

**From:** [Paul-Andre Schabracq](mailto:Paul-Andre.Schabracq)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](mailto:Mary.Gourley)  
**Subject:** Re: Smart Water Meters  
**Date:** Monday, December 06, 2021 5:51:46 PM

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Hello Mary,  
Please place into the public record for Item 12 on the Tuesday December 7, CC Agenda.  
With my best wishes for the holidays,  
Paul-André

On Dec 6, 2021, at 3:23 PM, Paul-Andre Schabracq <[pas8@comcast.net](mailto:pas8@comcast.net)> wrote:

Dear Mayor Glass and Council Members,  
Please do not approve the proposed purchase of smart water meters.  
The water rate increase of 4% per year for 15 years has been inadequately discussed by Council. Public awareness of this is limited. The proposed water rate increase could be readily implemented without going through a TELPA for smart meters.

In addition, the proposed smart meter acquisition is **wholly inconsistent with the City's General Plan** policies and actions below:

**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).

**Consider the following facts in support of denying approval of the TELPA smart meter acquisition proposal:**

- No independent verifiable technical assessments have been provided to the public identifying the intensity (microwatts per square meter) and frequency of microwave radiation generated by these smart water meters.
- The process leading to this decision has been deeply flawed: Initially the City stated that these meters would be manually read. City consultants then distributed a survey which was rife with egregious methodological errors and deliberate obfuscation intended deliver the desired results while providing scant information about smart water meters. Nonetheless approximately half the respondents were opposed or undecided.
- This proposal was sold on the basis of purported energy conservation, yet insufficient supporting information was provided about the entire project's energy audit namely: the embedded energy in the construction, transport of these smart meters; the energy used to recharge their batteries; their maintenance; and the disposal of 3,000 existing water meters.
- The proposed smart meters will communicate using the cellular 4G system and will upgrade to 5G whenit becomes avaiable. Peer reviewed scientific studies have shown 5G microwave radiation is harmful to public health.
- There was been no CEQA analysis of the new technology which has been

scientifically documented to generate adverse health impacts. It remains unknown whether smart meters would contribute to an increase or decrease to greenhouse gas emission.

- And finally, Sebastopol has taken the position for many years opposing the proliferation of smart meters through negotiations with PG&E giving individual property owners the ability to opt out of smart meters. Adopting smart water meters would provide an open door for PG&E to eliminate this opt out which has been popular with many Sebastopol residents, and in particular those who are electrosensitive (a condition recognized by the ADA).

Respectfully,  
Paul-André Schabracq  
Urban & Environmental Planner