



SAN FRANCISCO GROUP, SIERRA CLUB
85 SECOND STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

March 7, 2011

Honorable David Chiu
President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall
#1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Smart Meters

Dear Supervisor Chiu:

The San Francisco Group, Sierra Club urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to pass an ordinance placing a one-year moratorium on the installation of 'smart meters' by PG&E. Using the city's Precautionary Principle as a guide, members of the San Francisco Group call on the Board to hold hearings on the safety, accuracy, and necessity of wireless meters during that one-year moratorium.

Concerns about this technology have led at least 28 other local or county governments throughout California to formally demand a halt to smart meter installation based on concerns about health, privacy, and accuracy. California Public Utilities Commission's own Division of Ratepayer Advocates has also expressed deep reservations over continuing to install smart meters while the health risks remain unknown. In addition, over 2,000 health-related complaints have formally been lodged with the CPUC.

The concerns of the San Francisco Group are:


- The increase in electromagnetic frequency radiation (EMF), in the absence of FCC standards for long-term exposure or exposure from multiple sources, that these wireless meters will add to the environment;
- The possibility that wireless meters will not save energy and may, in fact, require more energy for production, operation, and disposal;

- The unknown impact that an increase in EMF could have on migrating birds and other wildlife; and,
- Potential interference with radio communications that serve first responders.

In addition to concerns about EMF interference and pollution, Assemblyman Jared Huffman has introduced legislation, AB 37, which would require the CPUC to identify alternatives to smart meters and allow some customers to opt out of them.

Given these concerns, we urge the Board of Supervisors to pass an ordinance immediately to protect the people of San Francisco. These meters are being installed in the Richmond District and the Marina now. The San Francisco Group believes that the City and County of San Francisco has the power to suspend the installation of smart meters through Article XI of the California Constitution and through Public Utilities Code section 2902.

Sincerely,


Becky Evans
Chair, San Francisco Group

CC: members of the Board