



City Council

Mike Anderson, Mayor
Susan Candell, Vice Mayor
Steven Bliss, Council Member
Cameron Burks, Council Member
Teresa Gerringer, Council Member

Ms. Marybel Batjer
President, California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

November 19, 2019

RE: PG&E Reimbursement of Costs to the City of Lafayette Related to PSPS Events

Dear Ms. Batjer,

The two recent Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events in October had significant, costly and detrimental impacts on residents and businesses in the City of Lafayette, as well as on City services and essential operations. On behalf of the Lafayette City Council, I am submitting a summary of these costs and request that you direct PG&E to reimburse the City of Lafayette \$26,000 for costs incurred. Additionally, I request that the CPUC require PG&E to reimburse all cities for their costs associated with future PSPS events.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs in Lafayette

Lafayette experienced two PSPS incidents in October impacting over 15,000 residential and commercial customers, some for as many as five days. The power outages resulted in the loss of cell phone and internet services, impacting communications throughout the City. Because of this, gaining access to up-to-date information on the PG&E website was difficult, at best, as it also experienced many blackouts. This left residents feeling frustrated and, frankly, scared. Because of this, cities, including Lafayette, then became responsible for providing alerts to the public – a task that should have been undertaken by PG&E.

The PSPS events had a detrimental impact on our downtown which is mainly comprised of small businesses. Many of the businesses suffered significant losses in revenues and perishable inventory; some are still struggling to return to normal. Businesses also incurred costs renting generators and portable lights so that they could remain open during the PSPS power outages.

During both events, City offices and the Lafayette Community Center lost all power, telephone, email, and internet functions. As a result, these offices were closed to the public and we were unable to provide City services, such as issuing permits, responding to queries, or offering scheduled programs to the public. Since the second event began on a weekend, public works and police personnel were called in to work additional, overtime shifts.

In total, the City of Lafayette incurred \$16,000 in overtime costs and lost \$10,000 in revenues during these PSPS events.

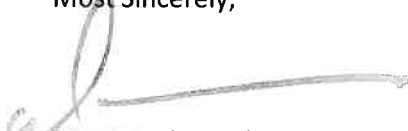
Two Fires Caused by PG&E Power Lines

During the second PSPS event on Sunday, October 27, 2019, two fires broke out in the City of Lafayette caused by downed, live PG&E power lines, prompting an evacuation order to nearly 800 homes. The fire destroyed the Lafayette Tennis Club building and damaged other nearby structures. A Unified Command post was established at the local high school and a nearby elementary school served as the evacuation center. The costs associated with the fires alone are still being calculated. Once these costs are determined, the City will be filing a claim for reimbursement. These fires prompted us to ask, *Why did PG&E not turn off power in the areas of Lafayette where the fires started, while the rest of the City was without electricity, despite knowing that October 27 was going to be one of the windiest days in recent history?*

PG&E has informed us that there may be another PSPS event this week, making it seem that this is the new normal. This is unacceptable and the CPUC should immediately demand the development of a long-term corrective plan from PG&E that will counteract the need for future power shutoffs. The City of Lafayette believes that the CPUC must step in immediately to ensure that these costly power outages cease sooner rather than later.

As the CPUC President and Assigned Commissioner to the rulemaking examining electric utility de-energization (R.18-12-005), you are uniquely situated to have the CPUC order PG&E to reimburse cities for their PSPS-related costs. I ask that you carefully consider the City of Lafayette's request, including developing a cost recovery policy for all cities as part of the PSPS program.

Most Sincerely,



Mayor Mike Anderson

Cc: Governor Newsom
Commissioner Randolph
Commissioner Aceves
Commissioner Rechtschaffen
Commissioner Shiroma
Lee Palmer, CPUC
Navid Paydar, CPUC
William D. Johnson, PG&E
Sumeet Singh, PG&E
Tom Guarino, PG&E
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