



PO Box 1016 Sebastopol CA 95473 707-827-0109

*Save Lives, Save Nature, Reduce EMFs*

[www.emfsafetynetwork.org](http://www.emfsafetynetwork.org)

12/23/2021

RE: Appeal of Sebastopol City Council decision: Agenda-Item-Number-9-TELPA-Final-Continuation-from-12-7-21

*Sebastopol Mayor Patrick Slayter, Sebastopol City Council and Staff,*

The EMF Safety Network (EMFSN) wishes to appeal the Sebastopol City Council decision on 12/21/2021 in regard to the approval of the Agenda #9 TELPA which included over 2 million dollar purchase of smart water meters. The city council, staff and the public were not provided accurate information about this purchase, including how the meters work, what frequencies they use, and how often they emit radio frequency (RF)(EMF) radiation. At the meeting on 12/21/2021 the Superintendent of the Water Department misconstrued evidence presented by a council member and the public that the smart water meters emitted EMF radiation every 4 seconds as a “typo” and he evaded an important question by the Mayor about whether or not the smart water meters would use 5G technology. We are in a pandemic and meetings are only on zoom, which makes participation, advocacy and education more difficult and adds to the city’s responsibility to carefully, honestly and transparently vet any major purchases and planned installations, particularly when independent peer reviewed science shows harm from exposure to EMF radiation. The city council, staff and the public deserve an opportunity to know and review the facts.

The EMF Safety Network (EMFSN)<sup>1</sup> is a local EMF advocacy group based in Sebastopol. We have served at the local, state, and national levels and have an international audience. Our members are a diverse and educated group. Many are home and business owners, teachers, medical

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<sup>1</sup> EMF Safety Network website: [www.emfsafetynetwork.org](http://www.emfsafetynetwork.org)

professionals, and people who are passionate about health, the environment and protecting the vulnerable including children and the elderly. EMFSN has been an intervenor at the California Public Utilities Commission on public utility smart meters, and we were instrumental at obtaining the facts<sup>2</sup> about how PG&E and other investor owned public utilities smart meters work. Our advocacy encouraged action in Sebastopol and other municipalities<sup>3</sup> including other US states. In California 11 cities (including Sebastopol) and 4 counties banned smart meters and many other city and county jurisdiction publicly opposed smart meters. EMFSN has consistently shown active interest and support of the precautionary principle as it relates to EMF radiation technology and has extensive information, research and access to international expert information.

**Network requests that the City Council's decision be reversed and the purchase of smart meters which is part of the TELPA agreement be denied.** The City Council did not have accurate information to approve or deny this purchase because the RF emissions information provided by Syserco and the water department to the City Council and staff was deficient, inaccurate and misleading.

**We request the facts about the how the smart water meter technology works including:**

- how often the water meters emit EMF radiation;
- any and all frequencies emitted by the water meters; including whether or not they emit 5G;
- what the power output is;
- if there will be unintentional radiation emitted onto the water lines;
- whether or not repeaters and collectors will be installed;
- radio frequency (RF) emissions exposure levels at 6 inches away from the transmitter;
- the name, make, model number and product technical specifications of the 56 water meters installed and tested (around Feb 2021);
- the name, make, model number and product technical specifications of the water meters or-

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<sup>2</sup> PG&E answers to CPUC judge: the average number of RF pulses for the electric smart meter would be about 10,000, per meter, per day and the maximum number over 190,000. [http://emfsafetynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/PGERFDataOpt-outalternatives\\_11-1-11-3pm.pdf](http://emfsafetynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/PGERFDataOpt-outalternatives_11-1-11-3pm.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See "More Information" for a list of cities and counties opposed; <http://emfsafetynetwork.org/smart-meters/>

dered prior to the council meeting on 12/21/2021;

- the engineers RF emissions report for the specific water meters purchased and link to that report on the FCC website (including the 56 test meters).

**More background information on why this is important to the community.**

The purchase of smart water meters is a major project that will increase harmful EMF radiation in Sebastopol. The decision is inconsistent with Sebastopol's General Plan Community Health and Wellness Goals to minimize EMF's; and Zero Waste purchasing goals. The decision to purchase smart water meters doesn't represent the community's values or historic actions, for example: the 2013 ban on smart meters, the warmer LED lights, and defending the Fircrest senior mobile home park from PG&E smart meters. Ordinance 1057<sup>4</sup> banned smart meters in 2013 for "matters of public health, safety and consumer protection...". This ordinance was referenced in 2019 in a letter to PG&E asking to retain the analog meters at the Fircrest senior mobile home park which was signed by Mayor Neysa Hinton<sup>5</sup>.

This honest review is important and necessary because smart water meters threatens nature<sup>6</sup>, public health<sup>7</sup>, and the EMF aware<sup>8</sup> and sensitive<sup>9</sup> community. The EMF radiation transmitters would be in the sidewalks, in our neighborhoods and where people walk throughout town. Prudent avoidance is the way EMF sensitive people manage their symptoms (headaches, heart palpi-

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<sup>4</sup><http://emfsafetynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/DRAFT-Smart-Meter-Moratorium-Ordinance-For-2-21-2013-.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> City of Sebastopol letter to PG&E re Fircrest Mobile Home Park <http://emfsafetynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Revised-Letter-to-Fircrest-Mobile-Home-Park-and-PGE.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Find links to science and news reports on how EMF radiation affects nature in this flyer [http://emfsafetynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Honey\\_Bee\\_Says\\_STOP\\_5G.pdf](http://emfsafetynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Honey_Bee_Says_STOP_5G.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> For a comprehensive review of the science go to <https://bioinitiative.org>

<sup>8</sup> For an excellent intro and overview, watch the following video with Joel Moskowitz PhD "Health Effects of Cellphone & Cell Tower Radiation: Implications for 5G" held on Nov. 3, 2021. He speaks for about 45 minutes, followed by a Q and A. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-\\_8PvG753A&t=317s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-_8PvG753A&t=317s)

<sup>9</sup> Reliable disease biomarkers characterizing and identifying electrohypersensitivity and multiple chemical sensitivity as two etiopathogenic aspects of a unique pathological disorder <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26613326/>

tations, nausea, tinnitus etc). We would not be able to avoid this. This is a major threat and could force residents to move. This purchase and installation could create ADA access issues which could trigger a lawsuit: “The [US Access] Board recognizes that multiple chemical sensitivities and electromagnetic sensitivities may be considered disabilities under the ADA if they so severely impair the neurological, respiratory or other functions of an individual that it substantially limits one or more of the individual’s major life activities.”<sup>10</sup>

Peer reviewed published studies find EMF radiation causes a wide range of health impacts: “Effects include increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damages, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, neurological disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans.”<sup>11</sup> *“It is time to recognize ambient EMF as a novel form of pollution and develop rules at regulatory agencies that designate air as 'habitat' so EMF can be regulated like other pollutants.”*<sup>12</sup> Scientists are warning against the deployment of technology using 5G millimeter waves<sup>13</sup>.

In a February 2021 email the Public Works director wrote that the new water meters would be ***manually read***. He also wrote that the 56 meters tested **did not have a radio transmitter**. A few months later the city launched a survey asking if the community wanted “cellular” water meters. *When did the city know these meters were intended to be “cellular”?* Nearly half the survey respondents opposed the meters or were undecided, yet the council unanimously voted for it. This vote did not represent the community.

Despite the claim we need smart water meters to reduce climate change, there are no reductions in greenhouse gas expected from water meters.

**This purchase is inconsistent with Sebastopol’s General Plan Community Health and Well-**

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.access-board.gov/research/building/indoor-environmental-quality/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.emfscientist.org/>

<sup>12</sup> Effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields on flora and fauna, part 1. Rising ambient EMF levels in the environment <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34047144/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.5gappeal.eu>

**ness Goals:**

**Goal CHW 4: Minimize Community Exposure to Unsafe Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)**

**Policy CHW 4-2:** Minimize unsafe EMF radiation levels near sensitive areas such as schools, hospitals, playgrounds, high density residential, and libraries when planning for electrical transmission facilities repair and new construction.

**Policy CHW 4-3:** Promote community education and awareness on EMF health information and stay abreast of current research and regulations.

**Policy CHW 4-4:** Continue to regulate the location, when legally viable, and appearance of telecommunications and electrical facilities.

**Actions in Support of Goal CHW 4 Action**

CHW 4a: Explore programs and legal remedies available to the City in order to reduce unsafe EMF exposure to the greatest extent allowed by State and federal law.

Action CHW 4b: Continue to implement, and periodically update as necessary, the City's Telecommunications Ordinance in order to reduce EMF levels within Sebastopol, while maintaining consistency with state and federal law.

Action CHW 4c: Review siting opportunities for substantial EMF facilities that will reduce or eliminate community exposure to unsafe EMF to the greatest extent feasible.

Action CHW 4d: Advocate that all new major electrical transmission projects and telecommunications facilities evaluate EMF as part of the project's environmental review pursuant to CEQA.

Action CHW 4e: Request from PG&E and wireless telecommunications facilities providers, public disclosure of existing and proposed electrical transmission and wireless telecommunications facilities projects in the vicinity of Sebastopol and their anticipated EMF levels in the Sebastopol Planning Area.

Action CHW 4f: Continue to monitor best practices and approaches taken by other communities to limit unsafe exposure to EMF.

Action CHW 4g: Maintain data regarding the location, size, strength, and EMF levels of major cell and radio towers, public power facilities, including transmission and distribution lines, and other substantial public or community EMF sources in the Sebastopol Planning Area, to the extent that data and information is available.

Action CHW 4h: Support efforts to approach and encourage the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to allow the City to opt out of public utility wireless data transmission systems (such as smart meters).

**This purchase is inconsistent with the Zero Waste Sonoma purchasing policy<sup>14</sup> which calls for purchasing products that minimize environmental impacts, toxins, pollution and hazards to worker and community safety, as well as to purchase durable and long lasting products. Smart water meters use sound waves, batteries and transmit EMF radiation. Smart water meters have non-replaceable batteries. The entire unit will need to be replaced if/when the battery fails.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Maurer

Director, EMF Safety Network

**Attachment A: Email communication with Public Works Superintendent. Inquiry should be read from the last email (bottom of thread) to the first.**

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Dante Del Prete <ddelprete@cityofsebastopol.org>

**Subject: RE: Syserco Energy Solutions Water meters**

**Date:** February 22, 2021 at 3:09:12 PM PST

**To:** Sandi Maurer <emfsafe@sonic.net>

**Cc:** Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org>, "una.glass.seb@sonic.net" <una.glass.seb@sonic.net>, Sarah Gurney <sarahgurney.seb@gmail.com>, Ana Kwong <akwong@cityofsebastopol.org>

Hi Sandi,

I have listed your questions with answers below.

- 1, How will the meters be read? The new meter will be read manually.
- 2, What is the purpose of having a battery? The E-Series meters are electronic digital meters with an LCD display.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gj5PyTLZdcDZae05HDMG5MFDnRI4xDA-/view>

3, Does the company have a specification sheet on the new meters that you can send me? I have attached the same specification sheet as my initial response.

4, Can we test one that's in use now in town?

Assuming you will only need to take EMF readings around the meter box in the sidewalk here are four residential locations, Please be mindful to not disturb the residents.

515 Norlee St  
495 Sequoia Ln  
8014 Hansen Ct  
8218 Parkside Ct

Thank you,

***Dante Del Prete***

***Public Works Superintendent***

**City of Sebastopol | 714 Johnson St. | Sebastopol, CA 95472**

**Public Works Department**

707-823-5331 Ofc | 707-823-4721 Fax

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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**From:** Sandi Maurer <emfsafe@sonic.net>

**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 2:45 PM

**To:** Dante Del Prete <ddelprete@cityofsebastopol.org>

**Cc:** Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org>; una.glass.seb@sonic.net; Sarah Gurney <sarahgurney.seb@gmail.com>; Ana Kwong <akwong@cityofsebastopol.org>

**Subject:** Re: Syserco Energy Solutions Water meters

Hi Dante,

Thank you for your response. While we're hopeful the new meters are not wireless, we would like more information. How will the meters be read? What is the purpose of having a battery? Does the company have a specification sheet on the new meters that you can send me? And can we test one that's in use now in town?

Thanks again,

Sandi

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Sandi Maurer

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On Feb 22, 2021, at 1:40 PM, Dante Del Prete <[ddelprete@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:ddelprete@cityofsebastopol.org)> wrote:

Hello Sandi,

The meters installed last week are in fact digital.

The meters comply with the lead-free provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act, are certified to NSF/ANSI Standards 61 and 372 and carry the NSF-61 mark on the housing.

They are powered by a 3.6-volt lithium thionyl chloride battery that is fully encapsulated within the register housing,

Total volume is calculated from the measured flow velocity using water temperature and pipe diameter.

The LCD display shows total volume and alarm conditions and can toggle to display rate of flow. The 56 meters that were installed last week do not have a radio transmitter.

Thank you,

***Dante Del Prete***

***Public Works Superintendent***

**City of Sebastopol | 714 Johnson St. | Sebastopol, CA 95472**

**Public Works Department**

707-823-5331 Ofc | 707-823-4721 Fax

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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**From:** Sandi Maurer <[emfsafe@sonic.net](mailto:emfsafe@sonic.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 10:06 AM  
**To:** [kprouty@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:kprouty@cityofsebastopol.org)  
**Cc:** Mary Gourley <[mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org)>; Una Glass <[unajmglass@sonic.net](mailto:unajmglass@sonic.net)>; Sarah Gurney <[sarahgurney.seb@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgurney.seb@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Syserco Energy Solutions Water meters

Hello,

I just learned that Sebastopol is testing new water meters from Syserco Energy Solutions. It appears based on their website, that the new meters are digital and likely wireless. Please send me any and all specifications on these water meters and how they work.

Thank you,  
Sandi

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Sandi Maurer  
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## Attachment B: Letter from Syserco to Sebastopol Staff:

**From:** Gabe Johnson <g.johnson@syserco.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 30, 2018 10:45 AM  
**To:** Lawrence McLaughlin <lmcLaughlin@cityofsebastopol.org>  
**Cc:** Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org>; Ana Kwong <akwong@cityofsebastopol.org>; Dante Del Prete <ddelprete@cityofsebastopol.org>; Scott Meinzen <s.meinzen@syserco.com>  
**Subject:** Thank You / Follow-Up / Next Steps...

Good Morning Larry and Team:

Scott and I would like to Thank You all for your time and interest during our recent meeting. We are excited to take the next step and work with the City toward the development of a project that results in Zero Net Energy for the City of Sebastopol!

Attached is the Project Development proposal, (along with Attachment B to the proposal - Summary of Energy Conservation Measures).

Additionally, there was a question about the frequency of transmission for the water meters. Scott has provided the following response:

**Water Meter Transmitter:**

The transmitter for the Badger water meter transmits a signal every 4 seconds.

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The Badger transmitter is "migrateable", meaning that it can be installed initially in a "drive-by" setting and (if desired or required by law) adjusted in the future to an AMI (fixed-base) setting without having to replace the transmitter hardware.

If the transmitter is set to the "Drive-by setting", the signal strength is 10 milliwatts. At most, the signal can be received up to "a couple hundred feet", but if the transmitter is in an enclosed, underground, concrete box, its signal will go "about 50 feet".

If CA requires retail water providers to have a real-time (AMI) system, the City will need to install collectors and repeaters and switch the meter-based transmitters to the "AMI" setting. At that time, the transmitter will emit a signal every 4 seconds at a power rating of 1 watt.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with you all in the development and implementation of this exciting project. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Also – it is very helpful for us to understand the approximate timeline that is expected for the review/approval of the attached Project Development agreement. Any feedback that you can provide regarding timing and Next Steps would be fantastic!

Thank You,  
Gabe

Gabe Johnson

