

# NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:  
Edward Segal  
415-507-1011  
415-218-8600 (cell)  
[Edwards@MarinCountyRealtors.com](mailto:Edwards@MarinCountyRealtors.com)

## **Marin REALTORS® Say Don't Penalize Consumers Who Have Analog Meters**

The Board of Directors of the Marin Association of REALTORS® today called on the California Public Utilities Commission to allow consumers to keep their analog mechanical meters without having to pay additional fees.

“Our board believes that property owners should not be forced to have the new SmartMeters™ installed and that consumers should not be required to pay additional fees in order to keep their traditional analog meters,” said MAR President Mary Kay Yamamoto.

“The new devices have raised a variety of concerns in the minds of the public. The commission should do the right thing and not make it more expensive for people to keep the older traditional equipment that is already in place,” she said.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Call for Moratorium**

In July, 2010, the 1,400 member association called for a moratorium on the installation of SmartMeters™ from the Pacific Gas & Electric Company until health, accuracy, privacy and other concerns about the controversial devices are fully addressed and properly resolved. The association was the first business organization in the state to call for a moratorium.

### **AB 37 Endorsed**

Last January, the organization endorsed AB 37 (Huffman), which would require the PUC to identify alternative options for customers who do not wish to have a wireless smart meter installed, allow customers to decline installation of a wireless smart meter and require utilities to disclose information about smart meter technology to customers.

### **Opt-Out Plan Opposed**

In April, the association opposed a SmartMeter™ opt-out plan submitted to the PUC the Pacific Gas & Electric Company. The proposal would impose initial and monthly fees on those who want to disable previously installed SmartMeters™ their property.

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