



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**FAIR CALIFORNIA CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION FROM PG&E ON HOUSING ENERGIZATION CRISIS**

*A diverse coalition, accompanied by local electeds, is gathering at City Hall to put pressure on PG&E over its contribution to worsening the housing crisis by delaying new developments.*

**San Francisco, CA**—This **Friday, March 1st**, FAIR California, a diverse coalition comprising of housing, small businesses, ratepayers, consumers, workers, equity, and environmental groups, will host a press conference on the Goodlett Steps of **San Francisco City Hall, from 10:30-11:30 am** to demand the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) prioritize the energization of new housing developments. The Coalition’s demonstration will feature speakers that include elected officials and housing advocacy leaders, such as State Senator Scott Wiener, San Francisco Mayor London Breed, San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu, Laura Foote, Executive Director for YIMBY Action, and emceed by Corey Smith, Executive Director of the Housing Action Coalition (HAC). Notable attendees also include San Francisco Supervisor Myrna Melgar, Mercy Housing Executive Director Doug Shoemaker, and Mission Housing Executive Director Sam Moss.

The FAIR California coalition (FAIR CA) argues that PG&E’s protracted process for connecting new developments to the electricity grid significantly hinders efforts to improve housing availability. The coalition recognizes delays in energization hamper the efforts of developers and prospective residents, further exacerbating the housing crisis. The demonstration organized by FAIR CA seeks to shed light on these challenges and catalyze a transition toward more efficient utility service practices.

**Corey Smith**, Executive Director of the Housing Action Coalition, highlighted the impact of these delays, stating, “The housing crisis requires urgent action, and yet, needless barriers hinder our progress in utility connections.”

**Laura Foote**, Executive Director of YIMBY Action, echoed this sentiment, saying, “Ensuring new homes have timely access to power is essential, and PG&E needs to align its operations with the state’s housing needs.”

In response to this urgent issue, FAIR California coalition members—which include HAC and YIMBY Action—are pushing for faster energization of new housing projects and developments. FAIR California urges the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to implement regulatory measures that ensure accountability and for PG&E to engage more responsibly and transparently with housing developers. The coalition recognizes the implementation of legislation such as AB50 and SB410 as key drivers in reforming utility connection practices.

“Our state, our region, and our City are facing a severe housing shortage, which means all barriers impacting the development of housing must be addressed,” said **San Francisco Mayor London Breed**. “In San Francisco, we are changing our laws and lowering fees to deliver homes faster and we are continuing to support changes to state law to build more housing across California. The CPUC and PG&E must work to identify and implement solutions now to ensure much-needed housing is not sitting empty.”

“California is experiencing a severe housing shortage, and we can no longer tolerate massive delays to new homes due to PG&E failing to connect them to the grid in a timely manner,” said **Senator Scott Wiener**. “We must work together to hold PG&E accountable and ensure people have the homes they so desperately need.”

FAIR California coalition members found that some residential projects, including affordable housing sites, were delayed by PG&E’s inability to provide power in a timely manner. These delays result in increased costs for developers, with some expenses accounting for an additional \$10,000 per day and uncertainty for potential residents seeking immediate housing. As of last December, approximately 540 PG&E customers were waiting on transformers, with about 40% of those located in the Bay Area.

"I am eager to convene with FAIR California and housing community leaders to work with the CPUC and PG&E to implement solutions that will make a difference in the lives of Californians who are struggling," said **Assemblymember Phil Ting**.

“PG&E has spent years trying to eliminate competition and obstruct San Francisco’s efforts to power our own municipal services using our own clean power,” said **City Attorney David Chiu**. “Now, their unwillingness to provide power has caused \$40 million in cost overruns for city housing projects. My office, along with other city and state leaders, will persist in holding PG&E accountable for their actions.”

This demonstration is not the first time FAIR CA has publicly called out PG&E’s practices; the coalition rallied last November against the utility’s rate increase that was implemented at the start of this year. The coalition was founded on the principles of accountability and transparency and remains committed to addressing issues that impact the diverse communities it represents.

### **About FAIR California**

The Fire Accountability Infrastructure for Ratepayers (FAIR California) is a coalition of organizations representing workers, small businesses, environmental advocates, consumers, renters, affordability advocates, and older adults. We share a common demand for greater accountability from large, for-profit electric and gas utilities amid rapidly rising energy bills that severely burden residents and small businesses throughout California.

To learn more about FAIR California, please visit [FAIRCA.org](https://FAIRCA.org).

If you would like to speak to Sam Moss, Executive Director of Mission Housing Dev. Corp. for specific examples of these failures, please contact him at [smoss@missionhousing.org](mailto:smoss@missionhousing.org) or (415) 350-2024.