

1 ~~[Accountability for California Safety Certificate Issuance for PG&E's Outages]~~

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3 **Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom to halt the issuance of a Safety Certificate**
4 **until Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) is and the California Public Utilities**
5 **Commission (CPUC) held to hold PG&E accountable for its actions.**

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7 WHEREAS, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has a long history of negligent
8 actions including contaminating groundwater in Hinkley, California; 2010 San Bruno pipeline
9 explosion; numerous wildfires from 2017-2022; and

10 WHEREAS, On December 20, 2025, Approximately 5,000 impacted customers in the
11 Richmond District and Civic Center were without power for at least 72 hours before the
12 Christmas holiday, and subsequent unplanned power outages have continued to impact small
13 businesses and residents, forcing businesses to suddenly shudder during one of the busiest
14 seasons of the year; and

15 ~~WHEREAS, In 2017, while PG&E was placed on a five year felony probation following~~
16 ~~the deadly 2010 San Bruno explosion, requiring safety reforms to rehabilitate the utility, PG&E~~
17 ~~was blamed for more than 30 wildfires that wiped out more than 23,000 homes and~~
18 ~~businesses, devastated XXX acres, and killed more than 100 people; and~~

19 WHEREAS, On January 19, 2022, U.S. District Judge William Alsup, charged with
20 overseeing PG&E's probation felony, stated in his order when the utility's five-year probation
21 ended, "[...] PG&E has gone on a crime spree – setting at least 31 wildfires, burning nearly 1.5
22 million acres, destroying nearly 24,000 structures and killing 113 Californians – and will
23 emerge from probation as a continuing menace to California"; and

24 ~~WHEREAS, On July 12, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed State Assembly Bill~~
25 ~~4054 (2019), authored by Assembly Member Chris Holden, which was enacted to reduce~~

1 utility-ignited wildfire investments through mandated utility safety reforms, to protect utility
2 customers from rate increases, and required electrical corporations to seek a Safety
3 Certificate, which requires the corporation must have an approved wildfire mitigation plan and
4 that the corporation is in good standing by implementing the findings of its most recent safety
5 culture assessment; and

6 WHEREAS, A Safety Certification is valid for the 12 consecutive months and all
7 electrical corporations must renew its Safety Certificate for the following 12 months 30 days
8 prior to the expiration of a certification;

9 WHEREAS, Despite PG&E's failure to maintain and update its equipment causing
10 devastating wildfires including the 2018 Camp Fire, the 2019 Kincade Fire, 2020 Zogg Fire,
11 2021 Dixie Fire, and resulted in the company was being charged with civic and criminal
12 actions from these fires, the utility's Safety Certificates were approved every year starting in
13 2019 through 2025; and

14 WHEREAS, On January 29, 2019, PG&E filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection as
15 it faced more than \$30 billion of legal claims brought against the company for its role in
16 causing California wildfires; and

17 WHEREAS, On July 1, 2020, Governor Newsom signed State Senate Bill 350 (2020),
18 authored by State Senator Jerry Hill, which created Golden State Energy, a non-profit public
19 benefit corporation to acquire PG&E if the company failed to emerge from bankruptcy or have
20 its California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued license revoked by failing to operate
21 its gas and electricity services in a safe and reliable manner; and

22 WHEREAS, On January 22, 2022, Despite PG&E being found responsible for the 2021
23 Dixie Fire, which burned over 963,000 acres and is recorded as the largest single wildfire in
24 California history, the Office of Energy Infrastructure and Safety quietly approved the
25 company's Safety Certification; and

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~~WHEREAS, In the California State Auditor Report published in March 2022: “Electrical System Safety – California’s Oversight of the Efforts by Investor-Owned Utilities to Mitigate the Risk of Wildfires Needs Improvement”, Acting California State Auditor Michael Tilden found that the Energy Safety Office’s mitigation plan approval process and the CPUC’s audit process do not hold utilities sufficiently accountable; and~~

~~WHEREAS, On July 19, 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution number 326-44, which urged Governor Gavin Newsom to halt the issuance of a Safety Certificate to PG&E until the corporation is held accountable for its actions; and~~

WHEREAS, On March 22, 2024, in the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety published a safety culture assessment for PG&E and identified four recommendations, including “PG&E should strengthen its safety communications by improving safety-related communication [...]”; and

WHEREAS, On December 20, 2025, a fire broke out at a PG&E substation at 8th Street and Mission Street, causing a power outage across San Francisco and affecting approximately 130,000 customers, its cause still under review; and

WHEREAS, The substation at 8th Street and Mission Street also had a fire on December 20, 2003, and a similar fire in 1996, and CPUC regulators noted that PG&E had failed to immediately alert fire officials about the 2003 fire, and the company failed to follow its own internal recommendations stemming from the initial 1996 fire; and

WHEREAS, During winter storms in 2023, the failure of PG&E equipment caused multiple long-duration outages impacting San Francisco customers throughout the City, worsened by inaccurate or absent communications from PG&E; and

WHEREAS, PG&E’s ongoing, preventable disasters ~~and~~ failure to upgrade and improve its infrastructure, and failure to communicate effectively with customers and local

1 ~~governments regarding outages and other disasters~~ prove demonstrate the company cannot
2 deliver electricity to its customers in a safe, reliable, affordable manner; now therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 urges the Governor ~~and the CPUC Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety~~ to hold PG&E
5 accountable for its responsibility to maintain ~~their~~ its equipment and infrastructure needed to
6 provide the safe and reliable service that its customers pay for; and, be it

7 ~~FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San~~
8 ~~Francisco urges the Governor to halt the issuance of safety certificate in 2026 and activate a~~
9 ~~study of Golden State Energy given repeated serious failures of PG&E to operate its gas and~~
10 ~~electricity services in a safe and reliable manner; and, be it~~

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
12 Francisco hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the
13 office of Governor Newsom and the ~~CPUC Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety~~; and be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
15 re-affirms its support for the City's efforts to acquire the PG&E assets necessary to provide
16 clean, green and affordable electric power delivery and service in San Francisco; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
18 Francisco re-affirms its commitment to the key priorities and conditions identified in this
19 subject Resolution and prior policy resolutions; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
21 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit this Resolution to our State Legislative
22 Delegation and the Governor's Office upon final adoption.

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