

# Court orders PG&E to wait on tree removal, for now



Photo provided

Trees along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail are situated close to an underground high transmission gas pipeline.

By Pippa Fisher

A judge has once again called a halt, at least for now, to Pacific Gas & Electric Company's plans to cut down 17 trees on East Bay Regional Park District property within the city of Lafayette, issuing a preliminary injunction order that will remain in effect pending further court orders.

PG&E had notified the city Nov. 10 that it intended to begin removing the 17 trees, 12 of which are on the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, within a few days as part of its Community Pipeline Safety Initiative. The city immediately filed a lawsuit against the utility in the Bankruptcy Court, contending that PG&E failed to comply with a 2017

Tree Removal Agreement obliging them to provide all information required by the city's tree protection regulations before cutting or removing trees within Lafayette. PG&E maintain that the tree removal is necessary to allow access to the underground high-pressure gas lines, and that tree roots threaten the pipes' safety - claims that a grass-roots organization called Save Lafayette Trees formed by residents initially out of concern for the trees, disputes. SLT says that although PG&E has met with residents, the city and the California Public Utilities Commission for two years, they have never been able to demonstrate how cutting trees improves gas safety. ... continued on Page A10

# Lafayette lights up with Holiday cheer!



Photo Pippa Fisher

Twinkle lights shine throughout downtown Lafayette.

By Pippa Fisher

The pandemic has changed many things about this holiday season but it can't take the twinkle out of Lafayette. The switch to light up the tree in the Plaza Park on Sunday evening, Dec. 6 will be thrown at 6 p.m. and organizers hope that households will do the same, lighting up neighborhoods across the city at the same moment. For the past seven years the Dana Green Team and Branagh Development have

sponsored the twinkle lights up and down Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Their donation helps the Chamber of Commerce pay for the installation and maintenance of the lights. In previous years the lighting up occurs during the annual "It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette" gathering. This year the event has been canceled due to shelter-in-place guidelines. However the Holiday Snow Globe will be available for holiday photos until Dec. 25, with social distancing safeguards in place.

**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**  
Monday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

**Planning Commission Meeting**  
Monday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

**Design Review**  
Wednesday, Nov 25, 7 p.m. Zoom  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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