

## Public Comment

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From: **Jass Sangha** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, Jan 21, 2025, 3:37 PM

Subject: Public Safety

To: <[publiccomment@cityoftracy.com](mailto:publiccomment@cityoftracy.com)>

Good evening Mayor & council,

Congratulations to all of you that became part of the council this year.

I'm writing to highlight the fact that we have a great PD & Fire department, but we do wanna make sure that their wages & benefits are better or atleast same as our neighbors. Especially with the new Police officers joining TPD, after spending funding on their academy, and then training them for few months

when they join in & then,

when someone leaves after couple yrs because they're making more in wages/ benefits in another city not too far away - we are back to square one, we lose not only a trained officer ,we also end up spending more of Tax dollars to put new folks thru the academy .

We need to focus on retaining & sustaining our good officers !

Providing -

Public Safety is the #1 priority & role of the Govt, whether it's at local ,state or higher level. Mr Abercrombie - you're coming from that Dept & I'm sure you'll agree that TPD is one of the best in the area & our newly

enrolled officers deserve to be at a competitive rate when it comes to wages / benefits

Disclaimer - this is my observation of the matter after doing some research on my own !!

Thank you, Jass Sangha

Duplicate emails regarding New Installation of High-Voltage Overhead Transmission Lines in Tracy Hills and complaint letter were received from the following community members:

Aadhira Omkara  
Ajay Gautam  
Andy G.  
Brahma Yaddanapudi  
Chandrachud Patil  
Deepak Ponnada  
Dipak Om  
Gunda Naresh  
Hardeep Obhi  
Hassan Naboulsi  
Mainak Pal  
Nitya Patil  
Pallavi Dubey  
Poonam Rashmi  
Pratik Agarwal  
Priyanka Agarwal  
Rakesh Kumar  
Ravinder Reddy  
Rema Devi  
Simar Ranauta  
Simarjeet Singh  
Venky

## **Subject: New Installation of High-Voltage Overhead Transmission Lines in Tracy Hills**

Respected Representatives,

We are residents from various communities within the Tracy Hills Phase 1 development, on Corral Hollow Road, Tracy. The Tracy Hills Phase 1 development consists of more than 10 neighboring communities, including Parklin and Greenwood. More than 1600 families currently reside in the Tracy Hills Phase 1 development and new homes are actively being built. Considering an average of four members per family, we have more than 6000 individuals residing in these communities, many of them toddlers, children, and older adults.

### **Issue: New Installation of High-Voltage Overhead Transmission Lines**

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, residents of the Parklin community were awakened by electrical work being performed by PG&E crew near the Emergency Vehicle Access road, which is currently closed and does not provide any access.

- Residents were surprised and concerned by this work given that **80-100 foot electrical poles were being erected behind their homes** with the first installation completed.
- It is important to note that they were not informed of these installations and that the PG&E work being performed was approximately **5-10 feet from existing homes** in the Parklin community. **See Figure 1.**



**Figure 1.** The first electrical pole was installed behind the Parklin community on January 18, 2025. Poles are 80-100 feet tall and approximately 5-10 feet from existing homes.

Residents inquired about this installation and PG&E crew confirmed that these are high transmission power lines that would power the Phase 2 development of Tracy Hills, which is across the I-580 highway.

We learned the following additional information from the PG&E crew:

- 1) The power lines are high transmission lines.
- 2) Approximately 7 poles will be erected, many of which are 5-10 feet from the boundary walls of the existing homes.
- 3) The poles are 80-100 feet tall.
- 4) The voltage being transmitted is 12000 volts (twelve thousand volts is **(VERY HIGH)**).
- 5) These are permanent installations.
- 6) These lines will power the Tracy Hills Phase 2 development.
- 7) The developer (Integral Communities) is responsible to bear the cost of the installation.
- 8) PG&E highly recommends an underground installation for these power lines.
- 9) The developer opted to have above ground poles erected (likely to save money).
- 10) It is important to note that as per the current established standards, all Tracy Hills power lines are underground.
- 11) **This above ground installation is not in line with current standards, unexpected by current residents, and will be a health and fire hazard for the community.**

It is important to note that the homes in the Parklin community have already been sold; however, there are homes across the development in the Greenwood community that are currently being built and need to be sold. Having above ground poles on the Greenwood side may impact the saleability of the newly built homes so all connections on that side are underground. Because the homes are already sold in Parklin community, the developer may have opted to have high-voltage overhead power transmission lines installed to save costs. Doing so is a complete **disregard to safety given the high fire hazard**. See Figure 2 for more details.



**Figure 2.** The poles were erected on the Parklin Community side. The poles were erected on the CLOSED Emergency Access Road, which has dry grass and is prone to fire. Greenwood homes are under construction and the power lines are underground.

We would also like to note that **PG&E highly recommends underground transmission**, so adding new installations which are overhead, when it is possible to make this underground, contradicts all established current standards, and lacks common sense. Specifically on January 8, 2025, **PG&E CEO, Patti Poppe** noted:

*“Undergrounding reduces wildfire risk 98%, so the more lines we bury, the safer you are, the more reliable our power is, and the less we have to spend cutting vegetation away from our lines.”*

<https://www.pge.com/en/newsroom/currents/customer-service/pg-e-s-progress-on-the-things-you-care-about-the-most-.html>

There are numerous major concerns of this installation, which we would like to bring to the council's attention :

#### 1. **Fire Hazard Risks**

- o This community is already in a high fire risk zone and severe winds (>50mph gusts) are prevalent throughout the year.
- o In May 2024, we experienced the Corral Fire and are concerned that having these above ground high power transmission poles will increase chances for another dangerous situation to occur **WITHIN** our community
- o As per the PG&E's own admission, high-voltage overhead lines **pose an increased fire risk**

#### 2. **Health Risks**

- o Residents have increased potential for exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs), which research suggests is linked to an increased risk of childhood leukemia.
- o We want to ensure that the children in our community are safe and we are concerned these lines will increase health issues.

#### 3. **Lack of Transparency & Resident Notification**

- o Residents were **not informed or consulted** before these drastic changes occurred.

#### 4. **Contradiction of Community Planning Standards**

- o Tracy Hills was **designed with underground utilities** to maintain safety and aesthetics.
- o Installing these **above-ground high-voltage transmission lines contradicts the original development plan and is not what residents signed up for.**

This new installation is a major concern for all residents. This is a densely populated area, and any fire can be a devastating incident, and puts lives at risk. **See Figures 3-6 for additional information.**





**Figure 3** . The road we see here is Tracy Hills Drive. The pole currently installed (the first one) is on the right hand side of this picture. Across the road (Tracy Hills Drive), all the cabling is underground, as per the PG&E crew.



**Figure 4.** Planned location for addition poles marked with red flags



**Figure 5.** Crews installing pole, very close to homes



**Figure 6.** This is such dry land, and PG&E agreed to overhead high power transmission. How and why this happened is a concern.

**We request the city to : stop and investigate.**

- **Stop** work on the installation.
- **Order and conduct** a thorough investigation into the process, including any approvals, that allowed this installation.
- **Represent the residents of Tracy Hills**, and liaise with various departments, including PG&E, SJC Fire, Integral Communities (Developer for Tracy Hills), Lennar Corporation (Builders of many of the old and new communities, including Parklin and Tracy Hills Ph 2), to resolve the issue.

The community has been touted as a master planned community, by the developers, but if we look deeper, this is far from reality, with a large number of serious infrastructural issues. Many of these have been highlighted time and again at this council. Here are some of those :

- **Single Entry/Exit**, with 3 miles of winding single lane road for a 3-mile long community, with fire-prone area.
- **No surrounding walls**, while being adjacent to the I-580, leading to extreme noise and exposing residents to the dangers of the highway. This seems to have been done to keep the community aesthetically pleasing from the highway, with utter disregard to the residents safety. This is against all established norms.
- **A school, smaller than required** to support the needs of the community with many kids having to attend far away schools, sometimes, 6 miles and beyond.
- **Poor landscaping** that includes dry plants, which raises fire risk. Within the last year, one of the community parks was devastated by a major fire. Also, as the weeds are not trimmed, these are leading to snakes and reptile infestations.

We would like the Council to fulfill its duties to the residents of this city, and to Tracy Hills residents, to help resolve these issues. In addition, the Council needs to obtain clear infrastructural commitments from any developers, before approving their developments.

**We need to hold the developers accountable for their commitments, and the City should monitor the progress on those commitments.**

It should also be investigated how a touted "Master Planned Community" has been approved without basic common sense infrastructure.

Many of these issues have been the result of callous attitude and greed of the developer, improper planning by the City engineers and management, and an utter lack and disregard by the council to resolve the issues.

**We urge the city to act promptly in ensuring safety, transparency and adherence to the original community planning standards.**

Please confirm receipt of this email and provide a timely remediation.

Sincerely,

**Concerned residents of Tracy Hills**

**From:** Ravinder Reddy CH  
**To:** Steve Abercrombie; Mateo Bedolla; Dan Evans; Dotty Nygard; Tracy City Council; CAO; Web - City Clerk; Public Works Website Email; fire.dept@sjcfire.org; randall.bradley-sjcfire; Chief of Police; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]; Dan Arriola;  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** New Installation of High-Voltage Overhead Transmission Lines in Tracy Hills  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:47:32 PM  
**Attachments:** 75B393AC-8E3C-43B1-9644-108902370F81.png

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ravindercr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**Caution:** This is an external email. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

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Ravinder