

Meyers Nave represents clients before the California Public Utilities Commission in safety regulatory matters relating to natural gas, electric, water, telecommunications, railroad, rail transit and passenger transportation. We have a unique expertise assisting municipalities in CPUC investigations and enforcement actions against regulated utilities. Our expertise includes advising on parallel investigations and enforcement actions often undertaken by related federal regulatory agencies, such as the National Transportation Safety Board. We also advise on associated legal actions in state and federal court, as well as potential state and federal criminal prosecutions.

Advocating before the CPUC requires a specialized knowledge of the agency's regulatory powers and the unique and complex rules of procedure and evidence used in its proceedings. Meyers Nave attorneys have extensive experience drafting the motions, comments, briefs and applications that effectively communicate each client's position to this highly technical regulatory body. We have well-proven success in CPUC matters, including:

- Policy and planning proceedings
- Rulemakings
- Complaints
- Enforcement actions
- Investigations
- Rate applications
- Prehearing conferences
- Evidentiary hearings
- Ex parte meetings
- Settlement discussions

Contact

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Representative Matters

- *City of San Bruno*

Meyers Nave serves as Special Counsel to the City of San Bruno in the still-unfolding aftermath of a Pacific Gas & Electric Company gas pipeline explosion that killed eight people, injured 58 others and destroyed or damaged 90 homes in 2010. Our role began with serving as a member of the City's negotiating team that obtained a \$70 million settlement from PG&E to fund the City's community development trust and \$50 million to pay the City's expenses for physical recovery as well as its participation in state and federal legal and regulatory matters. Meyers Nave advised the City on nonprofit formation and nonprofit governance matters relating to implementing long-term local community support programs.

The information and evidence that we uncovered and presented in state and federal administrative proceedings led to: (1) the CPUC imposing a record \$1.6 billion fine against PG&E, (2) state and federal investigations of the utility and the public agency, (3) claims of corruption and improper dealings resulting in resignations of the CPUC President and his Chief of Staff, and PG&E ending the employment of its Sr. V.P. of Regulatory Affairs, V.P. of Regulatory Relations, and V.P. of Regulatory Proceedings and Rates, (4) PG&E creating the position of Chief Regulatory Compliance Officer, and (5) the NTSB investigation that resulted in a rare criminal prosecution on issues usually handled by regulatory agencies. In August 2016, a federal court jury convicted PG&E of one felony count of obstructing the federal probe of the blast and five felony counts of knowingly violating pipeline safety laws before and after the disaster. Britt Strottman earned *The Recorder's* "Giant Slayer" award for her work and *Law360* named Meyers Nave a "California Powerhouse" for "marshaling San Bruno through the aftermath of a devastating pipeline explosion."

- *City of Carmel-by-the-Sea*

Meyers Nave represents the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea before the CPUC against PG&E regarding a gas pipeline explosion in 2014 that led to a \$10.8 million fine. Meyers Nave also assisted Carmel officials in successfully demanding that CPUC escalate its initial inquiry into a full-scale regulatory investigation of the blast, which resulted in the discovery that PG&E lost 12 years of gas-line repair records for a large section of the Bay Area. Our team recently appeared before the CPUC on the City's behalf in evidentiary hearings relating to fines against PG&E for record-keeping deficiencies on its gas distribution system in Carmel and elsewhere, which resulted in an additional fine of \$24.3 million. We also argued an opposition to a motion to compel in a whistleblower scandal that has emerged regarding the possibility that PG&E might have tried to tamper with documents showing the utility was to blame for the blast in Carmel.

- *County of Calaveras*

Meyers Nave is assisting the County of Calaveras with legal and regulatory matters against PG&E regarding the company's potential involvement in causing the 71,000-acre Butte Fire in October 2015 that killed two people and destroyed 921 structures. The County will be pursuing all legal avenues to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation from PG&E, in addition to seeking an investigation, penalty and fines from the CPUC. The Cal Fire investigation report found "negligent maintenance" of electrical infrastructure and surrounding vegetation and stated that the wildfire was sparked by a PG&E powerline that came in contact with a tree that PG&E crews had not properly pruned.

- *City of San Carlos*

Meyers Nave served as lead counsel for the City of San Carlos in securing an order from the CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division to keep Pipeline 147 at a lower operating pressure pending a full investigation into its safety due to an undisclosed communication from PG&E that raised concerns about the safety of a pipeline in San Carlos. Meyers Nave successfully petitioned the CPUC Administrative Law Judge to allow San Carlos to become an "Interested Party" in the CPUC proceedings related to PG&E and the 2010 San Bruno explosion. Our team assisted in securing sanctions against PG&E and its lawyers for filing misleading records about the integrity of a natural gas pipeline running through San Carlos. The \$14.35 million fine imposed by the CPUC was the agency's highest penalty for an ethics violation at that time.

- *City of Goleta*

Meyers Nave is assisting the City of Goleta in evaluating the dangers of an aging natural gas storage facility which is the oldest of four such facilities owned and maintained by Southern California Gas Company. The risk evaluation is underway in light of the largest recorded natural gas leak in U.S. history that recently occurred at the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility, one of the four SoCalGas facilities.

- *City of Cerritos*

Meyers Nave is assisting the City of Cerritos with the analysis of public safety and easement issues relating to a high pressure gas line operated by Southern California Gas Company.

- *Town of Woodside*

Meyers Nave assisted the Town of Woodside with the review of a proposed pipeline relocation project. The Town experienced a non-fatal explosion during testing of PG&E pipelines.