Public Comment on PG&E's Proposed 2028–2037 Undergrounding Plan

Montclair, Oakland

To the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety:

I live in Montclair with my husband and two children. I am asking OEIS to withhold approval of PG&E's proposed 2028–2037 Undergrounding Plan until PG&E demonstrates that its decisions adequately account for evacuation risks in our neighborhood.

My concern is straightforward: can my family and our neighbors get out safely if a wildfire starts and power lines fall across the roads?

Montclair has narrow, winding streets, mature trees, steep terrain, and limited routes out of the hills. Residents trying to leave would share those roads with emergency crews trying to get in. A fallen pole or power line on a connecting street could prevent people from reaching a main evacuation route, even if that route remained open.

Power shutoffs and overhead hardening have a role in reducing wildfire risk. But shutting off electricity does not remove a fallen line or pole from a road. The evacuation analysis needs to consider blocked streets regardless of whether PG&E equipment starts the fire.

Before approving the plan, I ask OEIS to require PG&E to:

- Evaluate Montclair's connected street network, including the smaller roads residents must use to reach evacuation routes.
- Assess scenarios in which high winds, falling trees, and downed electrical infrastructure block multiple roads during a wildfire.
- Incorporate Oakland Fire Department's assessment of local access and evacuation conditions and explain how that assessment affects project priorities.
- Publish a clear explanation of Montclair's undergrounding priority, including uncertainties in the analysis and the reasons for selecting overhead measures where undergrounding is not proposed.

I support undergrounding in Montclair and want it evaluated against the consequences of losing access during an emergency. I recognize that undergrounding is expensive and cannot eliminate every wildfire hazard. That makes a careful, transparent comparison especially important.

My family depends on these roads, as do our neighbors and the firefighters who would come to help us. Before accepting a plan that could leave overhead infrastructure in place for another decade, please require PG&E to show how it has addressed the risk that this infrastructure could block our way out.

Sincerely,

Megan R. Nishikawa
Montclair, Oakland, California