



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GROUP

Of The Ventana Chapter

P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

<https://ventana2.sierraclub.org/santacruz/>

e-mail: sierraclubsantacruz@gmail.com

November 12th, 2018

Supervisor Bruce McPherson
701 Ocean St., Suite 500, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Assemblymember Mark Stone
701 Ocean St., Suite 318b, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear County Supervisor McPherson and Assemblymember Stone:

The Sierra Club was informed that the Valley Women's Club (VWC) reached out to you to support their request that PG&E make their Wildfire Safety Program more effective and less destructive.

The VWC calls for PG&E to:

- Provide accurate information about the program, including its environmental assessments and whether the program will actually be effective in reducing and preventing wildfires.
- Explain and then respect the rights of individual property owners and private road associations.
- Abide by all County relevant environmental ordinances, specifically the riparian and erosion control ordinances.
- Improve public safety by adding to the requirements of the Wildfire Safety Program. This will be achieved by requiring that PG&E provide a timetable for replacing bare wires with insulated wires, prioritizing the areas where they next

plan to cut down trees, and eventually replacing bare wires throughout the rural areas. Along with replacing bare wires, the timetable should include replacing old transformers with modern, more reliable and safe transformers. Also included should be metal poles to replace aging wood poles and, most importantly, to install high impedance arc-fault interrupters to ensure that a broken wire will not electrocute anyone or set dry grasses on fire.

We are encouraged by your supportive response to the VWC requests and your actions to ensure that the PG&E Wildfire Safety Program is carried out with the utmost accountability to the community and to the environment.

The Sierra Club wishes to express its strong endorsement of your letter of October 18, 2018 to PG&E CEO and President, Geisha J. Williams, and PG&E Vice President, Gregg L. Lemler.

Sincerely,

Gillian

Gillian Greensite, Chair
Sierra Club, Santa Cruz County Group

