunny Williams, natural resources planner, Sacramento County
Warren V. Truitt, board member, Save the American River Association
Lakeisha McGhee, reporter, *Sacramento Bee*