

LAFAYETTE HOMEOWNERS COUNCIL

649 Los Palos Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549
www.lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org

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Mayor Mike Anderson and City Council Members
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

July 26, 2020

Re: PG&E in Lafayette & Public Safety

Dear Mayor Anderson and Council Members,

The Lafayette Homeowners Council (LHC) Board continues to be seriously concerned regarding PG&E's activities and in some cases lack of activities in Lafayette.

Of primary concern is the gas line shut-off capability of PG&E in the event of an emergency. We don't want another San Bruno disaster, however there is absolutely nothing to prove that it can't happen here.

Forming Lafayette's own Gas Safety Task Force with technically experienced members is an extremely helpful first step in learning more about what PG&E and California's Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) are doing to change PG&E's extremely poor safety record for gas operations in this part of California.

We wish to express our concern and support for your efforts to have PG&E install automated shut-off valves at Briones - amongst other places. The center of town at Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd. could be subject to a sizable gas leak, if not explosion. How would such an incident be controlled now? A truck driving out to the center of Briones could take at least one to two hours for a manual shut-off. Once again, do we want another San Bruno catastrophe? Of course not, but we are at a daily risk for one as are a significant number of other communities in the areas PG&E serves.

We believe manually operated valves situated in the middle of Briones are a major safety concern that need to be addressed now. Automated valves will improve emergency response to gas incidents, not tree removal as previously proposed by PG&E.

In addition and briefly,

- Exposed pipeline spans over fifty years old in Briones near Springhill and Happy Valley neighborhoods have not been in-line inspected and welds have not been tested.
- What is the result of PG&E's *updated* determination of "high consequence areas" or "HCA's" in Lafayette? We would like to know.
- Tree removal around gas lines is not a public safety issue. The tree removal agreement needs to be withdrawn and funds should be returned to PG&E so they can be used for valve upgrades and testing. Please see our letter dated September 6, 2018 [including all attachments] attached to this letter.
- It appears PG&E has not responded yet regarding the fire last October caused by one of their electric transmission lines falling on Camino Diablo. No report after ten months? We believe you will agree that other Lafayette electrical poles should be checked for similar weaknesses and addressed immediately.

We believe your diligence and the Gas Safety Task Force continue to be so important to the safety of our community. Additionally, the LHC Board remains committed to keeping our homeowners informed regarding this most important issue.

Sincerely,



William Bucher
President

Attachment: LHC Board letter dated September 6, 2018 w/a