Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Mayor
Ken Wachtel
Vice-Mayor
Garry Lion
Councilmember

MILL VALLEY

Shawn Marshall
Councilmember
Andrew Berman
Councilmember
James C. McCann
City Manager

September 20, 2010

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

Dear President Peevy,

At the request of our community, on September 7, 2010, the Mill Valley City Council heard a discussion on Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) SmartMeters, currently being deployed in Mill Valley and throughout Northern California. After taking public comment and discussing this issue, the Council concluded that it would be appropriate to relay the concerns we heard to the CPUC, the State entity that regulates PG&E and authorized SmartMeter program implementation.

At the City Council meeting, Mill Valley residents primarily expressed their concerns regarding the lack of definitive information regarding the possible negative health effects associated with the radio frequency emissions (RF) associated with ongoing operation of the SmartMeter program. Those concerns focused on the unknown, long-term and cumulative impacts of the SmartMeters, especially for children and people who suffer from electromagnetic hypersensitivity disorder (EHS). Speakers expressed the view that the safety standards set for these devices by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are not sufficient, and specifically not designed to protect those with EHS from health problems that may develop under the conditions which the SmartMeters will operate. A number of concerned residents asked whether it would be possible to be provided with reasonable alternatives to SmartMeters, or to be given the ability to relocate their electric and gas meters on their property in order to mitigate any potential harmful effects of the devices.

The Council recognizes that oversight of the health effects of SmartMeters is governed by FCC standards, and that the CPUC has oversight of the SmartMeter program. We are

aware that the CPUC and PG&E have adapted some of its rules to make special service arrangements for certain individuals who have known and diagnosed health-related issues. It may be that, under appropriate circumstances, (e.g., diagnosed EHS, reasonable efforts to minimize other residential sources of RF emissions, a willingness to self-read meters and perhaps utilize balanced payment and/or automatic payment plans) the CPUC and PG&E can find a way to accommodate those special needs individuals and still realize most of the perceived benefits of the SmartMeter program.

On behalf of those residents who have expressed their concerns about PG&E's SmartMeters to this Council, we request that the CPUC and PG&E give consideration to appropriate metering options for customers with EHS. We also request that the CPUC make clear whether and how other customers, who wish to take precautionary steps to minimize RF exposure by moving the location of their meters, might do so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Moulton-Peters

Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Mayor
City of Mill Valley

Cc: Mill Valley City Council
Assemblymember Jared Huffman
Joshua Townsend, PG&E Public Affairs Manager
Marzia Zafar, CPUC Business and Community Outreach Division