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Jesica Brooks <jbrooks@mcecleanenergy.org>

Marin Conservation League's letter supporting a standing MCE Finance Committee [for MCE BOD meeting agenda item #8]Dear MCE Board Member--

Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg <Rebecca@marinconservationleague.org>

Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 4:59 PM

To: "jbrooks@mcecleanenergy.org" <jbrooks@mcecleanenergy.org>

Cc: Bob Miller - Forwarding <RobertMiller454@gmail.com>, MCL President <president@marinconservationleague.org>

Good evening Jessica,

Please find the attached letter from Marin Conservation League (MCL) to the MCE Board supporting a standing MCE Finance Committee.

I am sending the attached letter from Marin Conservation League to you as Board Clerk for distribution concerning agenda item #8 for Thursday's MCE Board of Directors meeting. We intend to send a copy of this letter directly to members of the Board of Directors but wanted to make sure we provided our public comment letter to MCE this afternoon.

We are sending this via email because we want to be sure that this gets to you in time for your review prior to Thursday's MCE Board of Directors meeting.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg (she/her)

Executive Director

Marin Conservation League

rebecca@marinconservationleague.org

310-433-8410

<https://marinconservationleague.org/>



MCL letter to MCE re standing Finance Committee.11.18.25.pdf

245K



Protecting Marin Since 1934

November 18, 2025

MCE Community Choice Energy
1125 Tamalpais Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

Subject: Support for a standing MCE Finance Committee

Dear MCE Board of Directors,

As part of its mission to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin, Marin Conservation League (MCL) is committed to slowing climate change and addressing its most serious environmental impacts. MCL strongly supports MCE's mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide competitive electricity rates and community benefits. As a result, we have followed and supported MCE since its inception, frequently attending MCE meetings and engaging with staff. We offer our recommendations in the spirit of partnership and with the shared goal of ensuring MCE's long-term strength and credibility.

The key challenge that the MCE Board faces in governing is that management and staff have lots of detailed financial and procurement information and analysis, whereas the Board and the public have much less. This makes it hard for Board members to govern and provide the active oversight that can fulfil their obligations to their constituents.

That's why **all of MCE's main peers have separate standing Finance Committees.**¹

Management can share key information with a specialized Committee in a concise and clear way that is designed to promote understanding, and Committee members with expertise can ask questions, provide feedback, and help staff convey and explain information to the Executive Committee and Board.

A standing Finance Committee can improve MCE Board governance and oversight by much more than a combined Finance Committee/Executive Committee, by bringing to bear more expertise, engagement, focus, and time. The result is clearer and more useful financial information to improve the decision making of the Board and Executive Committee.

Management is missing the main improvement opportunity when they state that a standing finance committee "...would not change the amount or type of financial information provided..."².

The whole point of a smaller standing Finance Committee, with 5-7 engaged members with

¹ Peninsula Clean Energy, Ava Community Energy, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Central Coast Community Energy, Clean Power Alliance (LA), and San Diego Community Power all have separate Standing Finance Committees.

² [MCE Board packet p.120 Nov 20, 2025](#)

some financial expertise, is to significantly improve the amount and quality of financial information and analysis obtained, discussed, and then presented to the Executive Committee and the Board. It would not be “...removing fiscal discussions from the Executive Committee...”³.

At stake are potentially tens of millions of surplus cash *per year* that could be used to fund community energy programs, rate relief, or additional renewable energy procurement.

A standing Finance Committee is superior to a combined Finance/Executive Committee due to:

1. **More expertise.** A standing Finance Committee drawn from Board Members and Alternates concentrates Board member financial expertise where it can be most useful in helping MCE. It turns MCE’s large Board into an asset by drawing on a wider pool of members to help MCE.
2. **More Board member engagement.** Standing Finance Committee Board members will be more engaged given their interest in, and understanding of, financial issues. Some Executive Committee members may be less engaged due to less interest and expertise in financial issues.
3. **Greater focus and time.** Standing Finance Committee members can spend time focused on financial issues, not on the many other issues that the Executive Committee addresses. The appendix includes important tasks a Standing Finance Committee could address.
4. **Enhanced communication to other Board members, enabling better decision-making and use of time.** Standing Finance Committee members can help ensure consistent and concise summaries of key financial issues and strategies to the MCE Executive Committee and other Board members. This will enhance Board understanding, enable better decisions, and save time.
5. **Reduced burden on the Executive Committee and its members.** The Executive Committee is already short on time due to crowded agendas and discussion is already limited. A separate standing Finance Committee would free up time for the Board and Executive Committee to address other high priority issues.
6. **Enhanced communication of financial issues to the public and increased confidence in MCE.** Standing Finance Committee Board members will be better positioned to work with other board members and staff to communicate financial decisions to the public and community. This will lead to greater understanding and confidence in MCE.

The Brown Act is not an obstacle: A minority of the MCE Executive Committee members could join the standing Finance Committee. As for obtaining quorum, engaged and interested members will ensure quorum is achieved, as it has been in other CCAs.

In summary, **MCE should establish a standing Finance Committees as the best way improve Board member understanding of financial information and analysis, and thus improve Board governance and active oversight.**

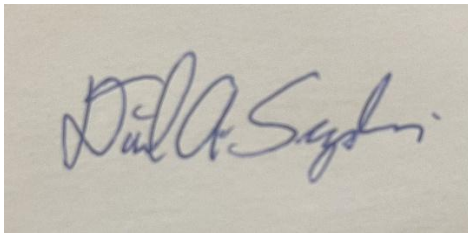
³ [MCE Board packet p.121 Nov 20, 2025](#)

We urge the Board to vote “yes” on a standing Finance Committee that will institute real improvement, and “no” on a re-titled, combined committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Swezy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mike Swezy
President, Marin Conservation League

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Segedin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dan Segedin
Member, Marin Conservation League

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Robert Miller
Co-Chair MCL Climate Action Working Group

Appendix

The following is a list of some best practice functions that Finance Committees perform in other organizations, and in peer CCAs. It is not meant to be prescriptive of what the scope of the Finance Committee should be. While all could be helpful to MCE, some prioritization and phasing will likely be necessary.

Focus Area	Key Responsibilities
1. Financial Oversight & Performance Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review monthly Treasurer’s report and monthly and quarterly financial statements to assess overall financial performance. • Track key financial metrics vs. budget, forecast, prior periods, and peers. • Report at least quarterly on Committee activities, findings, and recommendations.
2. Audit, Internal Controls & Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select and engage external auditors; review results, management responses, and emerging issues. • Assess adequacy of internal controls and follow-up on audit findings.
3. Budgeting & Rate Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the draft annual budget and any revisions • Review rate-setting, rate design, and rate policy with a focus on financial impacts
4. Capital Planning, Financing & Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review capital expenditure plans and financing strategies for impact on financial position. • Monitor reserves to ensure long-term stability; recommend policy adjustments as needed.
5. Financial Policies & Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review financial policies. • Evaluate exposure to energy market risk and risk-management strategies. • Oversee scenario planning and stress tests to validate reserve adequacy, rate stability, and resilience.

6. Long-Term Financial Strategy & Modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversee a multi-year plan aligning budgets, reserves, and rate strategy with long-term goals.• Review energy, attribute, and resource adequacy procurement and hedging contracts to meet long-term objectives.• Monitor financial impacts of major regulatory or legislative changes.
7. Contracting & External Engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review consulting and counterparty agreements for financial risk, performance, and cost-effectiveness.