

---

**From:** Julie Preston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 2:24 PM  
**To:** FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office  
**Subject:** APS Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Transmission Line Project

Gentlemen and Women of Coconino National Forest:

My name is Julie Preston Warner and I am a five-year resident of the Village of Oak Creek, just off SR-179 some five miles south of Uptown Sedona. I purchased my single family home in September of 2020, when I relocated back to my native state of Arizona after 32 years as a resident of San Diego, California.

When in San Diego, I experienced not one but TWO fire-related evacuations. The first one, "The Cedar Fire," occurred back in October 2003 when we were living in the part of town known as Tierrasanta, much of it formerly known as Camp Elliott, where my dad trained during his service in the US Navy

.  
At the time of this fire, I was awake at 5:30 in the morning, letting our new puppy out. I noticed small white flakes coming down that at first my brain wanted to believe was snow, or possible down feathers. Then I smelled the smoke and the horrible realization that this was fire-related planted itself in my brain. About 9 am, still in disbelief, several of us neighbors drove about 1.5 miles north just in time to see a 60-foot wall of flames coming across Miramar Navy (at that time) Air Station at more than 45 miles an hour. It didn't take much more to convince us we were in serious trouble. We grabbed what we could in a panic and were out of our house for 3 days and 2 nights, with no idea whether our house would ultimately survive. This fire ended up claiming more than 300 homes in Scripps Ranch, a few miles north of us, as well as nine homes in our own neighborhood. Luckily, our home was spared. Cause: a lost hunter near Julian who fired off a flare juxtaposed with high Santa Ana winds.

The next time we experienced a fire in our immediate area--The Witch Fire--it was 2007 and we were living farther north in Del Sur, just to the west of Rancho Bernardo and East of Fairbanks Ranch/Rancho Santa Fe. This fire also involved high winds and was sparked by construction equipment behind the Del Norte HS, less than a mile from our newly-built home. Though we only had to leave this time for a few hours, many of our neighbors in both Ranchos: Bernardo and Santa Fe, were not so lucky and lost their homes, pets and some, their lives.

I can say with one hundred percent certainty that I never want to go through these experiences again--on behalf of both myself and my neighbors. I can't believe the forest service is even CONSIDERING allowing these dangerous and unsightly power lines to come into this area where populations and houses are concentrated in this exact area and escape routes are very limited. To be specific, there is only one way in and out of The Village, and that is on the 179, just where the new proposed line will run.

In light of NEW INFORMATION, that the Pasadena fire may have been sparked by out-of-commission, wires that were supposed to be dead, I'm even more concerned for the safety of myself, my neighbors, our pets and their livestock and our beautiful natural surroundings where our incredible and irreplaceable wildlife lives.

Please, please stand up to APS and do what is right for public safety and the environment. We do not want another Cedar Fire, Witch Fire, Pasadena or Paradise. It is NOT too far-fetched to think, that given our limited evacuation routes, that The Paradise Fire, that horrible incredibly tragic calamity, could not happen here.

Some secondary reasons that pale in comparison to the many lives that could be lost of course is that The Village of Oak Creek could be considered the gateway to Sedona. I'm thinking that at least 80 percent of visitors come up from the Phoenix area and their first introduction to the Red Rocks is via SR179. Please do not mar this beautiful and breathtaking landscape with overhead utility poles and power lines when they can be buried underground.

In conclusion, thank you for considering our pleas for sanity in this matter. Our Homeowner's Insurance/Fire insurance rates are already skyrocketing due to Climate Change and all the fires we have to pay for across the country. Don't allow APS to take cost-cutting shortcuts in this matter. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Let's not have another devastating tragedy the likes of which we wouldn't likely recover. I really don't want Sedona to become another Paradise or LaHaina. Spending a little more on the front side is the answer and the longevity of buried lines will pay off in the long run and potentially save many lives and homes.

Respectfully,

Julie Preston Warner

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area, with a smaller black rectangular redaction box overlapping its top right corner.