

Comments on Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Recommendations

From: Gina Dawson <gdawson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 6:11 PM
To: Wildfire Safety Advisory Board
Subject: Comments for April 15, 2020 Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board,

Thank you very much for your efforts to protect public safety from wildfire and for this opportunity to comment.

PG&E equipment caused two fires last year in my hometown of Lafayette, CA. Both fires occurred on the same day. Most of Lafayette power was de-energized per a Public Safety Power Shut-off period during high wind conditions. The equipment that caused the fires were kept energized as they were not in a high fire risk location. My residential block remained energized during the PSPS periods, only to lose power when a nearby transformer blew. It took a couple of days and multiple calls from residents for PG&E to recognize the outage and report the "pole fire" for repair.

Our community still does not have answer to why PG&E's electrical equipment failed and whether PG&E identified and proactively addressed similar failure factors on the rest of the electrical system in Lafayette.

PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program parallels the ineffective PG&E Community Pipeline Safety Initiative, in which PG&E spent \$500 million dollars. The CPSI cleared the pipeline right of way yet did nothing to identify and address hazardous condition on the underground pipeline. Tens of thousands of trees were removed at the base. Any potential root damage to the underground pipeline, which was the initial claim of the program, was left in place, unidentified and unaddressed.

In 2014, PG&E was criminally indicted for violating gas safety rules that mandated identification and address of hazardous risk to the pipeline. This year, PG&E will plead guilty to involuntary manslaughter charges related to violation of state code to identify and correct hazardous conditions on their electrical equipment.

You now have opportunity to change this dangerous pattern of neglectful equipment maintenance. PG&E's long and deadly safety records should compel the CPUC to ensure PG&E is proactively surveying energy equipment for failure risks and timely and appropriately eliminating those threats to public safety. The public should have access to reports on these activities.

Any less seems irresponsible to the public safety the Commission is charged to protect. Thank you for your consideration.

With respect,

Gina Dawson

[Lafayette Gas Safety Task Force](#), member

[Save Lafayette Trees](#), founding member

Lafayette, CA