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Rio Dell, CA 95562
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cityofriodell.ca.gov*



May 3, 2022

Alice Busching Reynolds, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Request for Assistance with Pacific Gas & Electric Related to Delayed Distribution Upgrades that are Harming Economic Development in a Disadvantaged Community.

Dear President Reynolds,

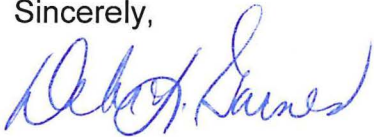
I am writing this letter on behalf of the City of Rio Dell to express extreme concerns over the inaction of Pacific Gas and Electric related to upgrade of substandard electrical distribution and substation facilities. Inaction on this issue is creating real harm to the economic development in the City of Rio Dell and Humboldt County generally.

In just one example, a development of \$4.5 million is being stymied by PG&E's lack of action to provide power. This project has had completed and approved designs since 2019 and would generate over \$44,000.00 annually in direct tax revenue to the City for local services, not to mention the job generation. The developer has reported that PG&E stated recently that no power is currently available and has provided no timeline of when services would be upgraded and provided. This lack of clarity from PG&E risks the developer pulling the project and potentially locating out of this region.

In 2018 representatives of PG&E reported to the City that the company "was in the business of selling power" and represented a timeline of three years to make certain upgrades. Today in 2022, that timeline is completely up in the air and seemingly no progress has been made at all. This is unacceptable. It is further baffling considering that Rio Dell is located just one mile away from one of California's largest green biomass power plants rated at 28 MW with distribution lines running through the community.

We ask that you understand that this is an issue of paramount importance to the City of Rio Dell and no doubt to many other entities and individuals in Humboldt County. We do request a reply to this letter soon that will include actions CPUC will take and/or that CPUC recommends the city take to expedite these important upgrades.

Sincerely,



Debra Garnes, Mayor
City of Rio Dell

Cc: CPUC Commissioners
Patricia K. Poppe, CEO of PG&E
Governor Gavin Newsom
Senator Mike McGuire, Majority Leader State Senate & Rio Dell's Senator
Assembly Member Jim Wood
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Rachel Peterson, CPUC Executive Director