

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING THE GOLDEN PACIFIC POWERLINK PROJECT AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED THROUGH THE CITY OF TEMECULA AND TEMECULA VALLEY, MAKING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, URGING THE EVALUATION OF FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES, AND DIRECTING CITY STAFF TO TAKE ALL LAWFUL ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, ENVIRONMENT, AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA

WHEREAS, the California Independent System Operator ("CAISO") and San Diego Gas & Electric Company ("SDG&E") have proposed the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project, consisting of new 500-kilovolt extra-high-voltage transmission facilities, towers reaching approximately 191 feet in height, substations, and associated infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the currently proposed route traverses the southern portion of the City of Temecula and Temecula Valley, including the Temecula Creek corridor, established residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, businesses, agricultural lands, Wine Country, recreational facilities, and other sensitive community resources; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2026, the Temecula City Council conducted a duly noticed public meeting at which representatives of SDG&E and CAISO presented information regarding the Project, after which hundreds of residents, businesses, organizations, and other stakeholders provided testimony expressing overwhelming opposition to the proposed route; and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing, the City Council unanimously declared its opposition to the proposed alignment; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2026, the City transmitted a comprehensive comment letter to SDG&E and CAISO summarizing numerous concerns regarding the Project and requesting those concerns be incorporated into the environmental review required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

WHEREAS, the City Council makes certain legislative findings as follows:

Section 1. Need for Reliable Energy Infrastructure. The City Council recognizes the importance of maintaining a reliable electric transmission system capable of serving California's future energy needs. Nothing in this Resolution shall be interpreted as opposition to electrical reliability or modernization of California's electric grid. Rather, the City opposes only the currently proposed routing of the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project through the City of Temecula and Temecula Valley.

Section 2. Established Community. The City finds that the proposed Project would introduce industrial-scale transmission infrastructure into one of Southern California's most established residential, commercial, recreational, and agricultural communities, affecting thousands of residents and businesses that have invested in Temecula based upon its carefully planned character.

Section 3. Scenic Resources. The City finds that Temecula Valley possesses unique scenic resources recognized throughout California, including Wine Country, open space, scenic vistas, and rural landscapes. The proposed transmission towers and conductors would permanently alter these scenic resources and substantially diminish the visual character that defines the Temecula Valley.

Section 4. Tourism and Economic Vitality. The City finds that tourism serves as a cornerstone of Temecula's economy. Tourism in City of Temecula and the Temecula Valley injects roughly \$1.1 billion into the local economy and the region draws over 3.4 million annual visitors, supporting nearly 9,600 jobs. The proposed transmission corridor threatens wineries, resorts, hospitality businesses, special events, agritourism, outdoor recreation, and numerous small businesses dependent upon the community's scenic character.

Section 5. Hot Air Balloon Industry. The City finds that Temecula's internationally recognized hot air balloon industry represents an iconic cultural, recreational, and economic asset. The proposed transmission facilities are incompatible with safe balloon operations and threaten one of Temecula's most recognizable attractions.

Section 6. Wildfire Hazards. The City finds that the proposed route traverses portions of the Temecula Creek corridor and other high fire severity areas. The City further finds that:

- Extra-high-voltage transmission facilities may impede aerial firefighting operations;
- Emergency response may be delayed while electrical hazards are addressed;
- Transmission facilities create additional operational challenges during wildfire incidents; and
- Any increase in wildfire response time places residents, businesses, schools, and critical infrastructure at greater risk.

Section 7. Public Health and Safety. The City finds that residents have expressed substantial concerns regarding:

- public safety;
- electrical hazards;
- emergency response;
- operational noise;
- electromagnetic fields;
- construction impacts;
- quality of life; and
- long-term compatibility of industrial transmission facilities within developed neighborhoods.

These concerns warrant comprehensive study during environmental review.

Section 8. Biological Resources. The City finds that Temecula Creek functions as an important wildlife movement corridor supporting sensitive habitat, native vegetation, and ecological connectivity. The proposed Project has the potential to fragment habitat, disrupt wildlife movement, and permanently affect biological resources.

Section 9. Tribal Cultural Resources. The City recognizes the sovereign authority of the Pechanga Band of Indians. The City finds that protection of tribal cultural resources is of paramount importance and supports full government-to-government consultation throughout the environmental review process.

Section 10. Property Rights. The City finds that residents have expressed legitimate concerns regarding reductions in residential and commercial property values associated with proximity to extra-high-voltage transmission facilities. The City further finds these concerns deserve objective economic analysis.

Section 11. Public Participation. The City finds that neither the City nor its residents were provided meaningful opportunities to participate during the early planning and route selection process despite decisions affecting Temecula having occurred years before public disclosure. Transparent public participation is fundamental to sound governmental decision-making.

Section 12. CEQA and NEPA. The City finds that CEQA and NEPA require comprehensive evaluation of feasible alternatives capable of avoiding or substantially reducing environmental impacts. The City further finds that alternatives should not be dismissed solely because they may increase project costs.

Section 13. Feasible Alternatives. The City finds that SDG&E is legally required to provide a comprehensive study of feasible alternatives to the Temecula route that include:

- alternative transmission corridors;
- co-location with existing utility infrastructure;
- undergrounding where technically feasible;
- distributed energy resources;
- battery storage;
- smart grid technologies;
- flexible AC transmission systems;
- grid modernization; and
- other emerging technologies.

Section 14. General Plan Consistency. The City finds that the proposed Project is inconsistent with numerous goals and policies contained within the Temecula General Plan relating to:

- preservation of community character;
- scenic resources;
- open space;
- public safety;
- environmental stewardship;
- economic development; and
- quality of life.

Section 15. Cumulative Impacts. The City finds that the Project must be evaluated in conjunction with other existing and reasonably foreseeable public and private projects to determine cumulative environmental effects.

Section 16. Public Welfare. Based upon testimony received during the May 26, 2026 public hearing, written correspondence received by the City, information presented by SDG&E and CAISO, and the City's June 4, 2026 comment letter, the City Council finds that routing the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project through Temecula is contrary to the public health, safety, and welfare of the City's residents.

Section 17. Reservation of Rights. The City expressly reserves all rights to participate in, comment upon, appeal, intervene in, or otherwise challenge any aspect of the Project before the California Public Utilities Commission, California Independent System Operator, California Energy Commission, state and federal agencies, courts of competent jurisdiction, or any other governmental body. The City further reserves the right to supplement the administrative record as additional information becomes available.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council formally opposes the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project as currently proposed through the City of Temecula and Temecula Valley.

Section 2. The City urges SDG&E, CAISO, the CPUC, and all responsible agencies to comprehensively evaluate and select feasible alternatives that avoid or substantially lessen impacts to the City of Temecula and Temecula Valley.

Section 3. The City requests full compliance with CEQA, NEPA, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws governing environmental review, public participation, and tribal consultation.

Section 4. The City Manager, City Attorney, and appropriate City staff are authorized and directed to retain technical experts, environmental consultants, legal counsel, engineers, economists, and other specialists necessary to represent the City's interests in all regulatory and judicial proceedings relating to the Project.

Section 5. The City Manager and City Attorney, and their designees, are authorized to intervene in the proceedings before the California Public Utilities Commission, California Independent Service Operators, California Energy Commission, and any other public entities required to approve the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project and to prepare, submit, and prosecute comments, objections, protests, administrative appeals, litigation, amicus briefs, or any other lawful actions deemed necessary to oppose the Project as currently proposed.

Section 6. The City shall continue coordinating with the Pechanga Band of Indians, neighboring jurisdictions, county, state and federal elected officials, community organizations, business leaders, and residents in protecting the public interest, to the extent allowed by law.

Section 7. The City Clerk shall transmit certified copies of this Resolution to the California Public Utilities Commission, California Independent System Operator, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, California Energy Commission, California Independent Systems Operator, Governor of California, Riverside County Board of Supervisors, Pechanga Band of Indians, and all state and federal legislators representing the City of Temecula.

Section 8. All of the recitals set forth at the beginning of this Resolution are hereby approved and incorporated herein.

Section 9. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of the Resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Temecula this 14th day of July, 2026.

Jessica Alexander, Mayor

ATTEST:

Randi Johl, City Clerk

[SEAL]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss
CITY OF TEMECULA)

I, Randi Johl, City Clerk of the City of Temecula, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2026- was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Temecula at a meeting thereof held on the 14th day of July, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Randi Johl, City Clerk