SAVE FALLBROOK
Fallbrook, California
savefallbrook.org

November 6, 2026

California Public Utilities Commission
San Diego Gas & Electric

Re: Introduction and Opposition to SDG&E's Proposed 500-kV Golden Pacific Powerlink

To the California Public Utilities Commission and San Diego Gas & Electric:

Save Fallbrook is a volunteer-led grassroots task force of Fallbrook residents. We formed in response to SDG&E's proposed 500-kV Golden Pacific Powerlink (GPP) to give our community a clear, organized voice.

On behalf of Save Fallbrook, I am writing to introduce our group and to state plainly, and early, that we oppose this project.

Both SDG&E's preferred route and the South Mountain Alternative would affect Fallbrook, and the South Mountain Alternative threatens even more of our community. Our opposition, however, is not about one route over another. We oppose the project as a whole. We do not want the burden shifted into another community's backyard, and we ask that SDG&E and the Commission seriously consider alternatives to the project itself rather than alternative routes for it.

At a high level, our concerns include:

• **Water:** The Santa Margarita River is the longest free-flowing river on the Southern California coast and a vital water resource for our region. It should not bear the risks of a 500-kV corridor.

• **Environment and Wildlife Corridors:** The Santa Margarita River corridor is a recognized wildlife linkage connecting the Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains and reaching through Camp Pendleton to the coast. State and regional conservation planners consider it essential to the ecological health of Southern California's South Coast Ecoregion. It is one of the last intact river corridors in the region. Mountain lions, already genetically isolated by I-15, rely on it to survive, and it is a top-priority river for endangered steelhead recovery. A 500-kV corridor through this linkage would fragment one of the few remaining connections our wildlife has left.

• **Wildfire and Evacuation:** Fallbrook has limited ways in and out. Towers ranging in height from 120' to 190' add aerial firefighting hazards, and complicate evacuations when every minute counts.

• **Insurability:** Homeowners here already struggle to find and keep fire insurance. New transmission infrastructure threatens to make that worse forcing costs even higher.

• **Blight and Quality of Life:** Towers of this scale would permanently scar the hillsides, groves and views that define Fallbrook, known around the world as the Avocado Capital. That character draws visitors to our farms, farm stands, wineries and community events, and agritourism keeps many of our small farms viable. It is also why families choose to live here. Lasting blight would erode property values, quality of life and Fallbrook's identity, and it would fall on an underserved community that already carries more than its share.

• **Farms:** San Diego County has more small farms than any other county in the nation, and nearly all of them are family farms. Fallbrook is at the heart of that, with avocado groves, nurseries and family farms worked by the same families for generations. A 500- kV corridor would take farmland out of production permanently, restrict how growers use equipment and aircraft, and cut easements and access roads through working groves. For a small family farm, losing even a few acres can mean losing the farm. Once a generational farm is gone, it does not come back.

• **Construction and Traffic:** Building towers this size means years of heavy equipment, new access roads, grading, dust and noise. Fallbrook's narrow, winding rural roads are already strained, with few routes in and out. Construction traffic, lane closures and oversized loads would add congestion for residents, farm operations and school traffic. It would also slow emergency response and could block evacuation routes during a fire or emergency. All of this would happen well before a single line is energized.

We are not alone. Elected bodies such as the Fallbrook Public Utility District and the Fallbrook Community Planning Group have formally opposed the GPP along with the advisory Community Service Area No. 81.

This letter is an introduction, not our full comment. Save Fallbrook intends to participate fully in the process, including a formal protest with sign-on from our members, and we will follow with more detailed comments. We respectfully ask to be kept informed of all filings, notices, comment periods and public meetings related to this project.

We also thank Commissioner Matt Baker and his senior advisor, Kyle Navis, for meeting with us during the Commission's September visit to San Marcos. That conversation meant a great deal to our community, and we welcome Commissioners and staff to meet with us whenever they are in San Diego County.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to staying engaged.

Respectfully,

Stephani Baxter and the Save Fallbrook Team