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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-2983
PUC DOCKET NO. 45601

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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APPLICATION OF LCRA	§	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
TRANSMISSION SERVICES	§	
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE	§	OF
AND NECESSITY FOR THE ZORN-	§	
MARION 345-KV TRANSMISSION	§	
LINE IN GUADALUPE COUNTY,	§	
TEXAS	§	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

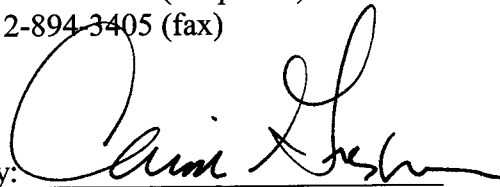
**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF INTERVENOR JAMES AND CHRISTINE
CHESSHER ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN GUADALUPE RIVER
ALLIANCE**

Intervenor(s) James and Christine Chessher on Behalf of the SOUTHERN GUADALUPE RIVER ALLIANCE ("SGRA") files this Direct Testimony, which is attached. The SGRA stipulates that this Direct Testimony can be treated by all parties as if the answers were filed under oath.

Respectfully submitted,

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**ATTORNEYS FOR THE SOUTHERN
GUADALUPE RIVER ALLIANCE**

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2
3
4 QUESTION: PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS FOR THE
5 RECORD.

6
7 ANSWER: James and Christine Chessher, 402 Happy Haven Rd., McQueeney, TX
8 78123

9
10
11 QUESTION: ARE YOU AN INTERVENOR IN SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-2983
12 AND PUC DOCKET NO. 45601 AND ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU
13 TESTIFYING?

14
15 ANSWER: Yes, on behalf of ourselves and the Southern Guadalupe River Alliance or
16 SGRA.

17
18
19 QUESTION: HAVE YOU EVER TESTIFIED IN A PUBLIC UTILITY
20 COMMISSION OF TEXAS ("PUC" OR "COMMISSION") PROCEEDING? IF SO,
21 WHEN?

22
23 ANSWER: No.

24
25
26 QUESTION: BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR OCCUPATION, EDUCATIONAL AND
27 WORK HISTORIES.

28
29 ANSWER: James Chessher is a high school graduate and ranch manager. Christine is
30 a high school graduate and 40-year employee of Continental.

31
32
33 QUESTION: WHERE IS YOUR PROPERTY LOCATED? IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE
34 INDICATE ANY MAJOR CROSS STREETS OR HIGHWAYS.

35
36 ANSWER: Please see Exhibit A for a map of the subject property. My property is
37 identified by LCRA TSC as J1-030, J1-031 and J1-032.

1 QUESTION: HOW LONG HAVE YOU OWNED THE PROPERTY? DO YOU LIVE
2 ON THE PROPERTY?

3
4 ANSWER: We have owned and lived on this property for 35 years.

5
6 QUESTION: ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA OF GUADALUPE
7 COUNTY, TEXAS?

8
9 ANSWER: Yes, we have lived on the property for 35 years.

10
11
12
13 **II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF TESTIMONY**
14

15 QUESTION: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

16
17 ANSWER: The purpose of our testimony is to (a) describe our property, (b) describe
18 the expected impact of the proposed transmission line on our property and (c) voice our
19 opposition against any route using Segments P, S, A1, B1, H1, I1, J1 and K1 which are
20 used in LCRA Transmission Services Corporation's ("LCRA TSC's") Alternative Routes
21 7, 8, 9, 13 and 15.

22
23
24 QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE SOUTHERN GUADALUPE RIVER ALLIANCE'S
25 CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE USING LCRA TSC'S
26 ROUTES 7, 8, 9, 13, 15?

27
28 ANSWER: In general, the SOUTHERN GUADALUPE RIVER ALLIANCE is
29 opposed to the construction of LCRA TSC transmission line through their community
30 because of the following: (1) a 345 kV transmission line will severely depreciate the
31 value of the SOUTHERN GUADALUPE RIVER ALLIANCE properties; (2) a 345 kV
32 transmission line will severely detract from the scenic beauty and aesthetic values of the
33 SOUTHERN GUADALUPE RIVER ALLIANCE properties and area; (3) a 345 kV
34 transmission line would negatively impact community, economic and historical values
35 and character of the SOUTHERN GUADALUPE RIVER ALLIANCE properties and
36 area; (4) the SOUTHERN GUADALUPE RIVER ALLIANCE and visitors will have to

1 drive under or near a 345 kV transmission line on a regular basis; (5) for transmission
2 lines crossing a SOUTHERN GUADALUPE RIVER ALLIANCE property, they would
3 be required to give third parties access to their properties, which limits the privacy and
4 control over our properties; and (6) the SOUTHERN GUADALUPE RIVER ALLIANCE
5 has general concerns about any buzzing of the 345 kV transmission line and general
6 health and safety concerns and concerns living and being close to a 345 kV transmission
7 line.

8
9
10 **III. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND THE LINE'S IMPACT**
11

12
13 QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY HABITABLE STRUCTURES ON THE
14 PROPERTY?

15
16 ANSWER Yes, our home is located on the property, along with many out-buildings.

17
18 QUESTION: PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROPERTY'S TERRAIN AND ITS
19 ECOLOGICAL OR BIOLOGICAL FEATURES.

20
21 ANSWER: The property is made up of coastal pasture land that we use to graze cattle
22 and horses. We also produce hay.

23
24
25 QUESTION: PLEASE DESCRIBE ALL OF YOUR PROPERTY'S CURRENT USES.

26
27 ANSWER: The property is our home. We use the land for hay production and
28 livestock grazing.

29
30
31 QUESTION: HAVE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY UNDERTAKEN ANY EFFORTS TO
32 RESTORE THE LAND OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE
33 PROPERTY?

34
35 ANSWER: Yes, we have planted many trees and Coastal Bermuda on our property.

1 QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY WATER WELL SITES ON THE PROPERTY?

2
3 ANSWER: No.

4
5
6 QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY GAS WELLS ON THE PROPERTY?

7
8 ANSWER: No.

9
10
11 QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY PIPELINE EASEMENTS ON THE PROPERTY?

12
13 ANSWER: Yes, it crosses the property from northeast to southwest.

14
15
16 QUESTION: PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY PLANNED FUTURE USES OF YOUR
17 PROPERTY IF THOSE USES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE CURRENT USES
18 PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED.

19
20 ANSWER: The future use will be the same as it is now.

21
22
23 QUESTION: DO ANY EXISTING TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION LINES
24 CROSS YOUR PROPERTY?

25
26 ANSWER: Yes.

27
28
29 QUESTION: ARE THERE CURRENT PLANS FOR OTHER UTILITY FEATURES
30 ON YOUR PROPERTY?

31
32 ANSWER: No.

33
34
35 QUESTION: WOULD THE LINKS THAT MIGHT IMPACT YOUR PROPERTY
36 RUN ALONG ANY BOUNDARY LINES OF YOUR PROPERTY?

37
38 ANSWER: Yes, Segment J1 would run along the western boundary of my property.

39 See Exhibit A.

1
2 QUESTION: DO THE PROPERTY LINES USED BY LCRA TSC FOLLOW THE
3 OVERALL BOUNDARY LINES FOR YOUR PROPERTY?
4

5 ANSWER: Yes.
6

7
8 QUESTION: HOW WOULD A 345 KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE IMPACT
9 YOUR PROPERTY AND ITS OPERATIONS?
10

11 ANSWER: These lines would be devastating to the value of this property.
12

13
14 QUESTION: WOULD YOU HAVE TO REGULARLY DRIVE UNDER THE
15 TRANSMISSION LINE IF INSTALLED ON YOUR PROPERTY?
16

17 ANSWER: No.
18

19
20 QUESTION: DESCRIBE THE AESTHETIC IMPACT TO YOUR PROPERTY IF
21 LCRA TSC BUILDS A 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE ON YOUR PROPERTY.
22

23 ANSWER: We enjoy the view we have to our west. The building of a transmission
24 line would completely ruin this view.
25

26
27 QUESTION: IF THE TRANSMISSION LINE IS BUILT ON YOUR PROPERTY, DO
28 YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT LCRA TSC HAVING ACCESS TO YOUR
29 PROPERTY?
30

31 ANSWER: Yes, we have the general concerns of landowners who are required to give
32 third parties access to their property. Also, this would materially affect the use of our
33 property. I hope that LCRA TSC will respect my property.
34

35
36 QUESTION: IF THE TRANSMISSION LINE IS BUILT ON YOUR PROPERTY, DO
37 YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS?
38

1 ANSWER: We have general safety and health concerns about living around
2 transmission lines and EMF issues. Because potential buyers may be aware of medical
3 studies available on the Internet arguing, correctly or not, a connection between high-
4 powered transmission lines causing health problems and possible cancer, we are
5 concerned about a negative stigma being attached to our property and the possible
6 devaluation of our property value. In addition, the buzzing sounds emanating from high-
7 voltage transmission lines would be bothersome for people living near them.

8
9
10 QUESTION: IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE THE
11 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE AND THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION TO
12 CONSIDER IN THIS PROCEEDING?

13
14 ANSWER: No.

15
16
17 **IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

18
19 QUESTION: HOW WOULD YOU SUMMARIZE YOUR POSITION IN THIS
20 PROCEEDING REGARDING LCRA TSC's Segments I1, J1 and K1 and ROUTES 7, 8,
21 9, 13 and 15?

22
23 ANSWER: We oppose LCRA's Routes 7, 8, 9, 13 and 15 and any route using
24 Segments P, S, A1, B1, H1, I1, J1 and K1. We support LCRA TSC's Recommended
25 Route 10 as the route that best meets the overall community values and PURA
26 § 37.056(c)(4) and P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.101(b)(3)(B).

27
28
29 QUESTION: DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

30
31 ANSWER: Yes.



Shadyton

Adm. Bldg.

Residential Loop

Vegetation

P

P

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EXHIBIT
A