Mary Gourley, City Clerk and Asst City Manager

Larry McLaughlin, Attorney and City Manager

Dante Del Prete, Public Works Superintendent Patrick Slater, Mayor Neysa Hinton, Vice-Mayor Diana Rich, Council Member Una Glass, Council Member Sarah Gurney, Council Member

Received

SEP 2 0 2022

City of Sebastopol Admin Services- Finance

Subject: Smart meters at Burbank Heights and Orchards

We, the signatories of the attached petition, are a group of concerned residents at Burbank Heights and Orchards, located at 7777 Bodega Ave in Sebastopol. We are writing to you for your support in preventing the resumption of PG&E's installation of smart meters on this property.

According to PG&E's own notes, there has been a permanent smart meter opt-out in continuous effect at Burbank Heights and Orchards for over twelve years, since 1/1/2010. This was in effect until the week of July 25, 2022, when another entry was allegedly made which voided the "permanent" opt-out of smart meter installation here.

This August, 2022, PG&E sent letters to residents at Burbank Heights and Orchards informing them that gas and electric smart meters would be installed on the property at the end of September. In this letter, we were informed that we could "opt-out" for a fee of \$75 and \$10 extra per month for three years. Even the reduced charges for "Care" recipients do not eliminate the reality that this fee constitutes extortion, which we are not willing to, and should not have to, pay.

We respectfully request the Sebastopol City Council's assistance in:

- reinstating the permanent ban on smart gas and electric meters on this property, and
- preventing the installation of smart meters
- charging no opt-out fees

In Section CHW 4 of the 2016 Sebastopol General Plan, Sebastopol made a commitment to "minimize community exposure to unsafe electromagnetic fields." In 2013, Sebastopol passed a moratorium on smart meters in the city limits. We are only asking the City Council to live up to the promises contained in these documents.

## **About Burbank Heights and Orchards**

This is an affordable housing community of 208 low-income seniors. There are 198 apartments, each of which has its own electric and gas meter. In the Heights, banks of 12 to 24 meters are positioned on the

exterior walls of each building. In the two apartment buildings of the Orchards, with a total of 60 apartments, One building has 33 meters on the wall in the main entry area where where many people gather and pass through.

Smart meters emit pulsed EMF radiation. EMF emissions can travel many feet, spreading in all directions through walls and buildings. In high-density residences such as ours, with hundreds of meters in close proximity, people who opt out can not be assured that they will not be exposed to other smart meters installed.

## Health Issues

Peer-reviewed studies show increasing scientific evidence of the negative effects of low-level EMF emissions on living things. Children and elders are most vulnerable. These emissions affect heart rhythms, nervous systems, medical implants and much more.

Because this is a senior community, many of our residents are elderly, already experiencing health problems, and want to avoid exposure to anything that can cause additional harm.

The Americans With Disabilities Act includes electromagnetic hypersensitivity as a recognized disability. A number of Burbank Heights & Orchards residents suffer from this disability. Most residents at Burbank Heights and Orchards are not in a position economically to move elsewhere to avoid negative health effects from the EMFs emitted by smart meters.

## Conclusion

At this time, we have collected 111 signatures from the Burbank Heights and Orchards' residents who oppose installation of smart meters. We are attaching a copy of these signed petitions to this letter being hand-delivered to Mary Gourley.

For the many reasons described in this letter, we are petitioning the Sebastopol City Council to help us retain the ban on the installation of smart meters put in place January 1, 2010, and to prevent the installation of smart meters here against the will of the many concerned BHO residents listed on the petition.

We are coordinating with other high-density, affordable housing complexes in Sebastopol (Fircrest Senior Mobilehome Park, Colonial Manor, Petaluma Avenue Homes, etc.). It is our intention to stop the installation of smart meters in these locations and we are committed to doing whatever makes this possible.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Schwartzberg, Resident

Concerned Residents Opposed to Smart Meters at Burbank Heights and Orchards

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Rose Diamond			9/13/22
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