



THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIN

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
3501 CIVIC CENTER DR, SUITE 329
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94903-4193
TELEPHONE (415) 499-7331
FAX (415) 499-3645
TTY (415) 499-6172
www.co.marin.ca.us/bos

October 26, 2010

Michael R. Peevey, President
California Public Utilities commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, Ca.94012

Subject: P,G,&E Smart Meter Deployment in Marin County of Marin

Dear Mr. Peevey

We are writing to reaffirm our ongoing interest in PG&E’s installation of a smart meter grid infrastructure in Marin County. On July 20, 2010 we wrote your Commission expressing numerous concerns related to meter performance, billing accuracy, customer health, safety, and privacy protection. At that time we asked you to suspend SmartMeter installations in Marin County until the above concerns were adequately addressed. No action was taken on our request.

On September 2, 2010, The Structure Group presented its report, “*PG&E Advanced Metering Assessment*” to the public. While meter accuracy was affirmed, the report states that PG&E did not adequately address customer skepticism regarding the new technology. The report identified sub-optimal customer service as partially responsible for public concerns. Customers did not consider their complaints resolved. Customers also indicated that communications/notifications regarding physical meter installation were lacking. We receive similar complaints from our constituents regarding SmartMeter installation in Marin County.

On July 30, 2010 Assemblymember Jared Huffman wrote the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) requesting a study to determine whether FCC standards for SmartMeters are sufficiently protective of public health, consider cumulative effects of multiple radio frequency and electromagnetic fields, and assess whether additional technology-specific standards are needed to ensure adequate protection from adverse health effects. The Council has agreed to Mr. Huffman’s request and their work is expected to be publicly released before the end of this year.

Subsequent to the Assemblymember’s letter, numerous northern California communities have considered community concerns about SmartMeters regarding public health and safety and user privacy. On August 14, 2010 the Town of Fairfax, Ca. adopted a one year moratorium on installation of SmartMeters. On September 14, Santa Cruz County adopted a moratorium on installation of SmartMeters or related equipment through the end of the year. On September 20, 2010 Mill Valley

VICE-PRESIDENT

SUSAN L. ADAMS
SAN RAFAEL
1ST DISTRICT

HAROLD C. BROWN
SAN ANSELMO
2ND DISTRICT

CHARLES MCGLASHAN
MILL VALLEY
3RD DISTRICT

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

STEVE KINSEY
SAN GERONIMO
4TH DISTRICT

PRESIDENT

JUDY ARNOLD
NOVATO
5TH DISTRICT

CLERK

MATTHEW H. HYMEL

wrote to your Commission requesting your consideration of appropriate metering options for customers with electromagnetic hypersensitivity disorder (EHS) and explaining whether and how customers who wish to may take precautionary steps to minimize RF exposure by moving the location of their meters.

At this time, the Marin County Board of Supervisors again requests that you suspend PG&E's authority to deploy SmartMeters or related equipment in Marin County until the following have occurred:

1. CPUC has received and considered the CCST report, and
2. CPUC has determined that PG&E's assertion of compliance with FCC standards is appropriate and legal where installations have the following characteristics:
 - a. multiple meters co-located in close proximity to individual bedrooms, such as in condominiums, apartments, and retirement complexes or
 - b. meter locations where reflective surfaces could cause uniquely "hot spots", or
 - c. cumulative effects from other nearby sources of RF are included in compliance calculations.

In addition, our Board requests that your Commission consider adopting policies that would allow those with personal health concerns to have alternative metering options without wireless frequency components available to them. We also ask that there be additional public consideration of the adequacy of user privacy protections.

The County of Marin supports creation of a Smart Grid infrastructure as an integral element in California's important energy efficiency efforts. We also recognize that planning has been underway for almost a decade. However, given that our national SmartGrid is still in the early stages of deployment, it is important for California to proceed with the highest level of consideration and precaution to insure that the technology selected to serve us for decades to come is both safe and secure.

We appreciate your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Judy Arnold
President

Cc: Commissioner John A. Bohn
Commissioner Dian M. Grueneich
Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon
Commissioner Nancy E. Ryan
Senator Mark Leno
Assemblymember Jared Huffman
Susan Hackwood, Exec. Dir., California Council on Science and Technology

VICE-PRESIDENT

SUSAN L. ADAMS
SAN RAFAEL
1ST DISTRICT

HAROLD C. BROWN
SAN ANSELMO
2ND DISTRICT

CHARLES MCGLASHAN
MILL VALLEY
3RD DISTRICT

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

STEVE KINSEY
SAN GERONIMO
4TH DISTRICT

PRESIDENT

JUDY ARNOLD
NOVATO
5TH DISTRICT

CLERK

MATTHEW H. HYMEL
