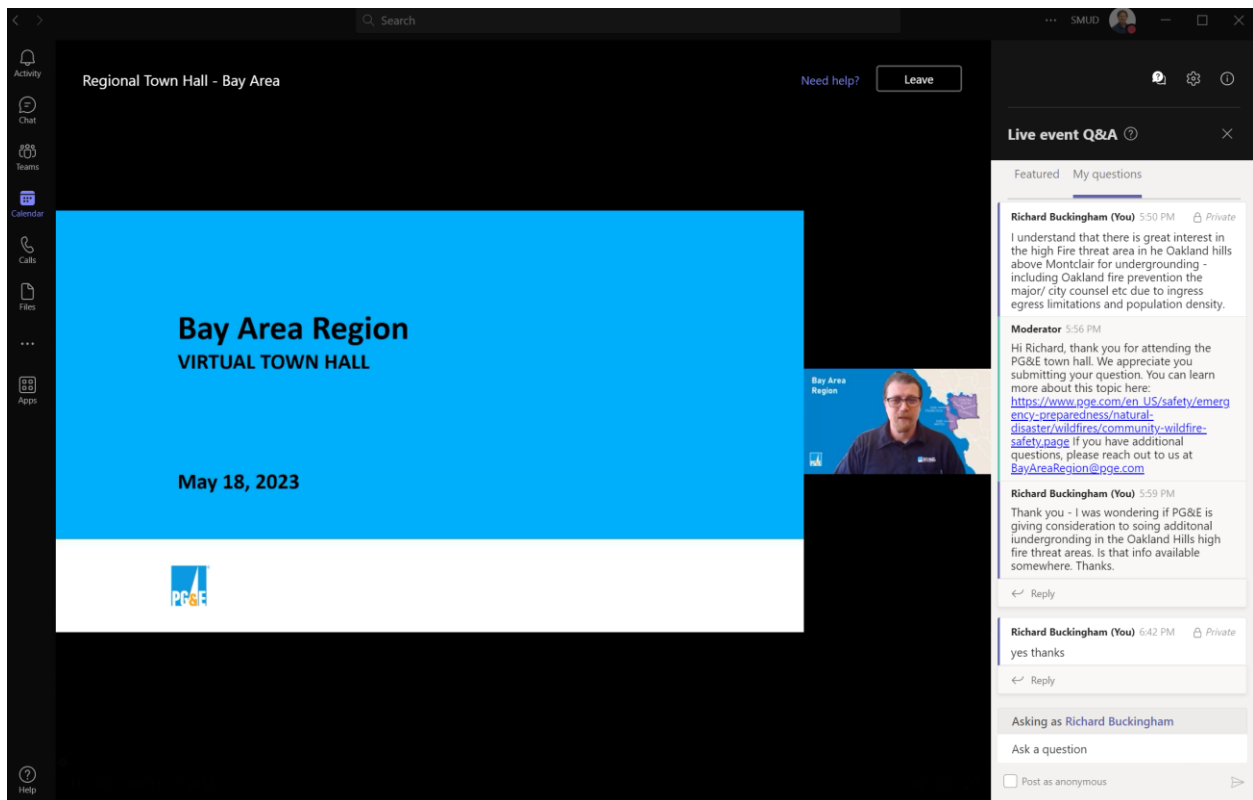


Comments of Richard Buckingham, PE to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS) May 26, 2023

I Richard Buckingham reside at 3300 Inverness Ct. Walnut Creek CA 94598 and also own the property at 5953 Zinn Drive, Oakland CA (Montclair District). I am also familiar with the electric service at 26 Elena Dr. Watsonville (La Selva Beach District). I was employed at PG&E from late 1981 to late 2006 and am now employed by SMUD since late 2006. I make these comments only as a private person, PG&E residential service customer.

I have attended several PG&E town halls for the Santa Cruz, Contra Costa and the recent East Bay Community outreach on May 18. I have recently become aware of the interests of the Montclair Undergrounding movement.



There is great concern in the Montclair community (I understand the abc 7 news reported on the concerns) due to risk factors that are not currently reflected in the PG&E/Technosylva risk model – though it appears that in Section 6.7 starting at page 212 and summarized in table 6.7, PG&E is planning to address some of the Montclair area risk factors – such as limited ingress, egress, population density and infrastructure conditions. However the proximity to the Shephard Canyon as a fire hazard for its local climate and vegetation may not be considered in further exacerbating the already High risk fire threat conditions. In 1995, a fire in Montclair was caused by sparks falling from PG&E's overhead powerlines that were whipped by wind. The sparks ignited a fire on the slope of Shepherd Canyon below Asilomar Drive and destroyed several houses. PG&E admitted fault and accepted liability.

My specific experience with the Montclair service includes two incidents on the PG&E side of the meter. The most recent was arcing at the service drop from the overhead line to my 5953 Zinn Property I was called out to check on electrical problems at the property and discovered neighbors and a fire truck examining the arcing noise. PG&E arrived later and made temporary repairs before planning to return. This was on October 3, 2022. Several months prior, maybe 12-18 month (?) the home was experiencing voltage drops and it was determined that the connection at the home from the service line needed to be repaired. The home is all-electric, with 200- amp service, EV charging electric heat pump and water heating and about 5 kW of solar power so there is often high current flow.

Thus a concern of this area is that many others may be increasing loads due to electrification and the system appears strained. Service upgrades may be needed and undergrounding where feasible should be considered along with covering the conductor.

Thanks you for you r effdorts to improve wildfire safety and harden the system in the Montclair area.

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