

## **CITY of BELVEDERE**

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John C. Telischak, Mayor

August 9, 2010

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

SUBJECT: PG&E SMART METER DEPLOYMENT

Dear Mr. Peevey:

It has come to our attention that PG&E has recently begun installation of its Smart Meter wireless grid infrastructure in Marin. In particular, the City of Belvedere and its residents have received notification that installation in Belvedere could occur any day. Complete system installation for Marin County is anticipated by Spring 2011.

It is our understanding that PG&E began significant deployment of Smart Meters in Summer 2009, and soon after began receiving complaints from customers regarding billing accuracy and device malfunction concerns. In response, in October 2009, your commission ordered an independent evaluation/investigation to evaluate Smart Meters and PG&E's deployment of them. That investigation, being carried out by the Structure Group, is currently ongoing and expected to be completed later this year. The CPUC did not require suspension of deployment during the investigation.

Given the unusually high rate of reported device failures, the cost of installation (\$2.2 billion), the concern and uncertainty expressed by the public regarding Smart Meter operational accuracy and the wireless technology employed by the system, it seems not only fiscally prudent, but appropriately protective of the public trust, to suspend installation of the Smart Meter system until the independent investigation is complete, and remedies implemented, if warranted. If deployment continues, more public education and awareness is warranted to ensure that the public reception is more favorable.

As such, we respectfully request that you immediately suspend deployment of the Smart Meter system in Belvedere and throughout the PG&E service territory until the CPUC ordered independent investigation is complete, all elements of the system have been deemed to be working properly and it has been determined that the system is fair and accurate, and shown to

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the CPUC to protect the health and safety of energy users in the communities in which it is being installed.

Sincerely,

CITY OF BELVEDERE

John C. Telischak

Mayor

cc: Commissioner John A. Bohn

Commissioner Dian M. Grueneich Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon

Commissioner Nancy E. Ryan Assemblyman Jared Huffman

Senator Mark Leno

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