

November 7, 2019
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Dear Mayor Arreguin:

I am concerned about PG&E. Cutting my power last month while still managing to start the Kincadee fire brought them to mind. Power distribution is fundamentally ill suited to private management with competition minimal, demand curves steep and the public costs of errors broad and even deadly. This company has a long history of cutting maintenance corners and wreaking public havoc while paying top dollar for its management and lobbying teams (eg Prop 16) and charging its customers similarly. Cheap maintenance has caused the contamination of Hinckley's drinking water, the explosion of a pipeline in San Bruno and the incineration of Paradise. Current spending is only by order of Judge Alsup overseeing their second bankruptcy. As Governor Newsom points out the latest management team knows Wall Street but not California utilities while the new chief executive Mr Johnson has managed to extract 44 million for one day at one utility and to destroy a nuclear reactor by cutting corners for another.

Thank you for signing a letter pressing the CPUC to move ownership to the customers.

I am very proud to be a Berkeley resident and a large part of that derives from our sensible progressive government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson