

#### **Empowering Our Clean Energy Future**

MARIN COUNTY | NAPA COUNTY | UNINCORPORATED CONTRA COSTA COUNTY UNINCORPORATED SOLANO COUNTY | BENICIA | CONCORD | DANVILLE | EL CERRITO FAIRFIELD | HERCULES | LAFAYETTE | MARTINEZ | MORAGA | OAKLEY | PINOLE | PITTSBURG PLEASANT HILL | RICHMOND | SAN PABLO | SAN RAMON | VALLEJO | WALNUT CREEK

#### MCE Executive Committee Meeting Monday, July 7, 2025 12:00 p.m.

1125 Tamalpais Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901 2300 Clayton Road, First Floor Conference Room, Concord, CA, 94520

Public comments may be made in person or remotely via the details below.

#### **Remote Public Meeting Participation**

Video Conference: <u>https://t.ly/DnY7U</u> Phone: Dial (669) 900-9128, Meeting ID: 861 2234 3784, Passcode: 415565

Materials related to this agenda are available for physical inspection at MCE's office in San Rafael at 1125 Tamalpais Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901.

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation or an alternative format, please contact MCE at (888) 632-3672 or <u>ada-coordinator@mceCleanEnergy.org</u> at least 72 hours before the meeting start time to ensure arrangements are made.

### Agenda Page 1 of 2

- 1. Roll Call/Quorum
- 2. Board Announcements (Discussion)
- 3. Public Open Time (Discussion)
- 4. Report from Chief Executive Officer (Discussion)
- 5. Consent Calendar (Discussion/Action)
  - C. 1. Approval of 5.5.25 Meeting Minutes
  - C.2. Review Draft 7.17.25 Board Agenda
- 6. MCE 24x7 Renewable Energy Pilot Proposal (Discussion/Action)
- 7. Fiscal Year 2024/25 Financial Audit Process (Discussion)

- 8. Language Accessibility Study Report (Discussion)
- 9. Committee & Staff Matters (Discussion)
- 10. Adjourn

The Executive Committee may discuss and/or take action on any or all of the items listed on the agenda irrespective of how the items are described.

#### DRAFT

#### MCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, May 5, 2025 12:00 P.M.

Present:	Barbara Coler, Town of Fairfax Cindy Darling, City of Walnut Creek Maika Llorens Gulati, City of San Rafael Gabriel Quinto, City of El Cerrito Devin Murphy, City of Pinole, joined at 10:11pm Laura Nakamura, City of Concord Max Perrey, City of Mill Valley, Chair Pat Ravasio, Alternate, Town of Corte Madera Mathew Salter, Town of Ross, joined at 12:07pm Shanelle Scales-Preston, County of Contra Costa, joined at 12:29pm
Absent:	Sally Wilkinson, City of Belvedere
Staff & Others:	Jesica Brooks, Lead Board Clerk and Executive Assistant Stephanie Chen, Director of Legislative Affairs Vicken Kasarjian, Chief Operations Officer Tanya Lomas, Board Clerk Associate Catalina Murphy, General Counsel Ashley Muth, Internal Operations Coordinator Justine Parmelee, VP of Internal Operations Mike Rodriguez-Vargas, Internal Operations Assistant Stephanie Soldavini, Director of Policy Enyonam Senyo-Mensah, Internal Operations Manager Dawn Weisz, Chief Executive Officer

#### 1. <u>Roll Call</u>

Chair Perrey called the regular Executive Committee meeting to order at 12:02 a.m. with quorum established by roll call.

#### 2. Board Announcements (Discussion)

There were no comments.

#### 3. Public Open Time (Discussion)

Chair Perrey opened the public comment period and comments were made by member of the public Ken Strong.

#### DRAFT

#### 4. Report from Chief Executive Officer (Discussion)

CEO, Dawn Weisz, introduced this item and addressed questions from Committee members.

#### 5. Consent Calendar (Discussion/Action)

- C.1 Approval of 3.3.25 Meeting Minutes
- C.2 Review Draft 5.15.25 Board Agenda

Chair Perrey opened the public comment period and there were no comments.

Action: It was M/S/C (Llorens Gulati/Coler) to approve **Consent Calendar C.1 and C.2.** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (Absent: Scales-Preston and Wilkinson).

#### 6. Regional Markets Discussion (Discussion)

Stephanie Chen, Director of Legislative Affairs and Stephanie Soldavini, Director of Policy, presented this item and addressed questions from Committee members.

Chair Perrey opened the public comment period and comments were made by members of the public Ken Strong and Dan Segedin.

Action: No action required.

#### 7. PCIA Overview (Discussion)

Stephanie Chen, Director of Legislative Affairs, presented this item and addressed questions from Committee members.

Chair Perrey opened the public comment period and comments were made by member of the public Dan Segedin.

Action: No action required.

#### 8. Committee & Staff Matters (Discussion)

Director Salter provided comments regarding MCE Board Representation for the Town of Ross.

#### 9. Adjournment

Chair Perrey adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m. to the next scheduled Executive Committee Meeting on June 2, 2025.

### DRAFT

Max Perrey, Chair

Attest:

Dawn Weisz, Secretary



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### DRAFT

#### MCE Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, July 17, 2025 6:30 p.m.

#### Primary Location: 1125 Tamalpais Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901

Secondary Location: 2300 Clayton Road, Suite 1500, Concord, CA 94520

Public comments may be made in person or remotely via the details below. Remote Public Meeting Participation

Video Conference: <u>https://zoomto.me/F6Ogt</u> Phone: Dial (669) 900-9128, Meeting ID: 890 0487 7785, Passcode: 525690

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- 5. Consent Calendar (Discussion/Action)
  - C.1. Approval of 5.15.25 Meeting Minutes

- C.2. Approved Contracts for Energy Update
- C.3 Resolution 2025-03 Establishing the Date, Time, and Location of Regular Board Meetings
- C.4 Policy 019: Governing Disposition of Surplus Property
- 6. Customer Operations Update (Discussion)
- 7. MCE 24x7 Pilot Proposal (Discussion/Action)
- 8. Board & Staff Matters (Discussion)
- 9. Adjourn

The Board of Directors may discuss and/or take action on any or all of the items listed on the agenda irrespective of how the items are described.



MCE 24/7 Renewable Energy Pilot Proposal













YEARS OF SERVICE



- Background of MCE Service offerings
- Proposed Deep Green premium charge increase
- Proposed 24/7 Renewable energy pilot product
- Next steps

## **Choice is Power**

in the state last in



### **Default Service**

MCE Light Green 60% RENEWABLE MCE Local Sol 100% SOLAR Will have be and

3

### **Choice is power**

### **Deep Green**

100% Renewable, typically sourced from CA wind and solar

- 6.7% of MCE Customers
- Over 500 GWh in annual energy

### **Light Green**

60% renewable

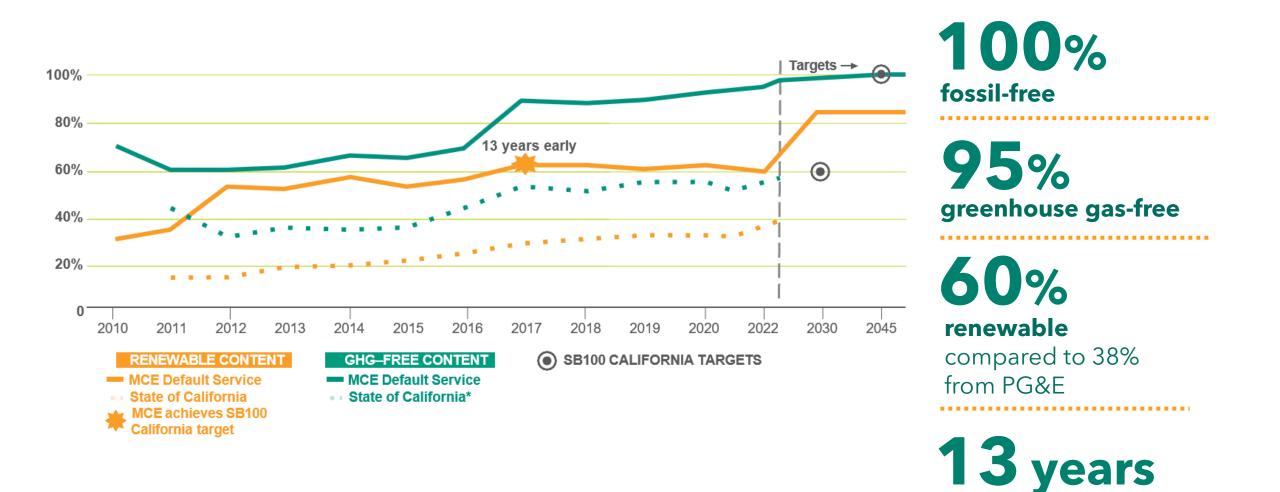
### Local Sol

100% from local solar resource

- Default program
- Gradually increasing to 85% renewable by 2031
- Over 5,000 GWh in annual energy

- Limited to 300 Customers
- Closed to new enrollment
- Premium price fixed to a long-term contract
- 1,500 MWh in annual energy

### **MCE's Clean Energy**



Earlier than state

goals

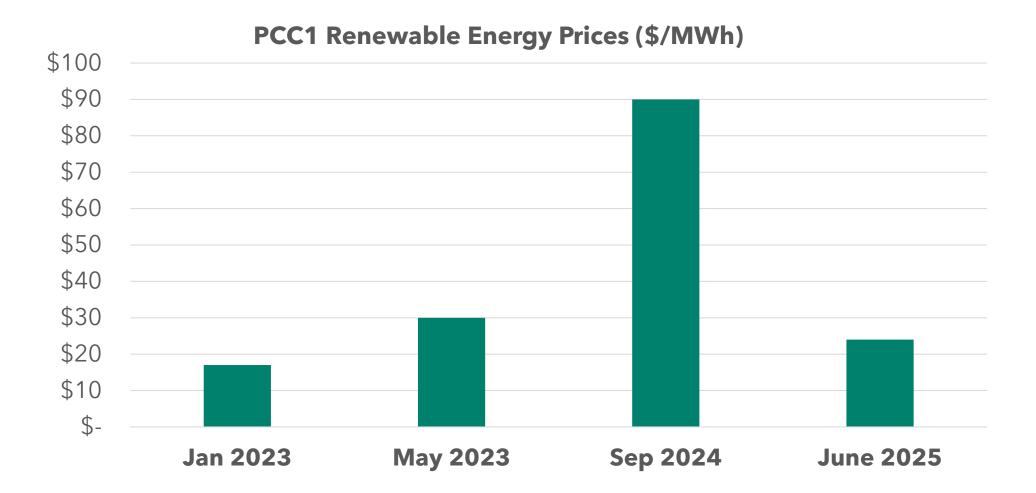
### Deep Green Pricing

### Understanding Deep Green Premium

- Since 2010 the Deep Green premium has been set at ¢1/kWh.
- This premium is added to the Light Green rate and has remained constant while the cost of renewables have increased over time.
- MCE proposes to increase this premium to approach the current cost.

The Deep Green premium is added to the default Light Green rate

### **PCC1 Renewable Energy Pricing**



### **Methodology for calculating Deep Green Premium**



Cost of procuring additional renewable energy to go from 60% to 100%

Carbon-Free energy cost savings Local Projects Fund Adder

4

### **Deep Green Premium Comparison**

### \*The prices are based on ¢/kWh

	2024	2025	Proposed
Added cost of Deep Green Product	¢3.80	¢0.96	
Carbon Free Content Difference price	¢1.40	¢0.28	¢1.50
Local Projects Fund Adder	¢0.50	¢0.50	
Resource cost premium	¢2.90	¢1.18	
	1		

- 1. The premium is proposed at ¢1.50/kWh to allow for absorption of price fluctuations.
- 2. The cost for Deep Green has been higher than the premium in recent years

### Proposed 24/7 Renewable Pilot Offering

### **Regulatory Changes**

### **Power Source Disclosure Program**

- Starting 2028, MCE will be required to report all emissions associated with the previous year's generation on an hourly basis: 24hours/day, 7 days/week.
- MCE will adjust emissions reporting metrics to match regulatory requirements.



### **Proposed 24/7 Renewable Pilot**

- Product: 24/7 Renewable Energy
- Initial Premium : ¢5.40/kWh premium (added to Light Green Rate), Can be updated with the budget cycle
- Customers: Capped at 400 Municipal Customers
- Timeline : 1/1/2026 12/31/2028 (3 Years)
- Renewable sources: Solar, Wind, Storage and Geothermal\*
- Reporting Framework: Hourly matching and reporting of load and supply

\*California Power Source Disclosure rules treat geothermal power as zero emissions, although Geysers does have a de minimis amount of geological CO2 emissions associated with its operations.

### **Proposed 24/7 Renewable Pilot**

- If approved, MCE would launch the pilot program on 1/1/2026
- The program would be open to the first 400 municipal customers signing up
- Pilot product will be reported on the Power Content Label (PCL) starting in 2027

### Proposed 24/7 Program

# Pilot program will be limited to a small number of customers.

### **Considerations:**

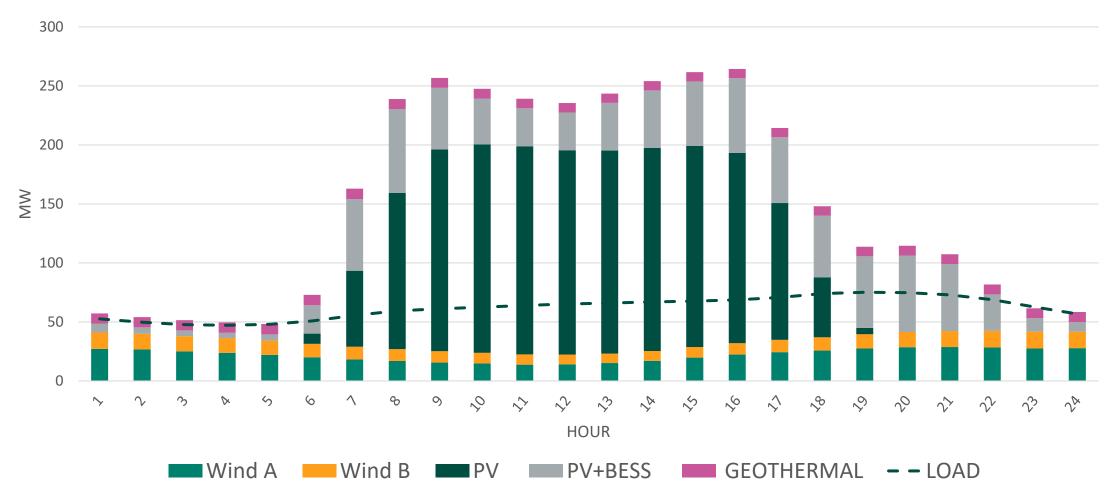
- Difficult and/or costly to acquire 24/7 carbon-free renewable resources
- Wind and solar projects must be overbuilt and/or incorporate storage
- Overbuild would be 3 to 5 times the size of a non variable 24x7 resource to provide the same level of reliability
- Customer hourly load profiles and demand must fit within the purchased resources



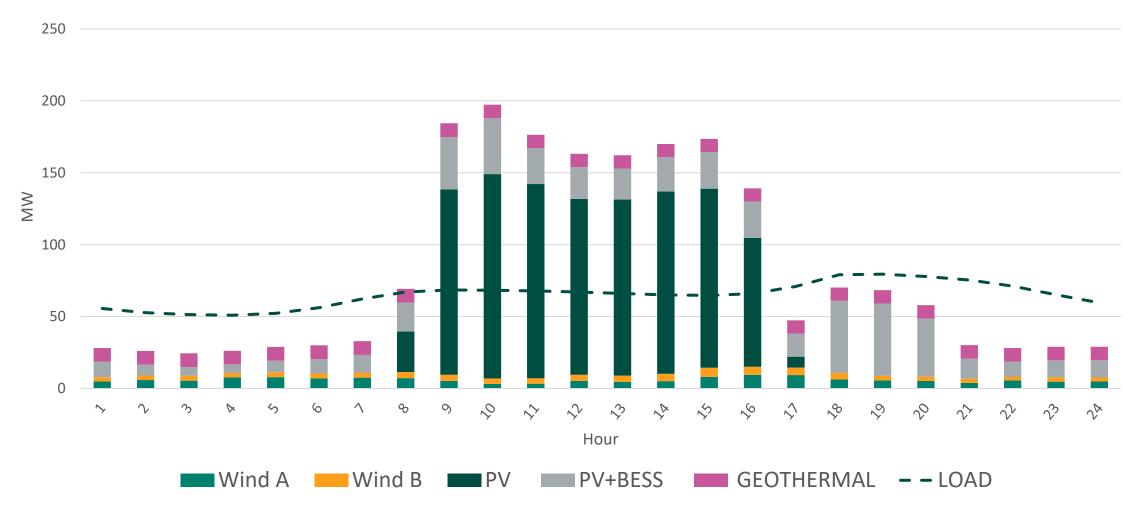
2000 Annual MWh expected to be served Number of customers targeted

400

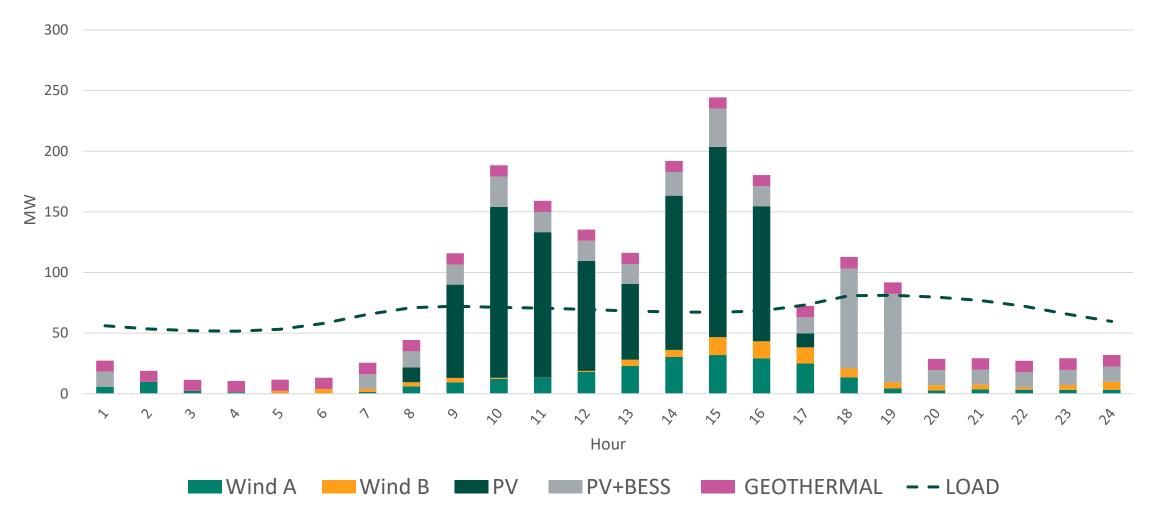
### 24/7 PILOT OUTLOOK WITH MUNI LOAD



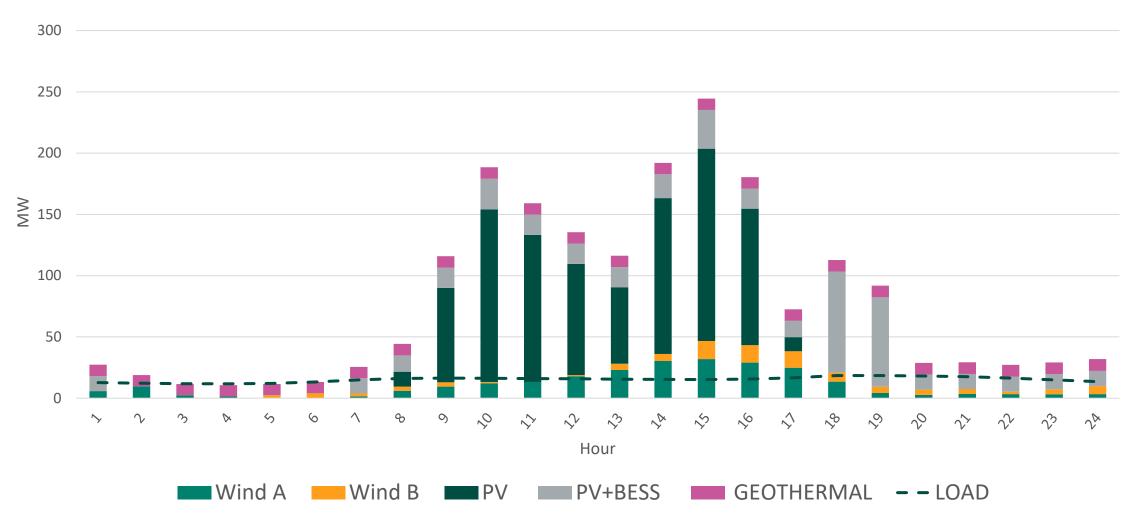
DEC - 24/7 PILOT OUTLOOK WITH MUNI LOAD



### CONSTRAINED - 24/7 PILOT OUTLOOK WITH MUNI LOAD



Limited - 24/7 PILOT OUTLOOK WITH MUNI LOAD



Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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### Limited - 24/7 Pilot Outlook Minimum Coverage

70% or less

100 %

**150% or more** 

# Methodology for calculating pilot premium



¢5.40/kWh

The 24/7 pilot premium could be updated annually during MCE budget-setting

### Recommendations

1.Recommend Board approval to increase the Deep Green premium from 1/kWh to 1.50/kWh

2. Recommend Board approval of the 24/7 Renewable Pilot program for up to 400 municipal customers starting on 1/1/2026 for 3 years with an initial premium of ¢5.40/KWh

3. Recommend Board approval of the rate-premium methodologies above and direct staff to update premiums annually during MCE budget-setting



# Thank you!



mceCleanEnergy.org info@mceCleanEnergy.org



July 7, 2025

TO:	MCE Executive Committee
FROM:	Maira Strauss, VP of Finance Efren Oxlaj, Finance Manager
RE:	Fiscal Year 2024/25 Financial Audit Process (Agenda Item #07)

Dear Executive Committee Members:

#### **Background:**

MCE's fiscal year runs from April 1st through March 31st. After the fiscal year ends, staff work with a third-party firm to audit the financial statements. Since 2018, Baker Tilly has been conducting MCE's financial audit in conjunction with staff and MCE's accounting firm, Maher Accountancy. As part of the audit for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25, staff are providing a general overview of the audit process to explain the role of the auditors, MCE staff, and your Board.

#### **Role of the Auditors**

For the past seven years, MCE has engaged Baker Tilly to conduct its financial statement audits. Baker Tilly currently ranks as the 10th-largest accounting firm in the U.S. and provides a range of services including advisory, tax, and assurance. In California, the firm provides auditing services to entities like Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and Clean Power Alliance (CPA). Baker Tilly also works with more than 1,600 utility clients across the nation ranging from wholesale utility authorities and agencies to renewable energy developers. For the audit of FY 2024/25, staff are currently working with Baker Tilly representatives, Aaron Worthman, CPA, Principal, and Ryan Theiler, CPA, Manager. Ryan has supported MCE's audits since 2018, while Aaron has assumed the role of engagement principal this year, consistent with principal rotation requirements.

Baker Tilly is currently in the process of auditing the results of FY 2024/25 in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS). These standards require the firm to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether caused by error or fraud. As part of the audit, Baker Tilly will conduct the following:

- Perform tests of MCE's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts and agreements
- Obtain an understanding of internal controls

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management
- Evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures
- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events that raise substantial doubt about the MCE's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

#### Role of MCE

During the annual audit, MCE staff collaborate with both internal and external stakeholders to ensure Baker Tilly has full access to all necessary information. This includes preparing and sending confirmation requests to MCE's banks to verify fiscal year-end account balances and investments. Documentation supporting year-end estimates are also obtained from external counterparties when necessary. Additionally, staff provide updates on MCE's opt-out rate, personnel count as of the fiscal year-end, current or newly-adopted policies and any rate increase in that specific fiscal year. Furthermore, staff provide verbal responses to the auditors on questions around internal controls and fraud risk, which is a component of the Statement on Auditing Standards No. 99 (SAS 99) interviews. The SAS 99 interview is part of the auditor's responsibility to assess the risk of fraud during a financial audit. It involves interviews with management and members of the Board of Directors to gather insight into potential fraud risks, internal controls, and the organization's ethical environment. In addition to members of staff and the Board of Directors, the Board Chair participates in the SAS 99 interview and provides their thoughts on fraud risks and controls. The objective is to ensure management maintains a strong internal control framework. No instances of fraud have occurred since MCE's inception. Finally, staff are responsible for reporting the results of the audit to your Board.

Recommendation: Discussion only.



July 7, 2025

TO:	MCE Executive Committee
FROM:	Jackie Nuñez, Senior Communications Manager
RE:	Language Accessibility Study Report (Agenda Item #08)
ATTACHMENT:	Enhancing Language Accessibility

Dear Executive Committee Members:

#### Summary:

As part of an initiative to build trust and enhance language accessibility to non-English speaking customers, MCE conducted a study to understand the best communication channels and approaches for engaging with people who experience language barriers.

#### **Background**

In 2023, MCE formed an internal working group among various departments to build on the agency's existing language accessibility efforts and identify the most effective ways to serve non-English speaking customers. That year, nearly one in three calls to MCE's service center were received in Spanish. This prompted MCE to better understand community language needs and identify approaches to providing excellent service to this population.

The working group:

- Assessed community language demographics and processes for serving individuals proficient in languages other than English
- Met with other Community Choice Aggregators and public agencies to share best practices
- Developed internal guidelines to operationalize language accessibility procedures

This initiative revealed that:

- Spanish is the most prevalent language among non-English speakers in MCE's area, followed by Tagalog and Chinese
- Roughly 8% of households in MCE's service area are linguistically isolated, meaning members of the family above the age of 14 do not speak English proficiently

In response to these findings, MCE hired a local vendor, Soluna Outreach Solutions, to conduct a language study. The study aimed to understand community priorities, identify the best communication channels to reach individuals, and find the most culturally appropriate terminology to engage with communities around clean energy and climate change.

Soluna Outreach Solutions conducted focus groups in Spanish, one in each county across MCE's service area in partnership with the following local community-based organizations (CBOs).

- Latina Center, Contra Costa County
- Multicultural Center of Marin, Marin County
- Puertas Abiertas, Napa County
- First Five, Solano County

The study found:

- There is an opportunity to build trust with the community around electricity service and clean energy, providing clearer and less technical communications in various formats ranging from written communications and video
- People are interested in in-person conversations and learning opportunities about how to lower bills
- Customers prefer email and physical mail for detailed information and text messages for urgent notices
- Working with local partners, including nonprofits and CBOs, is an effective strategy to build trust especially with non-English speaking communities

MCE has used the results of the study to inform its communications, community engagement, and customer service strategies to establish excellence in service to people facing language barriers. Staff will continue to assess best practices and identify opportunities to work toward an inclusive and equitable approach to serving non-English speaking customers.

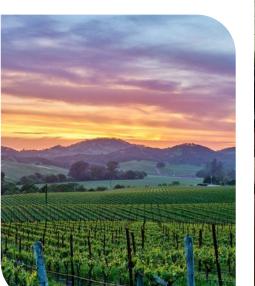
Fiscal Impacts: All contractual and staff costs are within the approved fiscal year budget.

Recommendation: Discussion only.



### **MCE** Language Accessibility Study Report











### Enhancing Language Access

- 24% of MCE's inbound calls were in Spanish in 2024
- More than 8% of households are linguistically isolated
- Spanish is the most prevalent language among non-English speakers in our area, followed by Tagalog and Chinese



Supports those **most impacted by our changing climate.** 

### **Our Efforts**

- Assessed demographics and processes
- **Met** with other CCAs and public agencies to share best practices
- **Developed** language guidelines
- **Conducted** a language study
- Trained and hired 5 bilingual staff



inte services

On the Address

# Language Study

- Understand language and communication channels preferred by Spanish speakers
- One focus group in each county, total of 24 participants
- Hosted with local partners to build trust
- Diverse participants of various ages, including MCE customers and noncustomers



"We need more culturallysensitive outreach that **helps people learn about MCE through trusted community sources**."

Community Power
Coalition member

### **Findings**

- An opportunity to build trust around electricity service and clean energy
- Interest in in-person conversations, learning opportunities
- Customers prefer email and physical mail for detailed information
- Text message for urgent notices
- Continue collaborations with local partners to build trust
- Topics of interest
  - How to lower bills
  - More clarity about billing and rates
  - Financial assistance programs

CQué término entiende mejor? 1). Cambio climático .... • Calentamiento global ••••• • Otro: \_\_\_\_\_ 2). Trabajos verdes \_\_\_\_ • Trabajos ecológicos ••• • Otro: \_\_\_\_\_ 3). Energía limpia ..... . Energía renovable .... · Otro: ··· 4) · Sostenible ··· · Sustentable ···· . Otro: -5). Contaminación ..... · Emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. Otro: \_\_\_\_\_ Combustibles fósiles ... Carbon -Terminology Contaminación .... exercise . Otro: -. otro: \_\_\_\_

### **Next Steps**

- Use findings to inform MCE's public engagement and communications
- Discussion with ComPow in July
- Continue to refine internal practices to support non-English speakers
- Explore other community accessibility needs including for people with disabilities, technology and other barriers





# Thank you!



mceCleanEnergy.org info@mceCleanEnergy.org