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February 17, 2010

President Michael R. Peevey
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Peevey,

The Camp Meeker Recreation and Park District serves approximately 375 homes in the village of Camp Meeker in West Sonoma County.

At the District Board's regular meeting on Tuesday February 16, 2010, citizens of Camp Meeker expressed concerns regarding the impending implementation by Pacific, Gas, and Electric Company's (PG&E) so-called Smart Meters as part of the broader Smart Grid technology. By unanimous consent of the Board, I have been directed to request that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) take the following action.

On behalf of our constituents we ask that the CPUC immediately implement a moratorium on PG&E's installation of Smart Meters on homes in our community until our citizen's concerns have been addressed to their satisfaction.

At the Tuesday February 16, 2010 meeting, community members expressed five major areas of concern: health and environmental risks, risks to privacy, security risks, fire danger, and economic impact.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Health educators living in Camp Meeker expressed concerns about the health effects of the radio frequency radiation (RFR) used by the wireless technology incorporated in the Smart Meters. They report being contacted by many people elsewhere who, once a Smart Meter is installed, suffer symptoms of electrohypersensitivity. In addition, they are concerned with the unknown health effects on the large number of people with medical implants that might be disrupted by Smart Meter RFR. Finally, growing evidence suggests that RFR such as that from Smart Meters might cause harm to the migratory birds that populate Camp Meeker.

PRIVACY

Camp Meeker citizens have expressed concern that installation of Smart Meters will allow invasive control of electricity use in their homes by PG&E. In particular, the full implementation of the Smart Grid will provide PG&E with an undesirable level of access to the operation of home appliances. Community members are also concerned with the vastly greater ease with which PG&E will be able to cut off power to customers. Finally, many citizens object strongly to the unilateral and secretive manner in which Smart Meters are being imposed without forewarning and without offering any alternative.

SECURITY RISKS

Information technology professionals living in Camp Meeker have expressed great concern over the vulnerability of the wireless Smart Meters from both intentional and unintentional sabotage. RFR signals from wireless devices such as cell phones might inadvertently affect the operation of a nearby Smart Meter, thereby causing malfunctions in the meter itself (for example, causing inaccurate recording of electricity use and subsequent errors in billing) and in any household appliances communicating with the meter. This same kind of disruption can occur deliberately as well as inadvertently. In addition, the network of which the Smart Meters are a part can be attacked through intentional targeting of the network, with the potential for significantly disrupting the electric power grid itself in Camp Meeker and elsewhere.

FIRE DANGER

Camp Meeker is a heavily wooded area that, during summer and fall, has a high potential for wildfire—a matter of great concern to our community. Based on numerous cases in which Smart Meters have been reported to malfunction, explode, and cause fires, community members expressed great concern about the potential for Smart Meters to add to our fire risk.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Many community members are concerned that, at a time when jobs creation is a focus of national attention and job security a matter of great personal concern, PG&E has adopted an approach to energy conservation that eliminates hundreds of jobs by replacing people with Smart Meters purchased from foreign manufacturers. These citizens are also concerned that the new Smart Meters will not accurately record their electricity usage based on reports of malfunctions elsewhere in California. Information technology professionals informed us that there are no auditing procedures as there are in other sectors to ensure the proper operation of these meters.

DO NOT INSTALL SMART METERS IN CAMP MEEKER

Until these concerns are adequately addressed to the satisfaction of Camp Meeker residents, we ask that the CPUC implement a moratorium on PG&E's installation of wireless Smart Meters on the homes of Camp Meeker residents.

Yours truly,

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cc: Commissioner Dian Grueneich
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Commissioner Nancy Ryan
Commissioner Timothy Simon
Peter A. Darbee, President PG&E Corporation
California State Senator Dean Florez
California State Senator Pat Wiggins
California Assembly Member Wes Chesbro
Supervisor Paul Kelley, Sonoma County
Supervisor Shirley Zane, Sonoma County
Supervisor Valerie Brown, Sonoma County
Supervisor Mike Kerns, Sonoma County
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US Representative Lynn Woolsey
US Senator Barbara Boxer
US Senator Dianne Feinstein