

**APPENDIX C**  
**State Parks Letter**

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret), Director

Angeles District  
1925 Las Virgenes Road  
Calabasas, California, 91302

July 3, 2013

Ms. Irene Paul  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044  
Los Angeles, California, 90012

**Re: Sylmar Ground Return System Replacement Project, SCH #2010091004**

Dear Ms. Paul:

After extensive review of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power alignment alternatives for the above project, California State Parks, Angeles District, has concluded that the Topanga alignment cannot be given further consideration by our Department.

The Department of Water and Power does not have property rights that would permit construction of the Topanga alignment. The existing distribution line through the park was constructed with a 1934 unrecorded permit from the private party that owned the land at that time. The Topanga alignment would therefore require a new Right of Way. Topanga State Park was acquired with Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds that impose constraints on the uses of the property. Any establishment of a new Right of Way would require a lengthy conversion process and replacement of the property with comparable replacement lands.

California State Parks to not allow new transmission lines to be constructed across State Park land. Construction of the Topanga alignment for this project would set a precedent that we do not wish to establish. Aside from the statewide practice, the alignment is incompatible with the General Plan for Topanga State Park. Construction of this alignment would require a General Plan amendment, a process that would take a minimum of 18 months to complete, even assuming it would be approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission, which is unlikely.

The Topanga alignment would result in probable impacts to special status wildlife and plant species, as well as visual impacts to the park that are incompatible with our mission and are therefore unacceptable. We therefore request that you designate another route as your preferred alignment.

Sincerely,

  
Craig Sap  
District Superintendent Angeles District

Cc; Ronilee Clark, Southern Division Chief  
Claire LeFlore, Chief Counsel

