

1 [Accountability for California Safety Certificate Issuance for PG&E]

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

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 5,000 impacted customers in the Richmond District and
10 Civic Center were without power for at least 72 hours before the holiday, and subsequent
11 unplanned power outages have continued to disrupt small businesses and residents, forcing
12 businesses to suddenly shutter during one of the busiest seasons of the year; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2017, while PG&E was placed on a five-year felony probation following
14 the deadly 2010 San Bruno explosion, requiring safety reforms to rehabilitate the utility, they
15 were culpable for more than 30 wildfires that wiped out more than 23,000 homes and
16 businesses, devastated nearly 1.5 million acres of land, and killed more than 100 people; and

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

22 WHEREAS, On July 12, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed State Assembly
23 Bill 1054 (2019), authored by Assembly Member Chris Holden, on file with the Clerk of the
24 Board of Supervisors in File No.260031, which is hereby declared to be a part of this
25 Resolution as if set forth fully herein, which was enacted to reduce utility-ignited wildfire

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, On July 1, 2020, Governor Newsom signed State Senate Bill 350 (2020),
17 authored by State Senator Jerry Hill, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File
18 No.260031, which is hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein,
19 which created Golden State Energy, a non-profit public benefit corporation to acquire PG&E if
20 the company failed to emerge from bankruptcy or have its California Public Utilities
21 Commission (CPUC) issued license revoked by failing to operate its gas and electricity
22 services in a safe and reliable manner; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, On July 19, 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 326-
9 22, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 220395, which is hereby
10 declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein, which urged Governor Gavin
11 Newsom to halt the issuance of a Safety Certificate to PG&E until the corporation was held
12 accountable for its actions; and

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

17 WHEREAS, On December 20, 2025, a fire broke out at a PG&E substation at 8th and
18 Mission Streets, causing a power outage across San Francisco and affecting approximately
19 130,000 customers, and its cause is still under review; and

20 WHEREAS, The substation at 8th and Mission Streets also had a fire on December 20,
21 2003, and a similar fire in 1996, and CPUC regulators noted that PG&E had failed to
22 immediately alert fire officials about the 2003 fire, and the company failed to follow its own
23 internal recommendations stemming from the initial 1996 fire; and

1 WHEREAS, PG&E's ongoing, preventable disasters and failure to upgrade and
2 improve its infrastructure prove the company cannot deliver electricity to its customers in a
3 safe, reliable, affordable manner; now therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
5 urges the Governor and Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety to hold PG&E accountable for
6 its responsibility to maintain their equipment and infrastructure; 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 Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety; and be it

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

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

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