

From: Cherry, Brian K
Sent: 2/2/2012 4:00:30 PM
To: Clanon, Paul (paul.clanon@cpuc.ca.gov) (paul.clanon@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: Editorials on Health Director's report

Paul - we did not do any analysis of the Santa Cruz Health Directors Report. However, the Santa Cruz Sentinel did review it.

From: DeRosa, Darleen
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:44 PM
To: [Redacted]; Burt, Helen; Bottorff, Thomas E; Cherry, Brian K
Cc: Frizzell, Roger; Foley, Beth; [Redacted]; Gleicher, Cliff (SmartMeter)
Subject: RE: Editorials on Health Director's report

I believe this is the Santa Cruz Sentinel article of interest.

The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* published an editorial on a radio frequency and SmartMeters™ health report issued by Santa Cruz County's Health Director. PG&E's SmartMeter™ opt-out proposal was also discussed.

As We See It: SmartMeters: The Ban That Isn't

Santa Cruz Sentinel – Editorial, January 26, 2012

Maybe they just don't want to listen to the complaints anymore.

Searching for a reason why the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors continues to give in to a smallish, but vocal, group protesting the installation of wireless utility meters is like trying to figure out why highway drivers keep switching lanes even in gridlock. They just want to do something. But continuing an unenforced moratorium against **PG&E's** installation of **SmartMeters** also seems like tilting at wireless windmills.

SmartMeter opponents have been fighting the devices for several years and have made it

tough on the crews hired to install them. They've also said they want to recall the county sheriff because he is not enforcing the moratorium -- a threat that so far has not changed the sheriff's stance.

Meanwhile, the installations have continued, with about 80 percent of utility customers in the county already set up with SmartMeters.

The same arguments were heard when cellphone towers began to be proposed.

Opponents' main concerns are health-related, but there's also an element of free choice. Consumers have a choice, for instance, whether to install a wireless router in their homes or offices, but PG&E was putting in wireless meters regardless of homeowners' preferences -- and regardless of SmartMeter installation moratoriums enacted by the county and the cities of Watsonville and Capitola. The utility is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission, which has given permission for the SmartMeter installations.

In response to the criticism, PG&E has proposed an opt-out option for customers who don't want SmartMeters. The catch, however, is this would cost an additional \$10 a month plus a \$90 upfront fee.

To add to the confusion probably felt by some PG&E customers, the county's top health official, Dr. Poki Namkung, weighed in Tuesday with a report that questions the safety of SmartMeters. It's confusing because several reputable organizations have found no health or safety concerns with the devices.

Namkung's report, cited by county staff in recommending the temporary moratorium continue through spring 2013, discusses the potential concerns around electromagnetic field radiation, and notes, "Much of this exposure is beyond our control and is a matter of personal choice; however, public exposure to RF radio frequency fields is growing exponentially due to the proliferation of cell phones, and wireless fidelity Wi-Fi technology."

Namkung goes on to say there is "no scientific data to determine if there is a safe RF exposure level" and that further studies are needed because the potential impacts "could be huge."

A well-publicized study done in 2010 by the California Council on Science and Technology found SmartMeters to be safe -- but there has also been conflicting information about potential health hazards associated with extensive cellphone use, adding to the suspicions about wireless technology, even if radio transmissions from SmartMeters aren't on the same scale.

Choice aside, the supervisors are wading into a magnetic field tough to escape. People can yearn for a time without cellphones, iPads or laptop computers, microwave ovens, medical MRIs or even flat-screen home theater setups. But that's not the world we live in. SmartMeters, which are also being installed by a Mid-County water district, allow real-time monitoring of energy use by customers, which the utility company says could lead to significant energy savings.

PG&E's opt-out proposal, while costly, allows those customers who want to live wirelessly an opportunity to do just that. The county has enough other public health problems without taking up a dubious cause.

From: Redacted
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:26 PM
To: Burt, Helen; Bottorff, Thomas E; Cherry, Brian K
Cc: Frizzell, Roger; Foley, Beth; Redacted DeRosa, Darleen; Gleicher, Cliff (SmartMeter)
Subject: Editorials on Health Director's report

Helen,

Following up on your request.

Two Santa Cruz media outlets issued editorials about the County Health Director's report on RF and SmartMeters. Please see links and plain text below. These were also circulated through our internal news clips service NewsFlash.

Greg

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/opinion/ci_19824566?source=rss

As We See It: As Santa Cruz Goes, So Goes the Nation?

Santa Cruz Sentinel – Editorial, January 26, 2012

President Barack Obama must have been thinking of Santa Cruz County in his State of the Union odes earlier this week to alternative energy.

Consider that Santa Cruz -- where the sun may shine most days, but often behind a fog bank -- is the No. 1 city in the Golden State in percentage of residents installing solar projects. Watsonville ranks fifth and Aptos ranks 20th in the report by Environment California.

Local companies like Plantronics have also put their panels where their energy bills are -- the headset maker says it gets about 80 percent of energy needs from renewable sources.

Local governments also have consistently drafted ordinances that make solar access a priority. Cabrillo College offers solar-related instruction as part of a Construction and Energy Management curriculum.

Despite the questions about solar as a business and federal subsidies -- Obama, not surprisingly, did not mention the Solyndra scandal in his speech Tuesday -- solar and Santa Cruz go way back. As one local solar advocate-businessman told the Sentinel, sunny partisans from the 1970s never stopped believing -- even after federal tax credits were eliminated and the technology went into a partial eclipse for years.

Several energy crises and a climate change scare later, solar has become as politically popular as taxing the rich -- and California is leading the way, generating more than 1 gigawatt of solar energy production, more than all but five countries.

On the energy-efficiency front, the city of Santa Cruz, with help from **PG&E** and federal grants, is replacing more than 60 percent of city streetlights with LED bulbs. LED bulbs, while more expensive, are about 70 percent more energy efficient, longer lasting and brighter than the high-pressure sodium fluorescent bulbs previously in use.

The city of Watsonville was already on the LED light brigade, and hopes to have all the city's 2,400 lights retrofitted by the end of this month, using low-interest loans; Capitola's City Council, meanwhile, is considering replacing 71 streetlight bulbs with LEDs using **PG&E's** financing program.

The other alternative energy news came from the state Air Resources Board, which has proposed that 15 percent of new cars sold in California by 2025 will have to run on electricity or alternative energy sources that produce minimal pollution.

The new regulations would begin in 2018. If adopted, the rules also will require a 75 percent reduction in emissions from new cars, SUVs and pickup trucks.

The good news is that automakers, who long fought California's ground-breaking and strict fuel efficiency regulations, have already embarked on multiple projects to create and produce just such vehicles.

The Toyota Prius hybrid has become a ubiquitous sight on local roads, while Japanese automaker Nissan's all-electric Leaf and the Chevy Volt have already entered the marketplace, with mixed results so far.

Will California, and Santa Cruz County, lead the way for a nation mostly still wedded to fossil fuels?

That depends on the costs. While China seems to have the market on solar manufacturing, lower cost panels are more affordable, and thus more prevalent. Lower the cost and solar pays off.

We expect the price of LED bulbs to drop enough that even consumers on a strict budget find they're a more affordable alternative than wasteful conventional bulbs.

The day of electric vehicles, which even a decade ago seemed far off, is still coming, especially if battery technology improves and the range improves.

By all evidence, for many people living in our county, that day is already here.

<http://www.ksbw.com/video/27323934/detail.html>

The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly

By Joseph Heston – President and General Manager, KSBW

KSBW.com, January 27, 2012

With a nod to Clint, this week's the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly!

First up, the good.

The Supreme Court got it right this week! The police or federal authorities have to get a search warrant before they can put a tracking device on your car. That's no more hassle than what law enforcers have to do to already to get a wire-tap. In a time when many criticize Washington, and even the Supreme Court Justices, as polarized in liberal or conservative camps, this week's unanimous ruling reinforces our faith in this great country: the 4th Amendment and our Constitution won this week!

That was the good; now the bad.

This week's news that Brinton's was closing was downright sad. Perhaps this eclectic hardware store's marketing was a bit out-of-date, but few could argue about the store's great quality and excellent customer service, provided by a corps of top-notch associates. Brinton's folding up their tent after a half-century was bad news.

Finally, the ugly: **Smart Meters** and Santa Cruz.

This week the health officer of Santa Cruz County said Smart Meters emit electromagnetic radiation. So do cell phones, the wireless router in your house, and even the toaster in your kitchen.

Electromagnetic radiation also comes from natural sources. He concluded that while there may be health risks, not enough scientific study has been done to say for sure. His eight-page paper certainly covered no new ground or offered any additional substance to the issue, but it was enough for the Santa Cruz Supervisors to continue their Smart Meter moratorium. We wonder if, for everyone's potential safety, a ban on smart phones is next?

That's the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, this fourth week of January 2012.