Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] UDC Amendments-Underground Transmission Line Relief C8-22-04, Special

Exceptions, Sarah Wolf

Date: Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 9:51:04 AM Mountain Standard Time

From: PlanningCommission

**To:** Daniel Bursuck, Koren Manning

From: Sarah Wolf <sarahwolf9@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 2, 2022 9:50:46 AM (UTC-07:00) Arizona **To:** PlanningCommission < PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]UDC Amendments-Underground Transmission Line Relief C8-22-04, Special Exceptions, Sarah Wolf

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Jefferson Park neighborhood resident, I am writing in solidarity with the below following oppositions and additions regarding the proposed transmission lines.

Respectfully, Sarah Wolf

(TEP's language is in red, Steering Committee responses are in blue.)

- 12-d. An exception where existing high-voltage transmission lines, vertical structures, or buildings in area that already compromise the viewshed. **No**.
- 12-h. An exception where -Proposed transmission lines provide electrical service to critical customers where overhead lines are strongly recommended for specialized operations; examples include but are not limited to: provision of electricity to Davis Monthan AFB or other installations necessary to the national defense, hospitals, research facilities, etc. No. We object categorically that hospitals and research facilities would be considered in the same manner as military facilities. We also oppose overhead lines at hospitals and research facilities and remain neutral about Davis Monthan and military facilities.
- 12-i. An exception where Proposed overhead transmission lines, rather than undergrounded transmission lines on a particular route, would avoid undesirable aesthetic, viewshed, or other adverse impacts that would result from facilities being located on an alternative route. No. (This criterion, if implemented as written, would convert gateway and scenic routes from being special routes the Code intends them to be, to being subsidiary to other routes instead).
- 12-k. A Special Exception request to relieve the requirement to underground transmission lines that meets the findings established by UDC section 3.4.5, Findings and which also meets criteria a, e, and g of this subsection is deemed to presumptively meet the required findings for approval. No. (There should always be full public review without prejudice of any proposed exception).

# Here are the exceptions we should ADD:

The amended preface and four new criteria are as follows:

12. Transmission lines may be relieved of their requirement to be underground per UDC

section 5.3, Scenic Corridor Zone (SCZ) or section 5.5, Gateway Corridor Zone (GCZ) in accordance with UDC section 3.4.3 Zoning Examiner Special Exception Procedure. In addition to the required findings of UDC section 3.4.5, the criteria for Special Exception consideration includes the following, with the understanding that an exception will be permitted only as long as none of the other following criteria are violated where the criteria are relevant:

<u>ADD</u> 12-I. The effects that can be expected from permitting any of the exceptions listed herein or any combination of those exceptions when added together must remain consistent with the overall purpose and integrity of the gateway/scenic route,unless it is technologically impossible and/or clearly financially cost prohibitive.

<u>ADD</u>12-m. Notwithstanding any of the above criteria, above ground transmission lines are not allowed in or alongside historic areas (as defined by or listed in the National Register of Historic Places, properties or districts, City of Tucson Historic Preservation Zones, City of Tucson Historic Landmarks, or Neighborhood Preservation Zones).

<u>ADD</u>12-n. Utility cannot obtain relief from Gateway/Scenic ordinances by routing through adjacent residential neighborhoods.

<u>ADD</u> 12-o. Any new above-ground utility that is permitted must be designed, constructed, and also maintained to be as unobtrusive as possible.

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Planning Commission April 6, 2022, C8-22-04 Underground Transmission Line Relief

Special Exception UDC Text Amendment

Date: Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 12:19:23 PM Mountain Standard Time

From: PlanningCommission

**To:** Daniel Bursuck, Koren Manning

From: Beth Grindell <grindell@cox.net>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 2, 2022 12:19:18 PM (UTC-07:00) Arizona **To:** PlanningCommission <PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Planning Commission April 6, 2022, C8-22-04 Underground Transmission Line Relief Special Exception UDC Text

Amendment

To: City of Tucson Planning Commission

From: Beth Grindell

Re: April 6. 2022 Public Hearing: Underground Transmission Line Relief Special

Exception

The proposed changes to the Unified Development Code regulations requiring underground placement of power lines in Scenic Routes and Corridors set very dangerous precedents for Tucson's future. The UDC represents the will of the voters and should not be overturned (in private meetings) by the Mayor and Council or by the Planning Commission. Please do not support the TEP request. Require that they follow the UDC.

If TEP is allowed a "special exception," understand that it will set new precedent and the Scenic Routes and Corridors protections will disappear. If the City of Tucson does not enforce the ordinances, Tucson will be the poorer, and uglier, for it.

Beth Grindell grindell@cox.net

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Undergrounding of TEP lines

Date: Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 1:13:05 PM Mountain Standard Time

From: PlanningCommission

To: Daniel Bursuck, Koren Manning

From: Jean-Paul Bierny < jpbierny@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 1:12:43 PM (UTC-07:00) Arizona

Cc: Chris Tanz; Ruth Beeker; denise@baldwinfiduciaryservices.com; Eva Seid

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Undergrounding of TEP lines

To Members of the Planning Commission,

I have lived in Tucson, and loved it, since 1971.

I am EXTREMELY CONCERNED about your agenda for the April 6, 2022 meeting.

it will be discuss revisions to the existing Scenic and Gateway Corridors Ordinances. II will give TEP loopholes NOT to follow the EXISTING ORDINANCES to UNDERGROUND their new lines in those zones. The outcome will be promptly communicated to the Mayor and City Council (MCC).

This decision agenda was organized BEHIND CLOSED DOORS with the cooperation of the MCC. This is TOTALLY OBJECTIONABLE and UNDEMOCRATIC, particularly surprising in an MCC with Democrat majority, of all things !!! And yet, this issue is not at all political, Democratic or Republican. WHAT IS GOING ON tHAT DESERVES TO BE HIDDEN FROM THE PUBLIC ???

This is about howTucson LOOKS and FEELS, among other things.! The UGLIFICATION of Tucson's beautiful street scenery will affect (DOWNWARDS) OUR HOME VALUES through VISUAL POLLUTION of OUR EXCEPTIONALLY BEAUTIFUL SCENERY-ubiquitous mountains and spectacular desert vegetation-. Remember when a plethora of commercial panels turned Speedway into the notoriously "ugliest street in the US"?... That did not do Tucson much good...

It is an outright shame, as it will litter our streets with enormous poles carrying TEP's electrical lines, destroy the beautiful views of mountains that help define Tucson's beauty in all directions. I expect that it will shortly get worse as TEP will upgrade the energy it carries from 3 Gs all the way to 5 Gs.

In addition, It is known that electric power lines occasionally break, and cause FIRES. This is worse in the Summer, and will get worse at higher energy levels.

It is also suspected that proximity to power lines might result in MEDICAL ISSUES, including some brain tumors. This will presumably also get worse at higher energy levels.

Another medical issue: electrical OUTAGES affect people who depend on a steady electricity supply, such as people who have Sleep Apnea, or who need cardiac pacemakers.

OUR SCENIC and GATEWAY ORDINANCES are on the CITY of TUCSON BOOKS for a good reasons. The should

be OBEYED and ENFORCED. NOT SABOTAGED by LOOPHOLES for special interests such as TEP ("SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS")!

In spite of their considerable income, TEP has always tried to avoid these ordinances...

For once, Tucson should follow the example of Phoenix. Residents of the neighborhoods where power lines have been installed UNDERGROUND are VERY PLEASED with the results.

i would like to please be included in the list of people who wish to speak at your meeting. Thank you.

Jean-Paul Bierny, MD.

**Subject:** FW: Joan Daniels comments to the TEP Public Hearing April 6 **Date:** Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 2:57:37 PM Mountain Standard Time

From: PlanningCommission

**To:** Daniel Bursuck, Koren Manning

From: J E DANIELS < JDCHAMA@msn.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, April 3, 2022 2:57:29 PM (UTC-07:00) Arizona **To:** PlanningCommission <PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov>

Cc: Jpna Board and Committee Heads <jpna-board-and-committee-heads@googlegroups.com>;

jeffersonparktucson@googlegroups.com <jeffersonparktucson@googlegroups.com> **Subject:** [EXTERNAL]RE: Joan Daniels comments to the TEP Public Hearing April 6

## PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov

RE: Public Hearing April 6, 2002: UDC Amendments-Underground Transmission Line Relief C8-22-04 Special Exceptions

Joan Daniels, Jefferson Park Neighborhood

Planning Commission, you have been tasked with protecting the efforts of 100's of hours of citizen and city official work. Plans and meetings and public input sessions have created Scenic and Gateway route plans, Plan Tucson, the UA plan, and a variety of neighborhood plans, all in an effort to make Tucson a better place to live.

TEP's requested exceptions 12. d,i,h,and k are highly unacceptable and are so vaguely written that they finesse overhead lines anywhere the company chooses.

The exception 12.c to suggest a setback to justify placing 100', 138kV poles in any residential area is disingenuous. It is particularly frustrating that it could be considered in an Historic District with a Neighborhood Preservation Zone. To allow such a thing makes a mockery of the hours and hours of citizen advocacy, area plans, fundraising, grant writing, and partner efforts with the City of Tucson.

I strongly support the Underground Steering Committees analysis and suggestions.

I urge you to make recommendations that respect all the efforts and agreements that have gone before to make Tucson a better place. Citizens must know that plans made in good faith will be honored. To bend to the pressure of large companies does not bode well for Tucson's future.

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]C8-22-04 Public hearing

Date: Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 4:48:07 PM Mountain Standard Time

From: PlanningCommission

To: Daniel Bursuck, Koren Manning

From: Joanne Osuna <cricket16@cox.net>

**Sent:** Sunday, April 3, 2022 4:47:58 PM (UTC-07:00) Arizona **To:** PlanningCommission <PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]C8-22-04 Public hearing

## PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov.

RE: Public Hearing April 6, 2002: UDC Amendments-Underground Transmission Line Relief C8-22-04 Special Exceptions Joan Daniels, Jefferson Park Neighborhood

Planning Commission, you have been tasked with protecting the efforts of 100's of hours of citizen and city official work. Plans and meetings and public input sessions have created Scenic and Gateway route plans, Plan Tucson, the UA plan, and a variety of neighborhood plans, all in an effort to make Tucson a better place to live.

TEP's requested exceptions 12. d,i,h,and k are highly unacceptable and are so vaguely written that they finesse overhead lines anywhere the company chooses.

The exception 12.c to suggest a setback to justify placing 100', 138kV poles in any residential area is disingenuous. It is particularly frustrating that it could be considered in an Historic District with a Neighborhood Preservation Zone. To allow such a thing makes a mockery of the hours and hours of citizen advocacy, area plans, fundraising, grant writing, and partner efforts with the City of Tucson.

I strongly support the Underground Steering Committees analysis and suggestions.

I urge you to make recommendations that respect all the efforts and agreements that have gone before to make Tucson a better place. Citizens must know that plans made in good faith will be honored. To bend to the pressure of large companies does not bode well for Tucson's future.

Joanne Osuna 1033 E. Waverly Street Tucson, AZ 85719 Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]April 6, 2022 C8-22-04 UDC amendments underground transmission line relief

special exception

Date: Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 6:12:57 PM Mountain Standard Time

From: PlanningCommission

**To:** Daniel Bursuck, Koren Manning

From: Greg Clark <glark999@earthlink.net>

**Sent:** Sunday, April 3, 2022 6:12:41 PM (UTC-07:00) Arizona **To:** PlanningCommission <PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]April 6, 2022 C8-22-04 UDC amendments underground transmission line relief special exception

## Dear Planning Commission:

Please grant the special exceptions that are being considered relating to TEP's DeMoss-Petrie kilovolt transmission lines.

The UDC, as recently interpreted in the August 2021 Zoning Administrator's Determination creates the disastrous unintended consequence of forcing overhead utility lines into small neighborhoods and along residential surface streets. This means that these transmission lines can be sent up Norris, or Olsen, Stewart, Warren, or Cherry Ave, (or along the zigzagging Route 5A, through the Arroyo Chico, up Tyndall, Euclid and Vine), all just to avoid the senseless prohibition of overhead lines on "gateway" routes.

So-called "gateway" routes are already slices of urban blight. This is where we channel our necessary traffic, its carbon emissions, heightened ozone levels, noise and light pollution, the unsightly vehicle congestion, blacktop and concrete, commercial signage, traffic control devices, etc. -- plus, a large burden of existing overhead utility lines. I don't believe there can be found a person who travels on, or lives alongside Kino or Campbell, Grant Rd. or Speedway Blvd. who sites their enjoyment of gazing out upon the roadway as a benefit of moving along or living on the thoroughfare.

These roadways are necessarily disagreeable places.

But big arterial thoroughfares are the proper place for utility transmission lines.

We should concentrate our urban unsightliness along these arteries, not spread it around until every neighborhood street is similarly blighted.

The best course of action would be to eliminate entirely the portions of the UDC that disallow overhead utility lines along "gateway" routes.

Since this is not up for consideration, please grant the exceptions so that transmission lines may proceed along the preferred Route 1A.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Greg Clark** 

133 S. Cherry Ave.

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]C8-22-04 April 6, 2022 Public Hearing - Comments - Underground Transmission

Line Relief Special Exception UDC Text Amendment

Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 at 6:42:54 AM Mountain Standard Time

From: PlanningCommission

To: Daniel Bursuck, Koren Manning

From: BG Kunkel <barb33624@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 6:42:47 AM (UTC-07:00) Arizona **To:** PlanningCommission <PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]C8-22-04 April 6, 2022 Public Hearing - Comments - Underground Transmission Line Relief Special Exception UDC

**Text Amendment** 

April \_\_4\_, 2022

City of Tucson Planning Commission

Emailed to: PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov

Agenda/Meeting Links: https://www.tucsonaz.gov/pdsd/planning-commission

Re: Request to <u>Not</u> Recommend Proposed Changes C8-22-04 Underground Transmission Line Relief Special Exception UDC Text Amendment Public Hearing (Citywide) April 6, 2022

Dear Chairperson Wellott and Commissioners:

Please <u>do not</u> recommend the proposed changes in the above referenced matter. Our Scenic and Gateway Corridors must be protected, not undermined.

The City of Tucson collaborated with TEP in closed door sessions to create proposed text amendments. TEP coauthored proposed loopholes to the Scenic and Gateway Ordinances. The City is further enabling TEP's outdated policy to not underground.

If allowed, these proposed text amendments would result in the City never requiring undergrounding in our Scenic and Gateway Corridors. Allowing TEP's excuses to become the law of the City creates loopholes that make our Scenic and Gateway Ordinances impossible to enforce.

Mayor and Council decided Scenic and Gateway Corridors were valuable to Tucson by adopting Ordinances to protect them. Our Scenic Corridors were created to enjoy and protect the scenic resources and natural vegetation. (UDC 5.3) Our Gateway Corridors were created to establish and protect a favorable visual impression to tourists and create attractive streets. (UDC 5.5) These proposed amendments are an abandonment by the City of its vow to protect Scenic and Gateway corridors. We need enforcement of our Scenic and Gateway Ordinances, not abandonment.

Other Arizona utilities and utilities throughout the country are undergrounding to respond to safety, efficiency, and environmental risks. TEP is out of step.

TEP's archaic policy is to not underground. Tucson is left to suffer with TEP's obsolete policy. Above ground lines are aesthetically ugly and increasingly domineering. They create safety and health issues such as fires, dangerous downed lines, accidents, disrupt medical equipment, and impact health from exposure to lines. They create a negative economic impact on property values (recognized by utility companies themselves) and from outages. Poles and lines interrupt enjoyment of nature, disrupt animal passage, damage nature from snapped wires and can harm animals and wildlife. The increased presence of TEP's poles and wires create a less welcoming Tucson.

Respectfully, I request the Planning Commission not recommend the proposed text amendments to the above referenced matter, C8-22-04. Protect and enforce our Scenic and Gateway Corridor Ordinances as written. Sincerely,

Barb Kunkel

I stand with Tucson Mountains Association, est. 1934.

Protect, Preserve and Support Open Space and Biological Diversity of the Tucson Mountains

Namaste Barb Kunkel



# JEFFERSON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 41243 Tucson, AZ 85717

## www.jeffersonpark.info

JPNA Officers

President-Open Vice President Rosemary Bolza rbolza@me.com

**Executive Vice President** 

Colleen Nichols <a href="mailto:cnichols17@cox.net">cnichols17@cox.net</a>

**Treasurer** Joanne Osuna

<u>cricket16@cox.net</u> <u>Secretary</u>

Laurel-Heather Milden trdswmn@cox.net

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Joan Hall
Lisa Jones
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Jeanne Calhoun (Area 3)
Erin Posthumus (Area 4)
Judy Janson (Area 5)
Open (Area 6)

April 2, 2022

City of Tucson, Department of Planning and Development Services 201 N. Stone Avenue, 3rd Floor

Tucson, AZ 85701

Case #: C8-22-04 - UDC Amendments-Underground Transmission Line Special Exceptions

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

We, the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association Board, are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the proposed exceptions to the amendments to allow overground lines on routes that currently require undergrounding. TEP submitted the exceptions to amend the City of Tucson's Gateway and Scenic Routes code to allow the construction of gigantic overhead transmission lines in places along the routes, which are currently prohibited. In order to protect its interests, TEP has proposed criteria to permit exceptions to the current code, many of which are so vague and general that it reverses the direct intention of the ordinances.

As they stand now, the exceptions proposed by TEP are much too intrusive and do little to protect the scenic and gateway routes. Further, the current proposal does nothing at all to prevent the erection of these massive lines and poles through residential neighborhoods and historic areas. For example, every planned exit from the projected substation runs poles and lines right through Jefferson Park, which will damage the historic integrity, the property values, and the viewshed.

Jefferson Park is a historic district and one of only two Neighborhood Preservation Zones (NPZ) in Tucson. Its residences, school, health care facilities, churches, and contributing historic structures must be preserved. 138kV poles run counter to all the efforts to preserve this unique part of Tucson.

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association is in alignment with the conclusions of the Undergrounding Coalition's Steering Committee, in that we outright oppose four of TEP's proposed criteria, 12-d, h, i, and k (See Page 2).

Furthermore, the addition of four new criteria 12-l, m, n, and o, suggested by the Steering Committee, are critical to include. Along with amending TEP's proposed preface, the

combination of these will place checks on the effects of all TEP's other criteria (See Page 2).

Beyond the Coalition responses referenced above, criteria 12-c is also problematic for our neighborhood: "Minimal impact on residential areas with adequate setback". There is no "minimal" setback for 100-foot poles.

Although the Mayor and City Council directed the Planning Commission to explore the possibility of providing TEP some relief from the ordinances, we urge you to look carefully at the proposed exceptions and truly consider how, as they are currently written, provide TEP with almost limitless opportunity to erect overhead lines and poles throughout the city. This may be beneficial for TEP, but it certainly works to the detriment of our community. We urge the Planning Commission to take a strong stand to protect the ordinances in place, thereby protecting the Tucson we want now and in the future. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association

#### Criteria we OPPOSE

(TEP's criteria in red, Steering Committee responses are in blue)

Utility shall gain relief from the Gateway/ Scenic ordinances if the following are allowed without mitigation...

- 12-d. Existing high-voltage transmission lines, vertical structures, or buildings in area that already compromise the viewshed. No (See the awful visual impact of the current doubling up of poles on Grant from Alvernon to Swan).
- 12-h. Proposed transmission lines provide electrical service to critical customers where overhead lines are strongly recommended for specialized operations; examples include but are not limited to: provision of electricity to Davis Monthan AFB or other installations necessary to the national defense, hospitals, research facilities, etc. No. We also object categorically that hospitals and research facilities would be considered in the same manner as military facilities. We oppose overhead lines at hospitals and research facilities and remain neutral about Davis Monthan and military facilities.
- 12-i. Proposed overhead transmission lines, rather than undergrounded transmission lines on a particular route, would avoid undesirable aesthetic, viewshed, or other adverse impacts that would result from facilities being located on an alternative route. No (This criterion, if implemented as written, would convert gateway and scenic routes from being special routes the Code intends them to be, to being subsidiary to other routes instead).
- 12-k. A Special Exception request to relieve the requirement to underground transmission lines that meets the findings established by UDC section 3.4.5, Findings and which also meets criteria a, e, and g of this subsection is deemed to presumptively meet the required findings for approval. No (There should always be full public review *without prejudice* of any proposed exception).

## New Criteria and Revision Proposed by the Steering Committee to SUPPORT

The amended preface and four new criteria are as follows:

- 12. Transmission lines may be relieved of their requirement to be underground per UDC section 5.3, Scenic Corridor Zone (SCZ) or section 5.5, Gateway Corridor Zone (GCZ) in accordance with UDC section 3.4.3 Zoning Examiner Special Exception Procedure. In addition to the required findings of UDC section 3.4.5, the criteria for Special Exception consideration includes the following, with the understanding that an exception will be permitted only as long as none of the other following criteria are violated where the criteria are relevant:
- 12-1. The effects that can be expected from permitting any of the exceptions listed herein or any combination of those exceptions when added together must remain consistent with the overall purpose and integrity of the gateway/scenic route, unless it is technologically impossible and/or clearly financially cost prohibitive.
- 12-m. Notwithstanding any of the above criteria, above ground transmission lines are not allowed in or alongside historic areas (as defined by or listed in the National Register of Historic Places, properties or districts, City of Tucson Historic Preservation Zones, City of Tucson Historic Landmarks, or Neighborhood Preservation Zones).
- 12-n. Utility cannot obtain relief from Gateway/Scenic ordinances by routing through adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- 12-o. Any new above-ground utility that is permitted must be designed, constructed, and also maintained to be as unobtrusive as possible.

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Comment on case number (C8-22-04)

Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:15:10 AM Mountain Standard Time

From: PlanningCommission

To: Daniel Bursuck, Koren Manning

From: DOROTHY RICHMOND <santaritasprings@gmail.com> Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 7:15:02 AM (UTC-07:00) Arizona

To: PlanningCommission

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment on case number (C8-22-04)

Dear Planning Commissioner:

#### Regarding the meeting April 6,2022

at 6pm about case number C8-22-04, I submit that TEP can easily afford to put power transmission lines underground, providing electricity to Tucson without destroying the beauty of our historic neighborhoods and the Gateway views of the Catalina mountains that have made our own citizens proud and visitors eager to enjoy for decades!

Our economy depends upon visitors, so let's keep on welcoming them to our lovely place in the sun, not permit TEP executives to wreck our historic charm with an invasive industrial appearance power lines plan!

#### Thanks,

**Dorothy Richmond** 

'Every time we witness an injustice and do not act, we train our character to be passive in its presence and thereby eventually lose all ability to defend ourselves and those we love."

Julian Assange