November 10, 2010

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

William Devereaux
Senior Director, Smart Meters
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
77 Beale Street, Office 837
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: PG&E and SmartMeter Program

Dear Mr. Peevey and Mr. Devereaux:

PG&E recently began installations of its Smart Meter in the City of San Rafael. On November 1, 2010, the San Rafael City Council held a study session on the topic of PG&E’s Smart Meter.

While the City supports the use of smart grid technology, especially if it assists with our climate change or sustainability goals, several of our residents raised concerns about the operations and health issues of these meters. Because of this, the City Council directed that I write on their behalf to the CPUC and PG&E to request that PG&E suspend installations in San Rafael.

Assemblymember Huffman requested a study on health effects to be completed by the California Council of Science and Technology (CCST). The City supports and looks forward to the completion of this study. We request that future Smart Meter installations be deferred until the completion of the CCST report and after community meetings are held regarding its findings. Our residents should be shown that these meters have no negative impacts to our community’s health and safety prior to any future installations.
Further, the City Council would like PG&E to create a permanent "opt out" program, whereby residents and businesses could determine for themselves whether or not to allow a Smart Meter to be installed on their property.

We thank PG&E for their willingness to hold a meeting on the evening of November 29th in our City to allow further opportunity for our residents to hear information about these meters and voice any concerns, however, it seems appropriate to suspend installations until all issues have been addressed.

Respectfully,

Jim Schutz
Interim City Manager

cc: Mayor and City Council
    Assemblmembner Jared Huffman
    Senator Mark Leno
    Josh Townsend, PG&E Public Affairs Manager