From:	Sandi Maurer
To:	City Council
Subject:	Smart water meters purchase is a huge mistake: Dec 7 agenda item #12
Date:	Monday, December 06, 2021 2:57:31 PM

Dear City Council and Staff,

We are greatly disappointed in the council's decision to purchase smart water meters. Essentially you are rebranding Sebastopol as a smart tech city. We believe this is a huge mistake and one that will be harmful to the city and to public and environmental health. This is a decision that cannot be undone for many years. Importantly, this purchase goes against Sebastopol's General Plan Community Health and Wellness Goals to minimize EMF's, including community wide opt out of public utility smart meters.

Installing 3000 transmitting meters is a major new EMF radiation project. Current science and independent technical specifications have not been provided or considered. An environmental review pursuant to CEQA did not happen. When the technology needs an upgrade it'll switch to 5G millimeter waves, which scientists are warning against. People with EHS could be forced to move. This decision opens the door for PG&E to come back into our neighborhoods and install more smart meters, something the city had defended against.

We ask you to please reconsider this purchase. Find another way to raise the revenue the city needs, Smart water meters will not save water and will not help climate change.

Goal CHW 4: Minimize Community Exposure to Unsafe Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

Policy CHW 4-1: Consider professional, science-based, and medically-sound information regarding EMF radiation from new electrical transmission lines and substations when making land use decisions.

Policy CHW 4-2: Minimize unsafe EMF radiation levels near sensitive areas such as schools, hospitals, playgrounds, high density residential, and libraries when planning for electrical transmission facilities repair and new construction.

Policy CHW 4-3: Promote community education and awareness on EMF health information and stay abreast of current research and regulations.

Policy CHW 4-4: Continue to regulate the location, when legally viable, and appearance of telecommunications and electrical facilities.

Actions in Support of Goal CHW 4

Action CHW 4a: Explore programs and legal remedies available to the City in order to reduce unsafe EMF exposure to the greatest extent allowed by State and federal law.

Action CHW 4b: Continue to implement, and periodically update as necessary, the City's Telecommunications Ordinance in order to reduce EMF levels within Sebastopol, while maintaining consistency with state and federal law.

Action CHW 4c: Review siting opportunities for substantial EMF facilities that will reduce or eliminate community exposure to unsafe EMF to the greatest extent feasible.

Action CHW 4d: Advocate that all new major electrical transmission projects and telecommunications facilities evaluate EMF as part of the project's environmental review pursuant to CEQA.

Action CHW 4e: Request from PG&E and wireless telecommunications facilities providers, public disclosure of existing and proposed electrical transmission and wireless telecommunications facilities projects in the vicinity of Sebastopol and their anticipated EMF levels in the Sebastopol Planning Area.

Action CHW 4f: Continue to monitor best practices and approaches taken by other communities to limit unsafe exposure to EMF.

Action CHW 4g: Maintain data regarding the location, size, strength, and EMF levels of major cell and radio towers, public power facilities, including transmission and distribution lines, and other substantial public or community EMF sources in the Sebastopol Planning Area, to the extent that data and information is available.

Action CHW 4h: Support efforts to approach and encourage the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to allow the City to opt out of public utility wireless data transmission systems (such as smart meters).

Sandi Maurer
Director, EMF Safety Network
www.emfsafetynetwork.org
Save Lives, Save Nature, Reduce EMFs