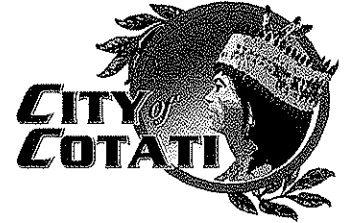


# City of Cotati

Sonoma County, California



March 30, 2010

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

## **SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF PG&E SMART METERS IN THE CITY OF COTATI**

Dear Mr. Peevey,

At the request of our community, on March 25, 2010 the Cotati City Council (Council) heard a discussion on the SMART meters currently being deployed by PG&E and other Investor Owned Utilities throughout California.

In the preparation for the Council meeting, PG&E was invited to present information on the SMART meter program. PG&E declined to provide a representative to discuss the item, but provided written materials on the SMART meter program for inclusion in the Council meeting packet. PG & E also stated that they were working with County Supervisor Efren Carillo to hold a regional forum on April 21, 2010 to discuss the issues, where they were able to schedule the needed topic experts and representatives from both PG&E and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

During our March 25, 2010 City Council Meeting, many potential issues were raised by the public who spoke, including: inaccuracy of the meters, fire safety, PG&E control of usage, health risks due to radiofrequency transmissions, job loss, privacy, and data security. In many of these areas, there appears to be conflicting or insufficient information which continues to be cause for concern.

Therefore, on behalf of our residents, we request that a moratorium be placed on the installation of additional PG&E SMART meters within the City of Cotati until an independent third party review of the following issues has been conducted:

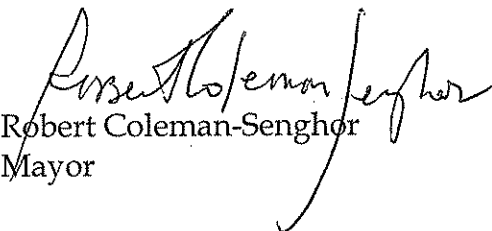
1. **Accuracy.** There are conflicting reports on the accuracy of the new meters. Our understanding is that the CPUC will be doing an independent evaluation of this issue in the near future.
2. **Fire Safety.** There have been allegations that the PG&E SMART meters can pose a fire hazard.

2. **Fire Safety.** There have been allegations that the PG&E SMART meters can pose a fire hazard.
3. **PG&E Control of Usage.** There is concern in our community that the PG&E SMART meters would allow PG&E to remotely control the usage in individual homes by restricting or turning off the service, particularly during peak demand periods, without the consent of the customer.
4. **Health Effects.** There have been allegations that the radiofrequency transmissions from devices like the SMART meters are linked to adverse health effects.

We also request that the CPUC make this program voluntary for PG&E's customers by allowing them to opt-out. If paired with an independent third party review of the potential issues, it would allow PG&E's customers to make an educated choice about participating in the SMART meter program.

The last topic of general concern to our community is how the switch to remote read meters will affect the employees of PG&E that currently provide meter reading services. The economy and job creation is a high priority to virtually every community in the State. To better understand the impact to our region, we request additional information on how the SMART meter program will impact jobs at PG&E, and what, if any, programs are available to retrain or assist any displaced meter readers so they can find new employment.

Sincerely,

  
 Robert Coleman-Senghor  
 Mayor

C:

California Public Utility Commissioner John A. Bohn  
 California Public Utility Commissioner Dian M. Grueneich  
 California Public Utility Commissioner Nancy E. Ryan  
 California Public Utility Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon  
 PG&E Representative Katie Kearns  
 PG&E Representative Andrew Tang  
 Congressperson Lynn Woolsey  
 State Senator Patricia Wiggins  
 Assemblymember Wes Chesbro  
 Chair Valeria Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Supervisor Mike Kerns, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
 Supervisor Shirlee Zane, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
 Supervisor Paul Kelley, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
 Supervisor Efren Carrillo, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
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