

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	15-AFC-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Mission Rock Energy Center
<b>TN #:</b>	220320
<b>Document Title:</b>	J.M. Sharp Company Comments
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Richard Tate
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	7/24/2017 2:54:07 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	7/24/2017

*Comment Received From: Richard Tate*

*Submitted On: 7/24/2017*

*Docket Number: 15-AFC-02*

**J.M. Sharp Company Comments**

See Attachment.

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

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# J. M. SHARP COMPANY

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Santa Paula Ranch  
Rancho Encambio  
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Guiberson Ranch

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California Energy Commission – Docket Unit  
Docket No. 15-AFC-02  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814

July 19, 2017

Gentlemen:

I represent the J. M. Sharp Company, Inc., a neighbor entity potentially impacted by the proposed Mission Rock Energy Center project. Our concerns center around the impacts to the viewscape of our property that borders Ellsworth Barranca. Our understanding is that the project as currently proposed includes electrical transmission lines running along the eastern edge of that barranca. The tall poles and attached wires will seriously blight the view to the east from our historically significant prime residence and four ancillary homes which directly overlook that barranca. I would like to provide some background, mention our future plans for the property and submit a conclusion for consideration by the Commission and staff.

## Background

The J. M. Sharp Company is a California corporation formed in 1923 and which has been in continuous operation since that time (94 years). Today its 49 shareholders are all direct descendents of our founder or spouses of direct descendents. Its primary businesses are farming tree crops in the Santa Clara valley and operating residential and commercial rental properties in the city of Santa Paula. Prior to the founding of the company the impacted property was owned directly by James M. Sharp and his wife Susannah and the corporation he formed was his method of passing his holdings to his heirs. James was a true pioneer in the Ventura County area and was active in the local business community.

The prime residence on the property was completed in the year 1890 and therefore qualifies as one of the truly historic structures in the County. The Company maintains the house in essentially the condition it was when built and the shareholders cherish the house and the property surrounding it. It contains a trove of antique furnishings and artworks of inestimable historical value to the community and great sentimental value to the Sharp family. The house has been continuously occupied by members of the family during its entire existence.

## The Future

The Company plans to retain the house in its present use and condition into the future with the expectation that some member or members of the extended Sharp family will continue to live there. As for the whole

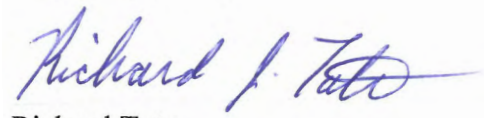
property, we expect to continue farming as long as farming is profitable in the area as the land is acknowledged to be some of the best farmland in the world.

As a family we are proud of the house and the property and look for ways to share it with the public while still keeping it as a private residence and profitable farm. We believe that one way of doing that could be as an event venue for holding weddings, retreats etc., all within the umbrella of an operating farm. We may also find other ways to share the house and its treasures with the community through prearranged tours or the like.

### Conclusion

The shareholders of the Company believe that the present concept of placing the transmission towers and lines serving the Mission Rock Energy Center project site directly in the viewscape of our historic home and worker homes will significantly damage the historic nature of our property and are wholly inappropriate in their proposed location. We do not support the Project as a whole and submit that we as a company and as a family will particularly suffer if it goes forth as now planned. We respectfully request that you reject the entire project or at least require the transmission lines be placed elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard J. Tate". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Richard Tate  
President and Great Grandson of J. M. Sharp