

RESOLUTION
KERR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

WHEREAS, residents of KERR COUNTY have voiced significant concerns regarding the potential negative impacts of the proposed Howard-Solstice Transmission Line Project and its routes; and

WHEREAS, the proposed routes 24, 25, 27, 30, 31, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 70, 73, 74, 76, and 77 traverse through KERR COUNTY and may pose substantial risks to residents, businesses, and the environment, including impacts to river basins, increased land fragmentation, potential decreases in property values, harm to tourism and local businesses, and disruption of scenic vistas; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Howard-Solstice Transmission Line Project continues to move forward on schedule with potential impacts within KERR COUNTY; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 765 kV lines are 130 to 215 feet high, and the right-of-way is 200' wide requiring substantial land to be acquired from our property owners, likely using eminent domain which we strongly oppose; and

WHEREAS, the cost for the proposed Howard-Solstice transmission line is estimated between \$33 to \$80 billion and the end users, e.g. data centers and Permian Basin oil and gas companies, are not directly funding this capital cost, hence every single electric ratepayer in the state of Texas will see a \$100 to \$200 increase in their annual electric bill over the 28% increase we've already seen since winter storm URI in 2021; and

WHEREAS, instead of transporting energy from the east side off the state to the west side of the state, the funds being made available for transmission lines should be utilized to encourage building new reliable (natural gas or nuclear) dispatchable power plants in the Permian Basin and elsewhere in close proximity to end consumers such as other data centers, AI centers and large urban areas thereby strengthening grid resiliency and reducing transmission losses; and

WHEREAS, property values and property tax revenue will be decreased not only for the land that the transmission line passes through, but also for properties within visual sight of the line; and

WHEREAS, in seeking a pragmatic solution, the Hill Country Preservation Coalition has proposed a "Least Harmful Route" as a mitigation-focused path to minimize damage, primarily by following existing highway infrastructure and reducing new land fragmentation; and

WHEREAS, no transmission line is impact-free, but the Least Harmful Route represents a practical approach to reduce risks to water resources, private property, and rural economies; and

WHEREAS, Alternative Route 9, as outlined by the applicants CPS Energy and AEP Texas in the PUC application, generally follows existing highway infrastructure in portions of the region, including segments along U.S. Highway 277 where applicable, to minimize land fragmentation and ecological impact; and

WHEREAS, Alternative Route 9 substantially overlaps with Alternative Route 4, identified by the applicants as the preferred route to meet regulatory requirements, with similar cost and distance; and

WHEREAS, KERR COUNTY is dedicated to protecting its citizens' interests, private property rights, natural resources, and the region's long-term economic health and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, KERR COUNTY seeks to ensure that any transmission line project includes meaningful public input and minimizes negative impacts on local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners' Court of KERR COUNTY stands opposed to the Howard-Solstice Transmission Line Project and its current routing through the county, while seeking to minimize damage should the project proceed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners' Court of the County of KERR COUNTY, Texas, that:

Section 1: The foregoing statements are hereby adopted as the official findings of the Commissioners' Court.

Section 2: KERR COUNTY continues to formally oppose the proposed Howard-Solstice Transmission Line Project and its current routes through KERR COUNTY and urges PUCT to cancel this unnecessary and wasteful transmission project and focus its efforts on establishing new reliable dispatchable power plants in the Permian Basin and elsewhere in close proximity to end consumers.

Section 3: Should the project proceed under the current framework, KERR COUNTY recognizes the Hill Country Preservation Coalition's "Least Harmful Route" as a mitigation-focused alternative to minimize damage and acknowledges that Alternative

Route 9, as proposed by CPS Energy and AEP Texas, is most closely aligned with that approach.

Section 4: KERR COUNTY urges the Public Utility Commission of Texas to fully consider routing options that follow existing infrastructure, minimize land fragmentation, and protect sensitive natural resources.

Section 5: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Section 6: Following adoption of this Resolution, KERR COUNTY shall file a protest comment form with the PUCT.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Commissioners' Court of KERR COUNTY, Texas, this 1st day of April, 2026.

Abstained
Rob Kelly
County Judge

[Signature]
Tom Jones, Commissioner
Precinct 1

[Signature]
Rich Paces, Commissioner
Precinct 2

[Signature]
Jeff Holt, Commissioner
Precinct 3

[Signature]
Don Harris, Commissioner
Precinct 4

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Nadene Alford, Kerr County Clerk