

**CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: City Manager/City Council

FROM: Peter Thorson, City Attorney
Randi Johl, Director of Legislative Affairs/City Clerk

DATE: July 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Receive Status Update on the City's Efforts to Oppose the San Diego Gas & Electric Golden Pacific Powerlink Project and Provide Information About City Impacts to San Diego Gas & Electric, California Independent System Operator and California Public Utility Commission

PREPARED BY: Peter Thorson, City Attorney
Randi Johl, Director of Legislative Affairs/City Clerk

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Receive a status update on the City's efforts to oppose the San Diego Gas & Electric Golden Pacific Powerlink Project ("Project") and provide information about City impacts to San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), California Independent System Operator (CAISO), and California Public Utility Commission (CPUC); and
2. Approve public outreach as needed; and
3. Provide general direction to the staff regarding the Project.

BACKGROUND: The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) have proposed the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project, which includes construction of a new 500-kilovolt (kV) extra-high-voltage transmission line and associated facilities. As currently proposed, the project would traverse the southern portion of the City of Temecula, including the Temecula Creek corridor, residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, businesses, agricultural lands, and Southern California Wine Country.

On May 26, 2026, the City Council held a publicly noticed meeting during which representatives from CAISO and SDG&E presented information regarding the project and responded to questions from the City Council and members of the public. The meeting was attended by hundreds of residents, many of whom expressed significant concerns regarding the proposed alignment. Following public testimony, the City Council unanimously expressed its opposition to the project as currently routed through Temecula.

On June 4, 2026, the City submitted a detailed comment letter to SDG&E and CAISO outlining the City's concerns and requesting that those issues be fully evaluated during the environmental review process required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

On July 14, 2026, the City Council unanimously adopted a resolution of opposition formalizing the City's position and establishing legislative findings supporting its continued participation in the environmental and regulatory review processes. The resolution did not oppose electrical reliability improvements or modernization of California's electric grid. Rather, it expressed the City's opposition to the currently proposed alignment through Temecula and urged responsible agencies to evaluate feasible alternatives that avoid or substantially reduce impacts to established communities and sensitive environmental resources. The legislative findings contained in the resolution identified numerous concerns associated with the proposed alignment, including:

Potential impacts to public health, safety, and emergency response;
Increased wildfire risks within the Temecula Creek corridor;
Impacts to scenic resources, community character, and Southern California Wine Country;
Potential effects on tourism, agriculture, and local businesses;
Potential impacts to biological resources and wildlife corridors;
Concerns regarding tribal cultural resources;
Potential reductions in residential and commercial property values;
Lack of meaningful public participation during the early planning stages; and
The need for a comprehensive analysis of feasible alternatives as required by CEQA and NEPA.

The resolution further authorized the City Manager, City Attorney, and appropriate staff to continue participating in environmental review, retain technical and legal experts as necessary, coordinate with public agencies and tribal governments, and undertake other lawful actions to protect the City's interests throughout the regulatory process.

Today, the City Council will receive an update on the above-referenced efforts to oppose the Project. It is also recommended that the City Council approve related public engagement efforts and provide general direction as desired.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no direct fiscal impact to receive a status update on efforts related to the Project. Should additional environmental review, regulatory proceedings, technical analyses, or legal representation become necessary, any future expenditures will be presented to the City Council for consideration through the City's normal budgetary and contract approval processes.

ATTACHMENTS: None