



## **CITY OF FORT BRAGG**

*Incorporated August 5, 1889*

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May 9, 2011

California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**SUBJECT: Installation of SmartMeters**

Dear Commissioners:

The City of Fort Bragg is concerned for the health and safety of our constituents. The deployment by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) of the SmartMeters has become a topic of concern in our community. We have heard from PG&E justification for the value of these devices - upgrading transmission systems, monitoring energy use by the consumer, etc. - but find ourselves confounded by the conflicting evidence about the harm that may be caused to human health by these Smart Meters.

We understand that this wireless technology will result (for PG&E) in a cheaper, easier means to transmit information of consumer usage but there is evidence that suggests that this multiplier effect (a SmartMeter on every home) may be deleterious to human health. As far as we know there have been no long term studies on the effects of this type of technology. There are people in our community who claim they are greatly affected by the amount of electro magnetic frequency (EMF) that exists, even at this point, without the addition of whole neighborhoods being "wireless transmitting stations."

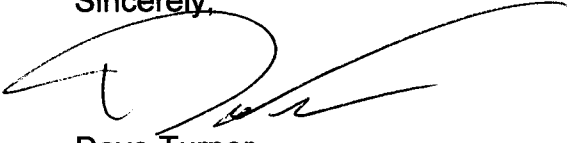
Beyond these health & safety issues we are concerned with reports that many people who have new SmartMeters installed on their homes have seen their electric bills skyrocket.

We understand that PG&E has brought forward to the CPUC an alternative path for those who wish to opt out of having a SmartMeter installed on their home. Because this alternative comes with an up-front fee, a monthly fee, and an exit fee, we find this to be more of a disincentive than an alternative. Therefore we do not find this alternative acceptable. We

encourage you to look for ways to transmit customer usage data through tried and true wired technology.

We would appreciate your immediate attention to this issue of great concern for the health and safety of our community.

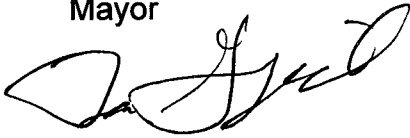
Sincerely,



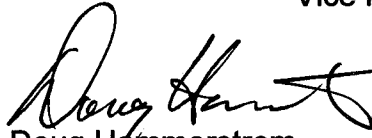
Dave Turner  
Mayor



Meg Courtney  
Vice Mayor



Dan Gjerde  
Councilmember



Doug Hammerstrom  
Councilmember



Jere Melo  
Councilmember