



Dear Fellow Rural Caucus Members (and Allies), I am very excited about our upcoming joint meeting with the Environmental Caucus on March 5th, *very* early, Saturday morning, March 5. The focus is on **PG&E as a Cautionary Tale: Part I on The People vs. PG&E** with four top notch speakers to discuss the utility's standing legally, and Part 2 on **PG&E vs. Solar** with a panel discussion on solutions.

Amazingly, Pacific Gas and Electric Co emerged from five years of probation last month, despite the judge's opinion that the company is a "continuing menace". Just two days later, the company walked back into criminal court in Sonoma County on charges of allegedly sparking the 2019 Kincadee, including five felonies and environmental crimes due to wildfire smoke. Now, PG&E and Sonoma County prosecutors are negotiating a possible settlement. So, what's next? And how will PG&E be held accountable? Please join us on the 5th to find out.

We also will announce a **rural broadband billboard campaign** that is in the planning stages with potential pilot programs in the Central Valley and Siskiyou County. The concept grew out of our Caucus brainstorming session in November and the need for heightened communication about Democrat-led accomplishments – like Broadband for All, especially in rural areas, where mis and disinformation is rampant.

Here is the agenda for March 5. Please [click here](#) to register.

**Joint Rural and Environmental Caucus Meeting
Saturday March 5
7:30a – 9:30a
Hosted on the CADEM Zoom & Whova platform
[Registration Link: https://bit.ly/ruralenviromtg](https://bit.ly/ruralenviromtg)**

7:15am Virtual doors open
7:30am Meeting called to order
7:31am Pledge
7:32am Acknowledgement of the Land
7:35am Rural Caucus Chair Joy Sterling speaks (2 mins)
7:37am Environmental Caucus Chair Igor speaks (2 mins)
7:40am **PG&E: A Cautionary Tale**

The People vs. PG&E - The Problems (Joy introduces speakers)

- Justin Meyers, CDP Executive Board member: His personal story and the CDP deciding not to accept contribution from PG&E
- Former CPUC Commissioner Catherine Sandoval: Update on court cases. What does it mean to be removed from probation?
- Sonoma County District Attorney Jill Ravich: Status of the latest criminal proceedings taking place in Sonoma Talk about the "environmental crimes" included in this case.
- Pete Woiwode, Reclaim Our Power: How do we hold PG&E accountable?

PG&E vs. Solar – The Solutions (Igor introduces and leads panel discussion)

- Esperanza Vielma, Coalition for Environmental Equity and Economic
- Ken Wells, O&M Solar
- Crystal Huang, People Power Solar Cooperative

Q&A (Time permitting)

8:20am Rural Caucus updates/issues

- Rural Broadband Billboard Campaign
- Shasta County BOS Recall
- DNC Council Listening Session
- Rural Plank in the Party Platform
- Lobbying for federal Infrastructure Bill dollars

8:40am Enviro Caucus updates/issues

- CDP Platform /Fossil Fuel Entity \$ Update
- Legislative Update (invited speakers: Asm. Cristina Garcia on SB 260 ([Climate Corporate Accountability Act](#), [AB 1001 \(Mitigation Measure for Air Quality/EJ](#), TBD on Inland Empire Warehouse Equity Bill, Lena Gonzales on Climate Education Bill)
- Climate update from the Central Valley
- Update from Sunrise on Poseidon Project, 100% Renewable Community Choice Energy Campaign
- STAND-LA: Offshore Drilling and Drilling in Neighborhoods - An Intersectional Fight

9:00am Caucus Breakouts

- Break out Room 1. Rural Caucus Good of the Order (Speaking length will be allocated based on the number of speakers and the time available.)
- Breakout Room 2. Enviro Caucus Candidate/Campaign Announcements

9:30am Meeting adjourns

I am truly looking forward to "seeing" you. Until then, all best wishes,

Joy

Joy Sterling | Rural Caucus Chair | 707 484 0013 | joy@ironhorsevineyards.com
www.cdpruralcaucus.org

STAY CONNECTED