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Melissa Semcer, Deputy Director
Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety)
California Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: PG&E's 2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plan – Final Revision Notice
Response (Docket #2023-2025 WMPs)

Dear Deputy Director Semcer:

As a homeowner, I urge you to include and prioritize the Montclair Hills of Oakland in the current undergrounding plan area.

I am a resident of the Oakland Hills. I have lived in this area since 1974. I have witnessed several wildfires in that time. The area where I currently live is just above Shepard Canyon Road. During the fall, when the dry wind sometimes comes from the East, it blows down the Canyon which is covered on both sides by wood houses and dry trees.

Several areas in the East Bay Hills have had their utilities undergrounded. Following the massive 1991 Oakland Firestorm, the area of burned homes had its utilities undergrounded. We would prefer not to wait until after the fire to have a similar result. We would prefer to follow the example set by neighbors slightly higher in the hills about a mile from us—the Piedmont Pines neighborhood, where undergrounding is currently taking place.

My neighbors and I understand that there are limited resources to address the fire risk that utilities have, but PG&E's cost benefit analysis has a fault. It focuses on gross area that can be protected by its undergrounding dollars rather than the risk to life and property. The Oakland Firestorm of 1991 burned only 1,520 acres yet it killed 25 people and destroyed 2,843 single family homes and 437 apartment and condominium units. That concentration of people and structures in a heavily wooded area with old narrow roads was particularly deadly. So even if undergrounding is easier in flat open country than in hilly rocky terrain, 15 miles of undergrounding in the densely populated Oakland Hills can have more benefit than 150 miles of undergrounding in the country. Sometimes what is easy is not the best solution.

As for costs, I for one would be more than willing to contribute my fair share to the undergrounding project if that would tip the balance in PG&E's thinking. The savings in insurance rates would more than justify that, as would the peace of mind when the fall winds blow from the east.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charlie Klinedinst

C: Doug
Brenda Budowski