

## RESOLUTION 2021-04

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MARIN CLEAN ENERGY COMMITTING TO ADVANCE RACIAL EQUITY

**WHEREAS**, Marin Clean Energy (MCE) is a joint powers authority established on December 19, 2008, and organized under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Government Code Section 6500 et seq.); and

**WHEREAS**, MCE members include the following communities: the County of Marin, the County of Contra Costa, the County of Napa, the County of Solano, the City of American Canyon, the City of Belvedere, the City of Benicia, the City of Calistoga, the City of Concord, the Town of Corte Madera, the Town of Danville, the City of El Cerrito, the Town of Fairfax, the City of Fairfield, the City of Lafayette, the City of Larkspur, the City of Martinez, the City of Mill Valley, the Town of Moraga, the City of Napa, the City of Novato, the City of Oakley, the City of Pinole, the City of Pittsburg, the City of Pleasant Hill, the City of San Ramon, the City of Richmond, the Town of Ross, the Town of San Anselmo, the City of San Pablo, the City of San Rafael, the City of Sausalito, the City of St. Helena, the Town of Tiburon, the City of Vallejo, the City of Walnut Creek, and the Town of Yountville; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE embraces and celebrates the rich diversity in our service area; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE recognizes the history of racism in our country, state, and the counties we serve, and that it has led to intersecting current day disparities in environment, education, employment, housing, and public health for people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, equitable outcomes and racial equity are defined as fair and equal opportunities to succeed for all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, age, national origin, disability status, genetic information, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law; and fair opportunities to all people regardless of race, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE recognizes that racial inequities have become institutionalized in the policies and practices of many agencies, governmental and otherwise, and that these policies and practices must be examined and where needed, changed or eliminated; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE recognizes these inequities can aggregate into systemic, intersecting impacts which lead to discrepancies in public health impacts, collectively known as “Environmental Racism” or “Environmental Injustice”; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE’s mission is to address climate change by reducing energy related greenhouse gases with renewable energy and energy efficiency at cost-competitive rates while offering economic and workforce benefits, and creating more equitable communities; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE's mission is committed to a transition to a regenerative clean energy future that is equitable and just by implementing policies and programs aligned with our Environmental Justice values; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE affirms that issues of racial equity must be addressed proactively, collectively, and deliberately in the course of decision-making to contribute to equitable outcomes in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE's previous and ongoing initiatives related to addressing historical inequities include efforts such as MCE's Workforce Policy 011, our local green-collar workforce development initiatives, our ongoing relationship with members of the Community Power Coalition including local community-based organizations involved in the environmental and environmental justice movement; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to further commit to the values enshrined in celebrating diversity, equity, and inclusion, MCE formed an internal team comprised of staff members representing each department in December of 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE has proactively attempted to promote and institutionalize these values in the Community Choice Aggregation movement through the creation of the CalCCA Environmental Justice and Equity Working Group and has facilitated this working group since its inception in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE acknowledges our agency has not comprehensively addressed racial equity considerations in every way possible with all past work, and understands that present and future work will need to continuously be re-evaluated and improved on an ongoing basis; and

**WHEREAS**, while MCE acknowledges the difficulty of assessing the impact of decisions on racial equity in communities, MCE is committed to intentionally adjusting its decision-making process to meet our mission's goal to build more equitable communities; and

**WHEREAS**, many MCE Member Communities have taken recent actions such as issuing statements or resolutions committing to improving racial equity in our communities, including Fairfax, Mill Valley, Novato, San Rafael, Sausalito, and the unincorporated county in Marin; Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, San Pablo, and the unincorporated county in Contra Costa; Napa, St. Helena, and the unincorporated county in Napa; Benicia, Vallejo, and the unincorporated county in Solano; and

**WHEREAS**, CleanPowerSF, East Bay Community Energy, Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, Sonoma Clean Power, and Valley Clean Energy are fellow Community Choice agencies which have recently issued statements or passed racial equity resolutions; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE requested the feedback of trusted local leaders focused on serving hidden and underrepresented constituents in our communities and incorporated the feedback we received into this Resolution including Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), Greenlining Institute, Puertas Abiertas, Canal Alliance, Marin City Community Development Corp, Richmond Build; and

**WHEREAS**, MCE is aligned and encouraged by this recent local and industry upswell in momentum to institutionalize commitments to racial equity

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by MCE's Board of Directors that MCE hereby commits itself to the following actions henceforth:

1. MCE will work toward more equitable outcomes in the areas of energy services, customer programs, community engagement, workforce development, power procurement, policy, and human resources; and
2. To reach these outcomes, MCE will continue to recruit racial equity organizations and engage with these community-based and advocacy organizations through the Community Power Coalition to solicit community input and feedback on the development, objectives, and impacts of new MCE programs and policy early in the process in order to identify, center, and prioritize the needs of Environmental and Social Justice communities; and
3. To increase staff awareness and education, MCE will continue to provide agency-wide training to educate employees on implicit bias and racial equity since each department offers services which impact agency efforts to provide equitable outcomes for the community; and
4. To educate staff on the most effective racial equity practices for local government entities and build relationships with agencies such as ours pursuing similar work, MCE will join the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE); and
5. MCE's Board of Directors will strive to engage in open and honest dialogue with experts on the subject of racial equity and with each other during forums such as Board retreats, community forums or other appropriate MCE sessions; and
6. MCE will braid all of these efforts to continue to thoughtfully and effectively update, eliminate, or create internal and external policies, practices and programs that dismantle existing racial disparities with the understanding that these methods will need to be updated and improved over time.

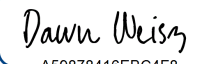
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the MCE Board of Directors on this 20th day of May, 2021, by the following vote:

	<b>AYES</b>	<b>NOES</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
County of Marin	X			
Contra Costa County				X
County of Napa	X			
County of Solano				X
City of American Canyon	X			
City of Belvedere	X			
City of Benicia				X
City of Calistoga	X			
City of Concord	X			
Town of Corte Madera	X			

Town of Danville	X			
City of El Cerrito	X			
Town of Fairfax	X			
City of Lafayette				X
City of Larkspur	X			
City of Martinez	X			
City of Mill Valley	X			
Town of Moraga	X			
City of Napa	X			
City of Novato	X			
City of Oakley	X			
City of Pinole	X			
City of Pittsburg	X			
City of Pleasant Hill	X			
City of San Ramon	X			
City of Richmond	X			
Town of Ross	X			
Town of San Anselmo				X
City of San Pablo	X			
City of San Rafael	X			
City of Sausalito	X			
City of St. Helena	X			
Town of Tiburon				X
City of Vallejo	X			
City of Walnut Creek	X			
Town of Yountville	X			

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 CHAIR, MCE

**Attest:**

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 SECRETARY, MCE