

Hello Council Members,

My name is Jessica Hague, homeowner of 1154 Hudson Avenue in Saint Helena.

I, and fellow homeowners on the 1100 block of Hudson Avenue became aware of PG&E's intention to construct a new, additional 50 to 85 foot tall high voltage transmission line support tower in our neighborhood around May 20th from a PG&E subcontractor who was tasked with evaluating damage resulting from the temporary removal of the existing transmission lines.

In a face to face meeting on Wednesday June 5th with PG&E representative Marty Hunt, it has been confirmed that this new 50 to 85 foot lattice steel tower is planned for installation in my backyard. And, this infrastructure is designed to last for at least 2 generations, well over 150 years. PG&E's work is already underway, and they have also confirmed that they are fast-tracking this project, and expect to complete their work by this Fall.

PG&E Advice letter 5500-E dated March 20 2019 details background and aspects of this project, referred to as the "Fulton-Calistoga 60 kilovolt Power Line Reconductoring Project". This letter was received by Noah Housh and other city, county and state agencies. The protest period for this project lapsed on April 10.

No direct, written notice was provided to affected homeowners on the 1100 block despite the letter indicating specifically that construction will occur along the line that spans our homesites:

(And I quote from Advice Letter 5500-E)

"Once in St. Helena the line travels northeast along Madrona Avenue for approximately 0.4 miles until it reaches Hudson Avenue at which point the line continues southeast along Hudson Avenue for approximately 0.3 miles. **At the intersection of Hudson Avenue and Spring Street the line runs through backyards of a residential area for approximately 0.15 miles.** The line then turns to the northeast and continues for approximately 0.35 miles to an existing structure located approximately 0.15 miles west of the intersection of Charter Oak Avenue with Main Street."

It should be noted, **this .15 mile, or 800 foot span of high voltage transmission line is the only section that spans residential homesites in its entire 12 miles. Alarmingly, construction of the new tower along this span is not disclosed in this letter.**

As city officials, this should raise significant concern that other new towers and construction plans may be developed by PG&E within city limits that have not yet been disclosed. More Saint Helena residents, and homeowners may be blindsided, as we were.

PG&E is currently clear-cutting forested land with total lack of regard for property rights or the negative effects on the landowners.

PG&E is seeking to improve the high voltage lines on the basis of safety. They are hosting informational sessions throughout Napa Valley to educate residents on wildfire risks with their “Community Wildfire Safety Program”. Meanwhile, they have failed to consider the safest alternatives for Saint Helena and its residents.

The safest alternative is to remove high voltage lines from residential backyards – this line spans 800 feet over nearly a dozen homesites. To reiterate: this 800 foot span is the only section that spans residential homesites in its entire 12 miles. The line crosses backyards, decks, in close proximity to rooflines. It is 20 feet from my backdoor and less for my neighbors whose houses are set further back on their lots. It does not span a rear fence line as would be standard.

We are seeking full disclosure from PG&E, the time to consider better, safer alternatives, including **undergrounding the line** for the 800 feet that it crosses homesites on Hudson Avenue.

We are seeking advocacy and action from the City of Saint Helena. Construction of a new 50 to 85 foot tower will have permanent, unrecoverable and negative impact on our property values, and the safety and character of our neighborhood for generations.

Today, I am asking you to reach consensus vote to send the Public Comment Letter to the California Public Utilities Commission. I see this as an appropriate first step to reach full disclosure of PG&E’s fast-tracked plans for Saint Helena. Halting

construction will allow time for full disclosure, and to consider appropriate alternatives. An installation designed to last 150 years should warrant time to evaluate its appropriateness and safety.

I implore you to unify with other local city and county agencies, who are now representing themselves with legal counsel at CPUC proceedings.

I implore you investigate and file to be a party in CPUC proceedings on the issues presented here. Please, get a seat at the CPUC table, in order to properly represent Saint Helena's concerns.
