



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PG&E VIOLATING STATE LAW WITH MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO DERAIL MARIN CLEAN ENERGY

*Marin Energy Authority files complaint with CPUC charging PG&E with
scare-mongering and illegal threats*

SAN RAFAEL—PG&E Corp. is violating state law by pouring millions of dollars into a special interest lobbying group that is aggressively seeking to kill a local program designed to provide residents and businesses with twice the renewable energy as the giant utility for the same price, according to a complaint the Marin Energy Authority has filed with the California Public Utilities Commission.

“The law is clear, PG&E is breaking the law and we are requesting that the CPUC tell them to stop,” said Dawn Weisz, interim Director of the Marin Energy Authority.

According to the complaint, PG&E is required by both state law and CPUC regulation to “cooperate fully” in the formation of local energy programs like Marin Clean Energy. However, the complaint continues, “PG&E has demonstrated no intent to cooperate fully” and has engaged in “hostile marketing, threats, lawsuits and misrepresentations” in its bid to quash Marin Clean Energy.

PG&E has provided at least \$8.5 million to the special interest lobbying group, known as Coalition for Reliable and Affordable Electricity, according to 2008 IRS tax forms for the organization. Under the name Common Sense, the lobbying group has sent more than a half-dozen glossy mail pieces and staged other activities to discourage Marin residents from participating in Marin Clean Energy. The group is waging a similar effort in San Francisco, where City Attorney Dennis Herrera filed the original complaint against PG&E.

“PG&E is waging a campaign of misinformation to protect its monopoly hold on local power and deny customers a safe, affordable and reliable energy alternative that will double their renewable power,” Weisz said. “PG&E can’t come close to offering what Marin Clean Energy is offering and so it’s trying to scare customers into staying with them.”

Weisz said that in addition to PG&E’s scare-mongering campaign with customers, the investor-owned utility has bullied local public agencies to block them from working with the Marin Energy Authority to launch the Marin Clean Energy program.

The complaint to the CPUC charges that PG&E has used threats and other illegal or inappropriate tactics in an attempt to discourage both the county and the Marin Municipal Water District from helping the Marin Energy Authority secure start-up funding it needs until customer revenue begins arriving in June.

The complaint cites testimony by Marin County Counsel Pat Faulkner to the Board of Supervisors in February, in which Faulkner testified that, “I really hate to be put in the position...of passing on [PG&E’s] threats, but I just wanted to let you know that Chris Warner, their General Counsel, told me last week that they intend NOT to sign a distribution agreement with MEA...and so they’re going to use that as one of their ways to try and stop this.”

No date has been set by the CPUC for responding to the complaint. Both San Francisco and the Marin Energy Authority have requested that the CPUC expedite its response.

“We are hopeful the CPUC will address this quickly,” Weisz said.

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Marin Clean Energy is a program of the Marin Energy Authority, a publicly approved joint powers authority composed of County of Marin and the cities of San Rafael, Mill Valley, Fairfax, Sausalito, San Anselmo, Tiburon and Belvedere. For more information about Marin Clean Energy, visit www.MarinCleanEnergy.info.