



October 25, 2014

To: Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
CC: Regina Romero, Richard Elias, TEP

Dear Mayor Rothschild,

Dunbar/Spring residents have long had concerns about appropriate screening of the downtown TEP substation between 4th and 5th St and between Queen and 11th Ave. While we realize it has been part of our neighborhood for a long time, TEP has been negligent in retrofitting the site to be compatible with the residential environment in which it is located.

Tucson City code requires buffering with 10ft masonry walls that offer noise, light, and aesthetic pollution reduction, as well as a perimeter of vegetation. The downtown substation has neither. It only has a chain link fence and only portions of that fence have thin metal slats, and these do little to block sound or even visual pollution.

This site is extremely industrial and loud and is bounded on two sides by residences and a third by a business. A neighbor used a sound meter to test noise levels and they actually exceeded the City's noise ordinance. This noise is constant.

Other TEP substations throughout Pima County have 10-foot masonry walls (constructed of materials that aid in noise reduction), are built with materials that seek to blend the substation into the landscape, and are surrounded by vegetation. Two examples are the existing TEP Del Cerro Substation and the Sun City Substation.

We have pursued several routes trying to get basic requirements met to no avail. TEP has thus far refused to work with our neighborhood to remediate issues.

Providing Dunbar/Spring residents the same courtesy of appropriate buffering will ensure that our downtown neighborhood continues to flourish and is a pleasant place for residents and businesses.

Dunbar/Spring neighborhood residents look forward to any help you can bring to this situation. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sky Jacobs", followed by a long horizontal line.

Sky Jacobs
President - Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association

Submitted on behalf of the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association, October 2014.