



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**  
**Office of the State Fire Marshal**  
**California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board**  
2251 Harvard Street  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95815  
(916) 568-3800  
<https://digsafe.fire.ca.gov/>



July 8, 2020

## **NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION**

PG&E  
Brian Wong  
77 Beale Street, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Case No.: 20SA1040

Address/Location of Violation(s): Agricultural field bordering 10½ Ave and Nevada Ave, Northwest of Cocoran, CA

Date/Time of Violation(s): 4/30/2020 @ 9:15am

Dear: Mr. Wong

The Board has concluded its investigation of an incident on the above date, time and location and has determined that PG&E violated Article 2 of Chapter 3.1 of Division 5 of Title 1 of the California Government Code as follows:

The Board has determined that PG&E violated California Government Codes 4216.3(a)(1)(A)(ii) which requires an operator to provide information to an excavator where the operator's active or inactive subsurface installations are located to the extent and degree of accuracy that the information is available.

On April 3, 2020, a PG&E locator did not hook up his locate equipment directly to the facility he was trying to locate due to a metal box around the meter that he couldn't open. The locator hooked up to the metal box directly and received a false positive signal leading to inaccurate marks, off by approximately 20 feet where the facility was later struck by the excavator. The locator failed to communicate with the excavator that he was unable to hook up to the facility directly. Because of the mismatch, the excavator dug into

a 440v buried electrical line with a Caterpillar D10 bulldozer equipped with a deep ripping shank.

A Corrective Action of mandatory completion of the Dig Safe Board's education course is being imposed. Please see <https://digsafe.fire.ca.gov/education-course/> for more information.

The proposed sanction reflects the nature and gravity of the violation and takes into consideration the Respondent's history of prior offenses, cooperation with the investigation and demonstration of his/her intent to comply with GC4216 in the future.

This matter will be referred to California Public Utility Commission with a recommended penalty of mandatory completion of the Boards education course.

The California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board will act on this notice of probable violation in a future meeting.

You may contest this notice by responding to this notice promptly. Please see attached instructions on completing and submitting your response for options available to you. Your response to this notice must be received by the California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board no later than August 19, 2020.

Sincerely,

*Jason Corsey*

Jason Corsey  
Chief of Investigations  
Dig Safe Board  
916-926-1660

Proposed hearing date: September 14, 2020