Kit Craven - Opening Comments

PG&E 2028-2037 Electrical Undergrounding Plan | Docket EUP-PGE

November 1, 2026

To the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety:

I am a resident of Montclair, Oakland, writing to urge Energy Safety to require a fuller assessment of our community's wildfire and evacuation risks before approving PG&E's proposed 2028-2037 Electrical Undergrounding Plan. I support prioritizing undergrounding in Montclair where it can reduce wildfire hazards and protect routes residents and emergency responders depend on.

My central concern is whether families can get out safely during a fast-moving wildfire. In a neighborhood with wooded hillsides, narrow and winding streets, and limited ways out, a fallen power line or utility pole could make an already difficult evacuation more dangerous. A blockage on a small residential street can prevent people from reaching a main evacuation road at all.

Please require PG&E to evaluate these hazards together: strong winds, falling trees, overhead electrical equipment, ignition risk, traffic congestion, and the need for emergency vehicles to enter while residents are leaving. Evaluating each risk separately can miss how one failure could compound another across the surrounding street network.

I ask Energy Safety to require PG&E to explain how local evacuation constraints and risks to human life affect project selection and undergrounding priorities. Any cost-benefit comparison should explicitly address these consequences and the uncertainties in estimating them. Please incorporate the Oakland Fire Department's local knowledge and relevant evacuation analysis into that assessment.

Overhead hardening and automatic shutoffs should be evaluated against undergrounding for the full range of safety concerns, including whether fallen electrical infrastructure could obstruct evacuation even when power is off. Please require a transparent explanation of which risks each approach addresses and which remain.

I urge Energy Safety not to approve the plan in its current form without requiring this comprehensive assessment and a clear explanation of how Montclair's combined risks will be addressed. Protecting residents' ability to escape and firefighters' ability to respond must be central to these decisions.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,
Kit Craven
Montclair, Oakland, California