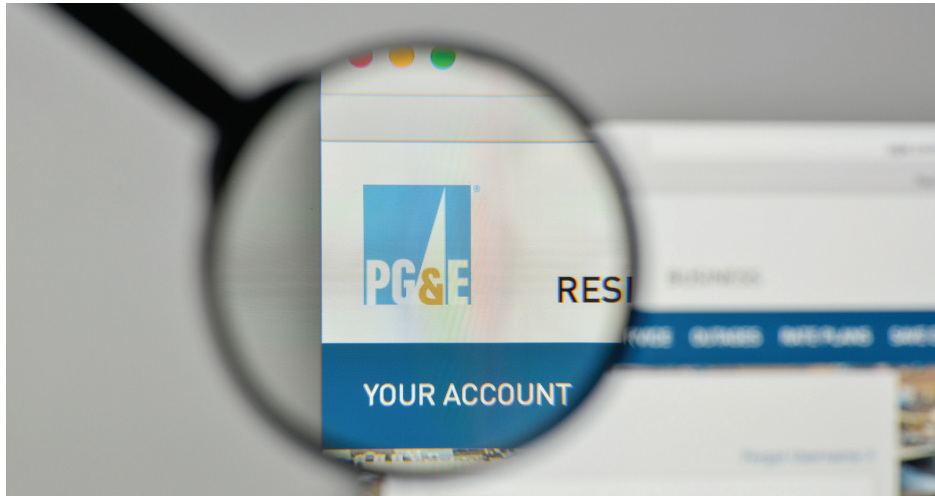


BANKING/ FINANCE

PG&E Erases Settlements With Fire Victims Ahead of Bankruptcy



SHUTTERSTOCK

PG&E is skipping payments it agreed to make to people whose property was destroyed in a 2015 blaze in the Sierra Nevada foothills caused by a tree falling on a power line that officials have blamed on the utility.

by Joel Rosenblatt

As PG&E Corp. prepares to file for bankruptcy, victims of wildfires are getting a preview of how they're likely to be treated as the utility reorganizes — harshly.

Ahead of an expected filing for Chapter 11 protection this week, the company is skipping payments it agreed to make to people whose property was destroyed in a 2015 blaze in the Sierra Nevada foothills caused by a tree falling on a power line that officials have blamed on the utility.

So far, California's largest investor-owned utility has failed to make payments of about \$1.5 million to four families whose properties were destroyed by the Butte fire, and appears prepared to turn its back on at least another seven settlement agreements worth about \$2.5 million, according to plaintiffs lawyer Amanda Riddle.

The utility explained to a judge in a Jan. 23 letter that money is too tight now to commit to honoring the settlements, two days before PG&E said its board approved a \$75,000 raise for its senior vice president of gas operations.

"They have wildfire victims who've been through litigation, went through a mediation, negotiated a settlement, reached an agreement with PG&E and are ready to be paid," Riddle said. "And PG&E refuses to pay them."

The utility has said that bankruptcy is in the best interests of wildfire victims to ensure fair and expeditious resolution of their claims while it faces billions of dollars in liabilities from 2017 and 2018 wildfires across its service area in Northern California.

The company already settled with 2,900 Butte fire victims and has shared its position on remaining settlements with lawyers and mediators "to ensure that everyone is fully aware of what's happening," according to a statement by a PG&E spokeswoman.

Victims of wildfires caused by PG&E's equipment are unsecured creditors, meaning their legal claims in bankruptcy get paid after secured lenders such as banks, and even after financial analysts and bankruptcy lawyers expected to charge hundreds of millions of dollars.

But the victims of the 2015 fire say they're different because they have agreements in hand, fought for and negotiated over years before PG&E decided to file for bankruptcy, and a date by which they were supposed to be paid.

PG&E hasn't cited the Butte fire, which burned 70,000 acres and destroyed almost 500 homes, as a reason for its needing protection from creditors.

PG&E is backing out of settlements even as it was exonerated by state fire investigators last week for causing the Tubbs fire that tore through part of the city of Santa Rosa, the most devastating blaze of 2017, which may release the company from more than \$9 billion in potential liabilities. Riddle said some of the agreements were reached in December, after November's Camp fire, which became the most destructive in California history and is suspected of having been ignited by PG&E equipment.

The conflict over Butte fire settlements is "as straightforward as it is unfortunate," Christopher Tayback, a lawyer for PG&E, said in a Jan. 23 letter to California Superior Court Judge Allen H. Sumner in Sacramento.

Until the company files for bankruptcy, Tayback wrote, "PG&E hopes and expects that it will be able to make payments as they come due, including contractual obligations such as settlement agreements."

"However, PG&E faces liquidity problems," and is prioritizing payments to deliver gas and electricity, the lawyer added. "As a result of all these factors, PG&E cannot commit to pay one potential creditor over any other in the days prior to filing for bankruptcy."

Under federal law, PG&E's bankruptcy filing would automatically put on hold thousands of claims by fire victims filed in California courts. In that scenario, the Butte fire cases would be lumped with all fire victims fighting it out against other unsecured creditors, such as bondholders, to extract a recovery from the utility.

Mike Danko, a lawyer representing fire victims suing PG&E, said bankruptcy will prolong any recovery for homeowners, who only get paid if they can prove their cases.

Even then, victims will get repaid in full for property damage and other claims "only if PG&E's assets exceed its liabilities, and if the professional fees and other costs associated with a bankruptcy don't eat those assets up," Danko said. "Bankruptcies are unbelievably expensive."

The case is *Butte Fire JCCP 4853*, California Superior Court, Sacramento County (Sacramento).

Joel Rosenblatt reports for Bloomberg News.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **Zoning Workshop** on **Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 6:00 PM**. This meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53 Terrace, Doral, FL 33166** to consider the following public hearing application:

HEARING NO.: 19-2-DOR-02

APPLICANT: M&R Twin Group, Inc. ("The Applicant")

PROJECT NAME: M&R Warehouse

PROJECT OWNER: M&R Twin Group, Inc

LOCATION: Located South of NW 55 Street between NW 78 Avenue and NW 77 Court

FOLIO NUMBER: 35-3022-001-0880

SIZE OF PROPERTY: 6,988 Square Feet (.16± Acre)

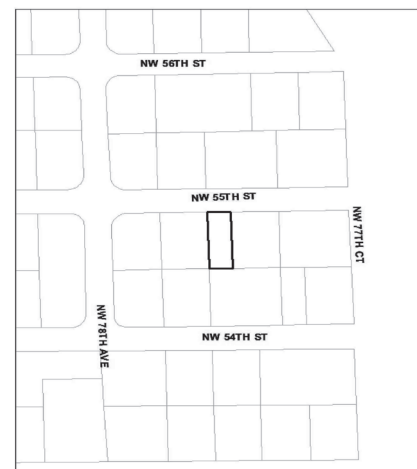
PRESENT LAND USE: Industrial (I) with a Community Mixed Use (CMU) Overlay

PRESENT ZONING: Industrial (I)

REQUEST: The applicant is requesting three variances (lot size, setbacks and lot width) in order to build a proposed new one-story warehouse facility.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 22 53 40 .16 AC AIRPORT GARDENS PB 48-41 W1/2 LOT 76 LOT SIZE 6988 SQ FT OR 12174-1203 0684 1 F/A/U 30-3022-001-0880

Location Map



ZONING WORKSHOP PROCESS: The zoning workshop consists of two sessions:

1. **First Session.** The first session of a zoning workshop shall provide a forum for members of the public to learn about proposed developments within the city. Developments may be presented to the public simultaneously, in several locations within the meeting site. During this session, members of the public are encouraged to ask questions and to provide feedback to the applicant about the proposed development. The applicant shall provide visual depictions, such as renderings, drawings, pictures, and the location of the proposed development. In addition, representatives of the applicant shall be available to answer questions that members of the public may have about the proposed development. The members of the City Council shall not be present during the first session of the zoning workshop. No meeting shall start before 6:00 PM Eastern Standard Time and shall take place at a time and date to maximize public participation.

2. **Second Session.** The second session of a zoning workshop shall provide a forum for the City Council to learn about the proposed developments discussed at the first session of the zoning workshop. No quorum requirement shall apply. Developments shall be presented by the applicants sequentially, one at a time, for the City Council's review and comment. The applicant shall again present visual depictions of the proposed development. In addition, the applicant shall be available to answer any questions that members of the City Council may have about the proposed development.

No quorum requirement shall apply nor will any vote on any project be taken, but roll call will be taken, as it is a publicly noticed meeting.

Information relating to this request is on file and may be examined in the City of Doral, Planning and Zoning Department located at **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL 33166**. All persons are invited to appear at this meeting or be represented by an agent, or to express their views in writing addressed to the City Clerk, **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL 33166**. Maps and other data pertaining to these applications are available for public inspection during normal business hours in City Hall. Any persons wishing to speak at a public hearing should register with the City Clerk prior to that item being heard. Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

NOTE: If you are not able to communicate, or are not comfortable expressing yourself, in the English language, it is your responsibility to bring with you an English-speaking interpreter when conducting business at the City of Doral during the zoning application process up to, and including, appearance at a hearing. This person may be a friend, relative or someone else. A minor cannot serve as a valid interpreter. The City of Doral DOES NOT provide translation services during the zoning application process or during any quasi-judicial proceeding.

NOTA: Si usted no está en capacidad de comunicarse, o no se siente cómodo al expresarse en inglés, es de su responsabilidad traer un intérprete del idioma inglés cuando trate asuntos públicos o de negocios con la Ciudad de Doral durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación, incluyendo su comparecencia a una audiencia. Esta persona puede ser un amigo, familiar o alguien que le haga la traducción durante su comparecencia a la audiencia. Un menor de edad no puede ser intérprete. La Ciudad de Doral NO suministra servicio de traducción durante ningún procedimiento o durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral

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