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## PG&E's High Wire Act Wraps Up

... continued from page A1

The high wire act is fascinating to watch. The specially trained linemen use a technique called "long lining," which involves hanging from a cable underneath the helicopter as they are transported from the ground onto the tower. PG&E was one of the first utilities in the United States to introduce long line work procedures, something still taught at the company's Livermore facility, Sarkissian said.

Long lining is now used nationwide. On the ground, more workers watch as the new line gets pulled along the towers, ensuring the wires stay off the ground and away from contact with each other. Temporary catch poles and wire baskets went up

along the route as crews began pulling wire from Rossmoor through the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.

The crews worked on Moraga Road near Buckingham Drive across from the Campolindo High School soccer fields, adjacent town offices on La Salle Drive, and at the north end of the Mulholland open space along Rheem Boulevard between Scofield and Harold Drives. They expect to work in Orinda through October, and plan to pull their last transmission line from Lafayette to Rossmoor late this month.

The project is scheduled for completion in November, contingent upon resources and safe weather condi-

tions, Sarkissian said. But weather is actually one reason the upgrades have come about – peak summer demand or extreme weather conditions can max out the current transmission lines' capacity.

There will be no encore performance anytime soon for this high wire act. "We expect these upgrades to last more than 60 years," Sarkissian said.

PG&E construction and line upgrades in the East Bay began in January and are scheduled for completion during the summer of 2016. For more information, visit [http://www.pge.com/en/safety/ccmoraga/index.page?WT.mc\\_id=Vanity\\_contracosta-moraga](http://www.pge.com/en/safety/ccmoraga/index.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_contracosta-moraga).

## Group Demands Weil's Ouster

... continued from page A1

"Cohn has used as a vehicle for his personal attack the written and oral statements of CCCERA's lawyer, Harvey Leiderman," continued Weil. He explained that in August, Leiderman wrote a memorandum to CCCERA laying much of the blame on the MOFD board for Nowicki's improper pension, failing to mention that Leiderman warned CCCERA in 2009 that the practices and policies of the retirement board for more than 10 years had caused overpayments to retirees,

including many of the items that Leiderman claimed were caused by the misconduct of the MOFD board or Nowicki. "Cohn knows all about Leiderman's 2009 letter, but he is hiding that fact in his petition," said Weil.

Weil asserted that Leiderman's suggestion that the MOFD board violated the Brown Act in working out Nowicki's pension was baseless and gratuitous, yet Weil said that Cohn continues to create the impression that Weil violated the Brown Act.

"This is not personal between me and Fred; I don't even know him personally," said Cohn. "This is about something he and the 2008 board did ... which has damaged the community by handing out millions of dollars to a favored public employee."

In its 18-year history, several directors have resigned from the MOFD board, the latest being Frank Sperling, who moved out of the district in 2013. No board member ever resigned in response to public pressure.

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