

**From:** [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Cc:** [Jon Holtzman](#); [Sasser, Gloriann](#); [Winnacker, David](#); [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Question over concern about PG&E use of herbicides for vegetation management and fire mitigation  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 11:30:28 AM

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Hi Directors,  
Please see correspondence received.  
~Marcia

Marcia Holbrook, District Secretary/District Clerk  
Moraga-Orinda Fire District  
1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556  
Phone: (925) 258-4501  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheri Smith <ssmith@cityoforinda.org>  
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 9:10 AM  
To: Amy Worth <[REDACTED]>; Darlene Gee <[REDACTED]>; Dennis Fay <[REDACTED]>; Inga Miller <[REDACTED]>; Nick Kosla <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: David Biggs <[REDACTED]>; Holbrook, Marcia <[REDACTED]>; Winnacker, David <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Question over concern about PG&E use of herbicides for vegetation management and fire mitigation

Mayor & Councilmembers, Please communication below.

Marcia, Can you forward this to your MOFD Boardmembers as well? Thanks, Sheri

-----Original Message-----

From: Donna Johnke <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 5:50 PM  
To: Sheri Smith <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Question over concern about PG&E use of herbicides for vegetation management and fire mitigation

CAUTION: This email is from an external source. Be careful when clicking links or opening attachments!

Dear City Council Members and MOFD Board Members and Staff,

Thank you for your continued service, and dedication in helping Orinda prepare and defend our community from wildfire. Residents of Lost Valley, Valley View, Don Gabriel and Crestview neighborhoods border a large parcel of property owned by PG&E. Historically, this parcel was used to board horses, who's grazing kept the grasses under control. However, in January 2022, PG&E contracted a crew to apply a combination of herbicides (Milestone, Telar, Garlon-A, and Round-up) to the entire 10 acre parcel, as well as areas adjacent to the substation. Some active ingredients in these chemicals may potentially cause harm to the environment through drift, and runoff.

The Moraga Substation borders Moraga Creek, which feeds into the Upper San Leandro Watershed. Drainage from the PG&E properties funnel directly into Moraga Creek. Much of the creek is riddled with debris remaining from the tree and brush removal that has occurred over the last several years. Now the creek habitat and our water supply is further threatened by an annual application of herbicide to the area. The entrance into Lost Valley used to be quite inviting with trees, grazing horses, and picturesque hillsides. Now it just looks like a wasteland. I have included pictures showing the condition of the area.

I have reached out to the Department of Fish and Wildlife to understand if any violations could be occurring but have yet to receive a response. Another neighbor has reached out to the EPA, and has received a complaint file #. Mr. Gordon Graham, Fuels Mitigation Manager for MOFD kindly returned my call and stated that currently there are no restrictions as to what methods PG&E uses to manage its fuels mitigation responsibilities. I can't help but mention that the City of Orinda, Orinda GHAD, EBRPD, EBMUD effectively maintain their open space by use of controlled burns, grazing animals such as sheep and goats, or ground clearance.

Our neighbors are concerned! Here is our question:

What can the City of Orinda, or MOFD do to encourage PG&E to consider a more sustainable practice of fuels mitigation to the areas surrounding our neighborhoods?

Our neighbors and the earth thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna Johnke



**From:** [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Cc:** [Jon Holtzman](#); [Winnacker, David](#); [Holbrook, Marcia](#); [Sasser, Gloriann](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pictures of the effected areas at the PG&E Substation that should have been attached to my e-mail  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 3:14:02 PM

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Hi Directors,  
Please see the below correspondence.  
Marcia

Marcia Holbrook, District Secretary/District Clerk  
**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556  
Phone: (925) 258-4501  
[REDACTED]  
Fax: (925) 376-1699



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**From:** Sheri Smith <ssmith@cityoforinda.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 3:02 PM  
**To:** Amy Worth [REDACTED]; Darlene Gee <[REDACTED]>; Dennis Fay [REDACTED]; Inga Miller [REDACTED]; Nick Kosla [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** David Biggs [REDACTED]; Holbrook, Marcia <mholbrook@mofd.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Pictures of the effected areas at the PG&E Substation that should have been attached to my e-mail

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**From:** Donna Johnke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 9:22 AM  
**To:** Sheri Smith [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pictures of the effected areas at the PG&E Substation that should have been attached to my e-mail

**CAUTION: This email is from an external source. Be careful when clicking links or opening attachments!**

Sherie, thank you for your confirmation that my e-mail was received. Would you please forward these two pictures to the City Council and MOFD members. I don't know why they dropped off, but I feel that pictures can speak volumes. Thank you so much and I apologize for the extra step.  
Donna Johnke

[REDACTED]  
Orinda, Ca 94563



