

City of Lafayette Staff Report

For: Lafayette City Council
By: Steven Falk, City Manager
Date: 5/22/2018
Subject: Planning for Community Workshop on PG&E Matters

Introduction

At your meeting on May 14th, Vice Mayor Burks asked the Council to schedule a public workshop where the community could voice opinions and concerns about PG&E operations in the City of Lafayette. Because the matter was not agendaized, the Council was unable to discuss this topic in a substantive way and the item was referred to a future agenda for consideration. The purpose of this report is for the Council to discuss the future workshop and its preferences for when and how it should occur.

Background

During the past few years and months, a number of issues related to PG&E and its provision of service in Lafayette have arisen as topics of robust public conversation and concern including:

- PG&E's Community Pipeline Safety Initiative (CPSI), in which the utility proposes to remove and replace 113 trees that pose a safety concern along public trails and city streets located in Lafayette;
- PG&E's plan to replace 6,000 linear feet of gas pipeline on St. Mary's Road during Summer 2018, which work will have notable traffic and congestion impacts and also necessitate the removal of certain trees and vegetation;
- Other PG&E safety concerns alleged by residents Michael and Gina Dawson and others, including but not limited to the need for automatic shut off valves; exposed segments of gas pipeline that should be repaired; PG&E expenditure priorities; and PG&E's representation of facts related to pipeline integrity testing;
- New State rule changes related to tree limb trimming that will require more aggressive tree trims this summer and in the future, and which work may be conflated with the other issues listed above.

Discussion

Staff has worked with Councilmember Anderson and representatives from PG&E to propose the following sequential process for proceeding on these matters.

1. **City sends a letter to PG&E reminding the utility that there will be no tree removal associated with the CPSI program until PG&E presents the City Council with all of the information required by the City's Tree Protection Ordinance** including, but not limited to:
 - i) Maps showing the location, assessment, ownership (public/private), and disposition of the trees.
 - ii) Site plan(s) with property lines, parcel numbers/addresses, showing the trees proposed for removal.
 - iii) A mitigation plan showing the location of proposed trees to be planted.
 - iv) An acceptable restoration plan for the removal of public trees that maintains aesthetics in public areas.
2. **City Manager will contact PG&E representatives to summarize the Council's interest in having a public meeting** to allow the community to air its concerns;
3. **City Council will add an item on its agenda on May 29th at which the Council will discuss the future workshop and its preferences for when and how it should occur.**
4. **Not later than June 30th, the City Manager will forward a catalog of community concerns to PG&E operations and safety to PG&E representatives.**
5. **City Council will host a meeting on <choose date> where representatives from PG&E can address the concerns.**

Note that steps 1, 2, and 3, above have already occurred.

Recommendation

Approve or amend the process noted above; choose a date for a PG&E Issues Workshop.