



MCE's good work

Tom Flynn <tomflynn@sonic.net>

Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 4:07 PM

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

Cc: "swilkinson@cityofbelvedere.org" <swilkinson@cityofbelvedere.org>, "kbirdseye@ci.benicia.ca.us"

<kbirdseye@ci.benicia.ca.us>, "DBailey@herculesca.gov" <DBailey@herculesca.gov>, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], "bpainter@cityofnapa.org" <bpainter@cityofnapa.org>,

"laura.nakamura@cityofconcord.org" <laura.nakamura@cityofconcord.org>, "ebeckman@cortemadera.gov"

<ebeckman@cortemadera.gov>, "msandhu@fairfield.ca.gov" <msandhu@fairfield.ca.gov>,

[REDACTED] "Shanelle.Scales-Preston@bos.cccounty.us"

<Shanelle.Scales-Preston@bos.cccounty.us>, "district5@bos.cccounty.us" <district5@bos.cccounty.us>,

[REDACTED] "mary.sackett@marincounty.gov"

<mary.sackett@marincounty.gov>, "liz.alessio@countyofnapa.org" <liz.alessio@countyofnapa.org>,

"mebrown@solanocounty.com" <mebrown@solanocounty.com>, "GQuinto@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us" <GQuinto@ci.el-

cerrito.ca.us> [REDACTED] "bcoler@townoffairfax.org"

<bcoler@townoffairfax.org>, "jmccormick@lovelafayette.org" <jmccormick@lovelafayette.org>, Stephanie Andre

<sandre@cityoflarkspur.org>, "bzorn@cityofmartinez.org" <bzorn@cityofmartinez.org>, "mperrey@cityofmillvalley.gov"

<mperrey@cityofmillvalley.gov>, "gthiel@moraga.ca.us" <gthiel@moraga.ca.us>, "kjacobs@novato.org"

<kjacobs@novato.org>, "meadows@ci.oakley.ca.us" <meadows@ci.oakley.ca.us>, "dmurphy@pinole.gov"

<dmurphy@pinole.gov>, "akobata@pittsburgca.gov" <akobata@pittsburgca.gov>, "ASzakats@phillca.gov"

<ASzakats@phillca.gov>, "cesar_zepeda@ci.richmond.ca.us" <cesar_zepeda@ci.richmond.ca.us>,

[REDACTED] "tkullaway@sananselmo.gov" <tkullaway@sananselmo.gov>,

[REDACTED] "ElizabethP@sanpabloca.gov" <ElizabethP@sanpabloca.gov>,

"maika@cityofsanrafael.org" <maika@cityofsanrafael.org>, "SVerose@sanramon.ca.gov"

<SVerose@sanramon.ca.gov>, "jhoffman@sausalito.gov" <jhoffman@sausalito.gov>,

[REDACTED] "mbelotz@danville.ca.gov"

<mbelotz@danville.ca.gov>, "Charles.Palmares@cityofvallejo.net" <Charles.Palmares@cityofvallejo.net>,

"darling@walnut-creek.org" <darling@walnut-creek.org>, jryan@townoftiburon.org, [REDACTED]

"Brian.Colbert@marincounty.gov" <Brian.Colbert@marincounty.gov>

Dear MCE Board Members,

The Marin Independent Journal's recent series of articles on MCE are timely and compelling when another pendulum swing in federal energy policy promotes fossil fuels and discredits clean energy and its role in protecting our climate and environment.

A key takeaway is that these matters are not simple and that we are in danger of falling into a simplified "us-against-them" narrative. Unfortunately this splitting into factions and getting divided and conquered appears to again be coming into play at the MCE Board and national level.

These essential energy matters are extremely important and require receptivity and respect between all parties. Perhaps the selection of opposing viewpoints of MCE Board members and staff in the Marin IJ articles could have been better. And of course it's a human tendency to defend past actions. Whatever the case, the value of objective financial analysis is not inherently divisive, especially when there are indications that MCE is financially vulnerable. Likewise, the dedicated voluntary efforts by knowledgeable Board members to provide financial security for MCE should not be reason for conflict. Financial transparency is a best practice for any public agency.

Countless numbers of us supported MCE since its beginning when the David vs Goliath battle led by friend Charles McGlashan, challenged PG&E as our sole option for electricity generation. In that battle, PG&E spent more than \$4 million campaigning against the creation of MCE. Subsequently MCE succeeded in many ways, playing a leading, important role in the transition from polluting sources of electricity generation to cleaner energy for all. Public support and multiple environmental, societal and

economic benefits have continued to accrue to clean energy internationally.

Local support for clean reliable energy is now also manifesting in our West Marin community effort to create clean energy and battery microgrids—something the Marin County Grand Jury called for more than 2 years ago. Working with the Marin County Fire Department, Shoreline School District, North Marin Water District, Tomales Village Community Service District, West Marin Climate Action and many other West Marin community organizations, we have sought to secure funding for these community microgrids. Thus far we have secured two grants, totaling over \$6 million through the Cal PUC directed and PG&E administered Microgrid Incentive Program to protect the vulnerable in West Marin during power outages and times of high fire risk.

Today PG&E is doing better but still has much room for improvement. MCE can also do better, especially in its communication and fiscal management. For these reasons, a probing, independent, and transparent Finance Committee of Board members, with appropriate qualifications, should be established.

Beginning to develop a succession plan with key staff at MCE will also be essential to bringing in the best possible talent for the near and long term.

Current conditions call for building deep trust and partnership across the clean energy community, to support each other in building stronger, more effective solutions for everyone.

California is now the 4th largest economy in the world. The Bay Area, including MCE, can play a key role on our energy, climate, and environmental future. The times require that MCE (our Community Choice Aggregator of clean electricity generation) be creative and constructive in its approach, rather than defensive.

Thank you for all your good work,

Tom Flynn