


Tim Redmond
Amanda Witherell
Bay Guardian
135 Mississippi
San Francisco, CA 94107


Berkeley, CA 94708
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Re: Net excess generation; meter fee

Dear Friends,

As you can see from the enclosed, I have questions regarding the two items referenced above. I am not sure that Levine has the answers, except that he is chair of a utilities committee in the Assembly. PG&E probably plays by the "solar rules", which they established, and the CPUC seems to be flummoxed by my inquiry.

Home Power magazine made a survey of policy in ten states. (Number 124, April-May, 2008). California was the only one that required zero compensation.

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I have similar doubts about the legitimacy of the meter fee, which everyone must pay who has a meter. It seems too high. PG&E is scheming to read meters by radio signal, and it remains to be seen if the savings will redound to the consumer.

Beyond all of this is the historical behavior of our green energy monopoly. They have a long history of opposition to any public system. Witness the difficulties of Redding and Sacramento, the crippling of the CVP by blocking a steam plant, the Hetch Hetchy scandal.... The policy seems to be to resist any public development but, if this fails, to capture the power. Regarding solar, the consumer is required to shoulder the not inconsiderable cost of installation.

Regards, etc

J. B. Neilands

J. B. Neilands
iron@berkeley.edu
Encl.