



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

Hill Helps Ratepayers Fight PG&E

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has set aside \$200 million as a down payment on fines that the utility expects to be assessed as a result of three separate investigations by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) into the 2010 fatal gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno. Currently, all fines in CPUC penalty proceedings are required by statute to be deposited into the state's general fund. PG&E has proposed that ratepayers pay 95% of the cost, estimated at more than \$5 billion for the first phase of upgrading its gas transmission pipeline. The cost of the second phase is estimated to be as much as \$9 billion. Assemblyman Jerry Hill is introducing legislation to offset costs to ratepayers. Under Assembly Bill 478, which Hill introduces on May 29, CPUC will apply the money that PG&E is fined to the first phase of the pipeline installation project, saving ratepayers at least \$660 million. Info: Aurelio Rojas, Communications Director for Assemblyman Hill, 916-319-2019 or 916-747-3199 (cell).

L.A. Bans Plastic Bags

“Los Angeles has become the biggest city in the country to ban disposable plastic bags. When the ban goes into effect, one in four Californians will be living bag-free. Bags are now banned in 48 California communities — thanks in no small part to your support.

For this crucial vote in L.A., our outreach staff helped mobilize more than 10,000 Angelenos to send messages to City Council, and volunteers generated more than 1,000 phone calls to council members. The L.A. Times ran an editorial supporting our cause. And before the vote, we held a rally at City Hall and then testified at the hearing, hand-delivering thousands of bag ban petitions. With grassroots power and a lot of hard work, we were able to push past the chemical industry and its expensive lobbyists and misinformation campaigns. We can use this momentum to ban the bags statewide, but it's not going to be easy. The American Chemistry Council spent millions in 2010 to defeat a statewide ban, and we can only expect more of the same. Already, industry groups are making noises about a potential lawsuit in L.A., challenging the bag ban. These guys just won't give up — but neither will we. And with you on our side, I know that we can win a statewide bag ban for California — keeping millions of pieces of plastic trash away from our beautiful coast, the Pacific Ocean, and its wildlife. If you want to keep the momentum going, you can send a message to Governor Jerry Brown today, asking him to support a statewide ban.” (Dan Jacobson, Legislative Director, EnvironmentCalifornia.org)

Cannabis Wellness Center

In the latest installment of PCT 26's award-winning TV show Wavelength, genial host Ian Butler interviews Archie and Goldie Judan from the Cannabis Wellness Center, Pacifica's first medical cannabis collective (thecannabiswellnesscenter.com). The program airs Monday, June 4 at 6:30 p.m. on PCT, Comcast cable channel 26. You also can catch the show online anytime by clicking vimeo.com/channels/wavelength

Our Beaches Ace the Test

Heal the Bay's annual survey of 650 West Coast beaches tests for bacteria and pollution seeping into coastal waters from sewage plants, industry, and urban runoff. Pacifica's beaches scored straight A's. So did several other beaches on the coastside and bayshore. See the full Beach Report Card at brc.healthebay.org.

Inner Ediot

Was this another one of those darn collegiate pranks? “Michaela Shunick, 22, was last seen May 19 leaving a house in a neighborhood popular with students on a bicycle.” (Chronicle News Services, May 27)

Tooth Truth

About age 6, a child's so-called milk teeth are replaced by 32 adult teeth: eight incisors, four canines, eight premolars, and 12 molars — four of which are called wisdom teeth. (Ben Schott, miscellanies.info)

Siteseer

- Check out this cool cosmic zoom: htwins.net/scale2
- Bay Area steam trains, Niles Canyon Railway: ncry.org

Swami Sez

“If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to.” (Dorothy Parker)

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