STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE: Members of the community have sent letters to the Rent Board and Rent Program staff members. Staff members recommend letters that do not pertain to a specific item on the Rent Board agenda be included as consent items for consideration by the Rent Board.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: RECEIVE letters from community members regarding the Fair Rent, Just Cause for Eviction, and Homeowner Protection Ordinance, RMC 11.100 – Rent Program (Cynthia Shaw 620-5552).
THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUENT LETTERS WERE RECEIVED BY RESIDENTS OF HERITAGE PARK AT HILLTOP APARTMENTS (3811 LAKESIDE DRIVE, RICHMOND, CA 94806) FOLLOWING AN EXTENDED POWER OUTAGE ON OCTOBER 27, 2018 AND OCTOBER 28, 2018
Nov 1, 2018

I am a liver transplant recipient, a disabled senior and diabetic. I have to eat certain foods for my health and was unable to during the power outage Oct 27-28, 2018. I had to eat fast foods during the outage which will affect my liver health. All food in my refrigerator and freezer had to be discarded thrown out due to bacteria and not safe to eat after so many hours of no electricity.

Moving about during the outage I was fearful of falling or stubbing my foot. There was no heat, no hot water, no elevator service, just darkness. I was in fear and cold, could not cook my food. The mail lady could not get in to deliver mail the gate would not open, she had medicine for me that I missed for two days. On one computer my computer drive went out that is inoperable.

Debra Harkness
To Whom It May Concern - PG&E

I am a 59 year old male Navy Veteran who is disabled to I cannot do upper stories I live on the second floor at 3801 Las Vegas Drive Apt. 211 in Richmond CA 94806

In the end of Oct of 2014

A controlled outage occurred from PG&E which took longer than they thought, which has caused me pain and loss of items which is listed on claim form.

So please REIMBURSE FOR WHAT WENT BAD YOUR FAULT!!

Boil for me I need to be cool.

Constant AC and fans

No Access to those same on you!

Lenny Wroblewski

#0106563972-3

11-1-14
From: Beatrix Boyd and Frederick B. Boyd  
3815 Lakeside Dr., F314 (Same address) 3rd Floor  
Richmond, CA. 94806  

Subject: PGE Outages Nov 20 - Nov 28 2018  
(Many Inconveniences): Both Disabled  
Both Use Canes or walkers  

1. Davek Halls (Stayed in Apts.)  
2. No one advised food being handed out  
3. No way to prepare food in freezer  
4. No Hot Water  
5. No Heat  
6. Unable Charge Cell phones  
7. " Use Therapy Lamp for pain  
8. No elevator service  
9. Unable to use heating pads  

Beatrix Boyd  11/1/2018  
Frederick Boyd  
510 487 - 4307
My name is Verdia Williams.

I went to go into the bathroom and when the lights went out, I fell into the bathtub and couldn't get out.

I felt my way around the wall to get out of the tub. It was pitch black dark, I couldn't see and I was frightened and didn't know what to do as I am a fragile 86 year old woman.

I finally worked my way to the bedroom and got into the bed to be safe.

Verdia L. Williams
On Saturday, October 27

At about 4 am I got up to use the bathroom, but my lamp would not go on. I thought the bulb was burnt out and that I would replace it in the morning. I slowly and very carefully made my way to the bathroom, trying to flick the lights on as I went, but realized the electricity was off. I was terrified—I would fall because I have had a lot of strokes and my sense of balance is pretty much gone. I managed to get my cell phone which was partially charged and use it for light. I made my way back to bed and got my flashlight out of my bedside table. I looked out the window and saw there were no lights on. I called PG&E. They said it would be fixed by 10:30 am, so I went back to bed, but my CPAP would not work so I did not sleep well.

After it was time for the Community Room to be open, I went there. I talked to people and waited for the mail, but there was no light in the mail room and she could not see to put the mail in the boxes. There was no management presence, which seemed strange and a little scary. There was not even a note on the bulletin board. An ambulance came for a man on the second floor. I knew a lot of people were trapped in their apartments with no way to get out, no way to cook, no way to call for help if they were hurt or ill. The elevators did not work. I am not physically able to climb all the stairs and walk all the halls to check on people. I felt so vulnerable and helpless and I felt we had been abandoned. It was extremely upsetting.

The electricity did not come on by 10:30, so I called PG&E again. They said it would be on by 4:30, but it wasn’t. I knew my daughter and grandson were driving up from Los Angeles to stay with me so he could get a chemotherapy infusion at UCSF to treat his multiple sclerosis. When they got here they were hungry so I fed them nuts, granola and cookies.

As it got dark we lit candles and used our flashlights. The Red Cross gave us some glow lights which helped some, especially so we could see in the bathroom. The Red Cross said there were sandwiches in the Community Room, but when I got there, they were all gone. The Community Room seemed so sad, glum, chaotic and dark. It was eerie and upsetting. There was very little light given off by candles, glow lights and flash lights. People milled around or sat huddled around the lights. There was a PG&E truck and a fire truck parked on the street and a Red Cross truck in the parking lot. It seemed to me that management should at least be there to organize things and give us information and maybe a little encouragement.

I went home and tried to sleep, but without my CPAP machine I could not. At 1 am trucks came by and left a huge generator near my apartment and then the lights came back on.

If my family had not happened to be here with me and helping me, I would have had a much worse time. As it is, I am left feeling vulnerable and unsafe here. It was an extremely unsettling experience.

Susan Steigh

3815 La Rea del Dr, Apt E113
My name is: ELDA FONTENOT

On Friday night/Saturday morning, October 27, 2018, all lights went out. I was in the living room watching television. I called P&O and was told by a recorder that they were aware of the problem, that there was equipment damage underground. Estimated time the restore was 2:00 am, Saturday morning.

I am handicapped, mobile - I use a walker to get around. I didn't have a flashlight or candle, couldn't see and did my best to walk myself to my bedroom. I tried to go to sleep but couldn't. Finally I fell asleep and woke up about 9:00 am and when I saw that the electricity was still out, I called P&O again. This time the estimated time for restore was noon. It didn't happen. So I basically stayed in the bed and slept off and on until around 8:00 pm that night. I was hungry, couldn't cook, nothing I could grab to snack on and stuck in my apartment (because door on the 3rd floor and cannot use the stairs because of my handicap arthritis in my knees).

It was finally restored around 2am Sunday morning am. This threw me completely off. Someone from Red Cross did bring me a 1/2 sandwich & coffee. I pray that the heat incommenced like this again.
Nov. 2, 2018

My name is Zada Manan and I'm giving you a summary of what I experienced the night that the lights stayed off almost 34 hours.

I reside at 3801 Lakeside Dr., # B-205 Richmond, Calif. And this outage was one of a few which occurred within a month's time.

So, on Oct. 27, 2018 my main concern was for my food in my box and for people who could not have an exit from the building. I knew of a few of them. Also I was concerned about those people who were scared to open the doors when the Red Cross people knocked. I experienced a little fear this time because the outage lasted too long.
I experienced a little anger because people had not eaten in 24 hours and some people had to leave their homes. Family members came to get them. I felt helpless because there was nothing that I could do.

These things serious should not have to happen.

Thank you.

[Signature]
To Vice Mayor Melvin Willis
And Rent Board,

My name is Bettye Allen.
I'm a resident at Heritage Park since July 2000. On Oct 24th 2018 the PG&E
was off for over 15 hours. I live on
the 3rd Floor alone. I was afraid
It would have been nice if someone
had checked on me.
I'm glad that I did have some crackers
and some sausage to eat.
Not a good feeling.  

Sincerely
Bettye Allen

3811 Lakeside Dr, D305
Oct. 31, 2018

Subject: Safety Concerns re Power Outage at Heritage Park at Hilltop on 10-27/28/2018

Vice Mayor Melvin Wells:

During the 22+ hours during the power outage at Heritage Park, I experienced an unidentified black male come to my apt. claiming to be a Red Cross Volunteer, me lighting & security in the back parking lot of property, and food spoilage in refrigerator.

Suffer from a medical condition which flared up during and after the Heritage Park power outage. It triggered uncontrollable crying, fear (chair under door and pillow), sleeplessness, and nightmares & nervousness.

Heritage Park has frequent one to three-hour power outages. Even upon suggestion, an evacuation plan has not been implemented. The annual fire drills have ceased. Without safety measures put in place, Heritage Park will continue to be a hazardous place to live for seniors.

Thank you and your staff for showing interest and concern.

Celeste Hockenhull, President
3501 Lakeside Dr, # B303, R 94180.
(510) 232-1924. cehhock@aol.com
November 2, 2018

Marilyn Tims
3815 Lakeside Drive, #E110
Richmond, CA.  94806
510-943-8433
Marilyn1130@comcast.net

Attention: Vice Mayor, Melvin Willis, Executive Director, Nicholas Traylor, and the Rent Control Board Members.

This letter is in regards to addressing the disregard from the management team when the power outage occurred, dated October 27th, 2018 at 3815 Lakeside Drive, #E110, Richmond, California.

On October 27th, 2018 around 6:10am, I awoke to a power outage here at Heritage Park. I have a routine of getting up early, even earlier than 6am on most days. I went and got in my car to take my morning drive, and when I came to the gate, I realized that I could not get out. I immediately, went back to the house, (at this time, I was fully awake), called PG& E, to find out what could they do to open the gate. Let me add that I had to be at work by 8am. Moving forward, I called PG& E, and shared my concerns with them, and was informed that there was nothing they could do about opening the gate, and that the Property Manager was able to reset the gate. From there I proceeded to call the Weekend Emergency number for Heritage Park and left (2) two, messages, informing the management of the conversation with PG&E and that I was told that management was able to come and reset or whatever they needed to do to open the gates.

Continuation, Marilyn Tims
for the residents to get out. Also, I reiterated kindly, that I had to go to work that morning. This call was made twice. There was no response and has not been responded to still as of this date.

Walking out into the hallways of the building I live in, was very frightening and pitch black. This was in the daytime, so you can imagine what it was like throughout the rest of day and on into the night.

Talking with the fire department, American Red Cross, and PG&E while they were here on sight was even more frustrating about the fact that they even placed calls to the management and received no response for several hours. PG&E stated they wanted to bring in generators to provide electricity for us. This was devastating for me. Even more so that the residents on the 2nd and 3rd floors were disconnected from all. Also, it was scary to know that we have residents here that were on oxygen tanks, medications, and etc. and was left unattended through this crisis until, the Fire Department and American Red Cross came on the scene.

The most flustering part is that there was no response from management and my thoughts and feelings is one of grave disrespect for my life as well as others, and very sad at the fact that there was a huge disregard for the human lives here. There could have been a mass of tragic accidents of people trying to make their way through the darkness and attempting to walk down the stairs from the 2nd and 3rd floors. This was a very traumatic experience for me, and I want to wrap it up with this. The behavior from management is totally unacceptable. This is a complex for seniors 55 & up, and this is not the type of treatment that we deserved.

I give 100+% to the action, care, and concern that the American Red Cross, Fire Department, EMT’s, and PG&E demonstrated for all of us during this crisis. They all were at the top of their A list in assisting and caring for all the seniors here at Heritage Park Apartments.
Your attention to this matter is very much so appreciated. Please, do not hesitate to contact me with the information provided up above.

The property manager's name is Corey Walker, and assistant manager's name is Rasheed. Both live on site.

Very Concerned

Marilyn Tims
Date: October 31, 2018

To: Vice Mayor Melvin Willis and Director of Rent Control Board

Subject: Black Out - Heritage Park at Hilltop

My name is Johniel Overton, age 85 years old. I have lived at Heritage Park at Hilltop for 13 years. On October 28, 2018 at 2:30 p.m., the lights and electricity went out in all the buildings, so that mind, no phone to make calls, no cooking for meals (all appliances out), no hot water to wash and none of the elevators working, also no generators to reboot the electricity. This went on for 2 days. We were told many different times that everything would be turned on starting from 12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. on. (it never happen) Altogether the outage was for about 20 hours.

I live on the 2nd floor and in order to get out, I had to go down and up 2 flights of stairs in the dark. Thank God my daughter lives around the corner and came to my rescue which she comes everyday to see about me anyway. I am on
Red Cross brought sandwiches, water and juice and knocked on everyone’s door to see who needed food to accommodate us. The Firemen did all they could also.

Management could less care about us and building owners could not be reached. What are the emergency numbers for ???

Things that need to be addressed:
1. Maintenance - Takes too long to get things fixed.
2. Management: Lazy & lie all the time.
3. We have to pay for everything that needs to be replaced such as:
   - Blinds, drip pans, light bulbs etc.
4. Apartments need painting and new carpet.

* Now on 12/30/18 - Management sends out a notice (in our doors) about Emergencies & ! ! ! Disasters after the fact!!! WOW ! ! !

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Apartment A282
November 7, 2018
Inez Williams

My cellphone hadn't been used in 2 or 3 days and was dead at the time of the blackout and of course I couldn't use my land line.

I cannot walk, I'm in a motorized wheelchair that I was unable to charge or move. I couldn't move and was stuck in the wheelchair. Had no assistance and couldn't call anybody.

I was stuck in this position until 7:30pm Saturday night when my daughter came because she couldn't contact me by phone.

Inez Williams
31 October, 2018

To: Vice Mayor Melvin Willis,
and
Director of Rent Control Board.

My name is Audrey Jenkins and I live at Heritage Park at Hilltop. On 28 October 2018 at 2:30 AM, the lights went out in my building. I called PG&E on my cell phone and asked what was the problem and when would it be fixed, they said they had not found what the problem was but she would call back and let me know what progress was being made.

My phone died while waiting for her to call back. So now it was dark and scary. I was kinda waiting for the management to knock on my door to see if I was ok, to see if I had a flashlight or needed anything. But they never came, they had no interest in me.

Later in the evening the Red Cross
Our apartment is all electric, so I missed my meal for the day. I didn't eat anything and I'm 81 yrs. old and take lots of meds. I wasn't aware of the Red Cross bringing food and water because they didn't mention anything about that when they came to my apartment. I begin to think about the very sick people in my building and wondered if we had a generator. The lights were out about 20 hrs.

I have asked the manager when in a community meeting if they had any evacuation plans to share with me in case of an emergency and Management said they were working on a plan. But that was months ago. So no plan.

I really would like to see some real changes in the rental office because they aren't advocates for the nice people in our community.

why OTHER QUESTIONS THAT GOES IGNORED.

1. Elderly Tenants must pay for Venetian blinds, lights, drip pans. (why)
2. They don't paint.
3. Why my carpet wasn't removed after 8 yrs.
The last inspection, I showed management my patio door that had air bubbles between the glass and that has not been replaced. I could go on but just wanted to let you know the place is runned.

Respectfully,
Audrey Jerkme
A106
12/30/2018

Dear Heritage Park at Hilltop Residents:

Emergencies and disasters can strike quickly and without warning and can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or be confined to your home. What would you do if your basic services—water, gas, electricity or communications—were cut off?

Heritage Park at Hilltop staff will be discussing this question and many others on learning how to protect yourself and cope with disaster by planning ahead at our Resident’s meeting.

This meeting will be held on Friday November 2, 2018 at 4 pm to 5:30 pm. Come get involved and learn the 3 steps of preparedness.

The Three Steps to Preparedness

1. Get a Kit
2. Make a Plan
3. Be Informed

We will also discuss what an evaluation plan is, being a volunteer hall monitor and much more.

Come and join us on Friday November 2, 2018 from 4pm to 5:30pm
To Whom it May Concern

My name is James Daniels. My wife’s name is Marlene Daniels.

On Sat morning 10-27-18 at about 3:30 A.M., the electricity went out. We called P.G.&E. to report this problem. We were told that there was a problem with the power lines. They were working on it. They gave us different times that the power would be back on, but it didn’t happen.
We called the emergency phone number that are given to us monthly but no one answered.

The gates to the parking area won't open if the power is off and Corey never came to open them. Some of the residents had to go to work so they forced the gate open.

The ass. manager left with her child and didn't come back until that afternoon when & told her the power was supposed to be on at 3:30 she left again.

Corey or Rasheda never asked anyone if they needed ass. or anything.

That night it was pitch black you couldn't see anything. The fire dept. sent a truck with large lights and lit up the parking lot.
The Red Cross came and knocked on doors to see if anyone needed ass. My wife and myself went down to the front parking lot and the fire captain was trying to get in touch with the manager & Maintenance Supervisor, no one would answer. I had Corey's cell no. and gave it to them and Corey never answered his phone. I gave the fire cap. the maint. sup. cell no and he answered. The fire cap. told him that he needed someone to unlock the doors to the Electric Room and he sent Ali a maint. worker. Ali could find only one key, it was to the Electric Rm. in the A building. The captain said they might have to break in the doors because P.C. was being generator so they could turn the power on. So I took out my Knife and forced the latches open at building F & C, electric Rm. & over
P.G. & E. was able to install the generators.

Thank you.

James (Signature)

Marine (Signature)
NOVEMBER 5, 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I want to let you know that the entire Heritage Park complex was in the dark approximately on October 27-28, 2018, it was a terrible, terrifying experience. It was pitch black in the hallways, no emergency lights were on in the hallways. If you did have candles or a flashlight, you were in deep ....... It was like being in the twilight zone; no hot water, not able to charge your cell phone, and not able to use land line telephone, it was horrible. Thanks be to God for sending the Red Cross, Fire, and Police Departments. Their presence made a difference, and made the residents feel safer. This was either the second or third black out the 2 months. It would have been nice if management could have made it a point to check all buildings, to ensure there was no one stuck in their apartment, etc. A backup generator finally showed up in the wee hours of the night, although we had been in the dark for hours. The question I raise is why is there no backup generator at Heritage Park’s disposal, so when there is a blackout, we are not left in the dark for hours.

Thank you,
Deborah Akins
October 30, 2018
Heritage Park
Dolores Ferrell
3811 Lakeside Dr #1264
Richmond, CA 94806

Melvin Willis
Nicholas Taylor

On Oct. 27, there was a power outage at Heritage Park, where I have lived for 19 years. For me it was a very traumatic experience. The power was off for approximately 22 hours. With no manager or assistant manager on the property, we had no one to turn to for consolation. I am on the 3rd floor, the half-way was pitch dark. Thank God I had a flashlight to maneuver my way around, also with my cane. It was scary. The Fire department, Red Cross provided light, food and water. The power was finally restored around 1:30 AM on October 28th.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dolores Ferrell
Heritage Park Hilltop

October 30, 2018

My wife and I moved in May of 2000. There were ups and downs, but nothing like we had 11/27th. Management was nonexistent during the power outage.

Wish we had words to convey the anxiety we felt knowing that there were tenets that depended on electric power for their breathing equipment.

When night came there was more anxious hours we prayed that people would make it up and down stairs and corridors safely in complete darkness we went brought flashlights the least something to help.

We happen upon the manager at Ihop around 8:-pm we asked him did he know the problems that was happen at Heritage Park he said there wasn’t anything he could to help the people living there.

Might we bring to your attention by there being no management to answer the calls from people concern about the safety of their love ones during the black-out. Some had to leave their jobs to come check on their love ones.

One safety problem was the gates which manager said he had Donald open this is false, Donald was in Mexico on vacation.

This manager have problem being transparent one can’t believe anything that comes out of his mounth.

Linda Hudson 11-04-18

Herman Hudson
10/22/18

On Saturday, October 22, 2018 Heritage Park Senior's Complex experienced a power outage. Due to the outage I was not able to use my breathing machine which I used on a daily basis. Was confined to my apartment due to not able to move around because I use a power motor chair. I would like to be reimbursed for the loss of my frozen food that became spoiled due to an outage.

Thank you

Mr. James Wade
November 3, 2018

Due to the power outage at Heritage Park Seniors Complex on Saturday October 27, 2018, I am a diabetic and have limited mobility due to the outage I was not able to use my power chair nor prepare food to eat. I would like for someone to reimbursed me for the loss of my food that was stored in my refrigerator. If you have any questions please contact me at (510) 275-3423.

Thank you

Ishel Williams
When the power went I was very uncomfortable due to the fact I could not take a bath or cook or heat my apt. nor did I have phone service. It was a very depressing time for me.

Elizabeth Anderson
Apt. A-107
What affected me

1. The Most was Not
   Having a Generator
to Power my
   Breathing Machine

2. No Lights in the
   Hallways you could
   Not See a Thing.

Sheila Norflis
3811 Lakeside Dr
Richmond CA 94806
Hello!

I recently sent a complaint about tenants in my apartment complex and was suggested to forward my complaint to the Richmond Rent board.

Attached is my complaint as well as photo.

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Kandice <kandicedaniellec@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 2, 2018 at 5:50 PM
Subject: Formal Complaint Letter
To: Charles Stephenson <cesteph@aol.com>

Kandice Chandler
437 S 21st Street
Richmond, CA 94804

11/02/18
Dear Mr. Stephenson,

I am writing to inform you of a possible health or sanitary violation.

Residents of 439 S 21st Street have not taken their trash or recycles out for pick up in about a month and have previously been talked to by resident Tyrone Bluford, a situation which did not go well.

I would not like to raise issue, but the trash has become cause for concern once again. Attached is a photo of the predicament.

I hope that this issue can be resolved peacefully.