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**From:** navajorug@gmail.com on behalf of Steve & Gail [getzwiller@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 24, 2008 9:56 AM  
**To:** tbee@azleg.state.az.us; jpaton@azleg.gov; jmaynard@co.santa-cruz.az.us; mmclure@azleg.gov; Gleason-WebEmail; Mayes-WebEmail; Mundell-Web; Hatch-WebEmail; Pierce-Web; Utilities Div - Mailbox; pnewman@co.cochise.az.us  
**Subject:** SSVEC 69kV Line proposed for Sonoita/Elgin area

ORIGINAL

Dear Representatives, Commissioners, and Senators;

I am writing to appeal to you to help us in our efforts to save our beautiful and expansive viewsheds, wildlife corridor, economic values, valuable scientific research, and more.  
 As many of you may know, SSVEC has already begun bulldozing the Babacomari Land Grant Ranch, and part of this is on the border of the Audubon Society Ranch.

We need your assistance to stop Sulfur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) from putting the 69 kV line through the scenic, pristine vistas of the Sonoita, Elgin, and Babocomari Ranch (the largest remaining Spanish Land Grant in the U.S.); to preserve the 25 year history of scientific studies of the Audubon Research Ranch (which borders this proposed power-line); and to search and assist in finding alternatives for SSVEC and the local communities of one of the few remaining grasslands in the U.S.

We would at least like to have SSVEC stop plowing ahead with their power line, and discuss the alternatives with the community. SSVEC is supposed to be a cooperative, and we as members are being ignored!!

I am appealing to you for any help you may be able to give to this effort. Many citizens in this community value the natural resources and scenic views more than personal gain. People that don't live here value the same resources and views they like to visit.

I visited with one restaurant owner in Patagonia and he said he would rather suffer power outages than deface the Babacomari. Growing up in rural Arizona, power outages have been part of the landscape. He said it isn't as bad here as it was where he lived outside N.Y. on an island that would be without power for 2 days at a time on a regular basis. Just part of your choice - where you live - and what comes with the territory.

In reading about Martin Litton and his fight to save the Grand Canyon and the Giant Redwoods of California. Martin Litton, " I thought everybody ought to care about how beautiful the world was. And as far as I knew, everybody did. It never occurred to me to do anything except what you're impelled to do, feel, express."

I remember driving into the Sonoita valley in the 1970s. It took my breath away and I felt a soothing calm penetrate my body and spirit. I think most people feel this serenity when they come into this valley. This feeling is what I am trying to preserve for future generations. Without the uninterrupted vistas of flowing grasses and hills, this feeling may be lost to those searching for them. People that live in the city need to replenish their spirits, and Sonoita is one of the places they can come to do this. Don't have to climb a mountain or drive for days, it is close at hand to replenish and recharge those stuck in the cement of the city.

Litton, "Never ask for what is reasonable, only for what's right.....nature has it's right. Greed is the motive and it's important to frustrate greed."

Thank you for your help and assistance.

Gail Getzwiller  
 PO Box 815  
 Sonoita, AZ 85637  
 520-455-5020

Arizona Commission Commission

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"Imagination is Everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions." Albert Einstein (1878-1955)

11/24/2008

**Betty Camargo**

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**From:** Calhoun [calhoun76@sunnecast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 24, 2008 11:50 AM  
**To:** tbee@azleg.state.az.us; jpaton@azleg.gov; jmaynard@co.santa-cruz.az.us; mmcclure@azleg.gov; Gleason-WebEmail; Mayes-WebEmail; Mundell-Web; Hatch-WebEmail; Pierce-Web; Utilities Div - Mailbox; pnnewman@co.cochise.az.us  
**Subject:** Urgently need your help

I am writing to you because a group of concerned citizens in Sonoita-Elgin area need your help. Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) has told us that upgrading our power lines with unsightly 65' poles along the pristine sightlines in the Sonoita area will provide valuable increased electric capability. That may be a fact, but it is far from the *truth*. The truth is that what we value about Sonoita, Elgin, the Babocomari Ranch, and our beautiful grasslands cannot be increased in value...there is no price that can be placed on the natural balance and scenic beauty for those of us who have chosen this area *because* of what we value. It most definitely can be permanently defaced and damaged, however, all in the name of progress and growth. We cannot support, nor should we, such disregard for the unique and distinctive quality of this place.

As relative newcomers to Sonoita, we have a lot to learn about what it takes to preserve the unique and extraordinary character of a place where change and growth are inevitable. But this much we do know: organizations whose mission it is to provide necessary services, "cooperatives" as SSVEC is chartered to be, cannot be allowed to permanently alter the ecology, character and environment...when *other viable solutions exist!*

SSVEC has not been honest with the people of this area, has not disclosed certain motives and incentives to run these new lines *here and now*, and has most assuredly not been a faithful partner with the people they serve. Here is what we believe is possible and responsible: upgrade existing lines that will not further degrade the beauty and balance of this unparalleled landscape, and enter into honest disclosures about the pros and cons of this option. If *you* care about the sensitive preservation of these treasures, make your voice heard! We ask you, as public servants, to speak up for us and help preserve an area that cannot be recaptured, once lost.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Tom and Nancy Calhoun  
Sonoita, Az