

These public comments submitted to MCE are unaltered and have not been assessed for accuracy. Any opinions expressed are attributable solely to the authors. MCE welcomes engagement and appreciates written input from the public.

All letters from the public are available on our website [here](#).

To: MCE Board of Directors

From: Shawn Marshall, CEO of Peninsula Clean Energy

Date: January 15, 2026

Re: Public Comment for MCE Board Meeting January 15, 2026

Good Evening Members of the MCE Board and Staff,

My name is Shawn Marshall, and I am the current CEO of Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), a long-time Marin County resident and MCE customer, former mayor and councilmember from the City of Mill Valley, and one of MCE's founders dating to 2006 before the Agency was formed.

I am joining you tonight as a member of the public to express my concern over the ongoing vitriol and negative press about MCE printed in the Marin IJ and on social media over the past several months.

I would like to make 4 key points:

- 1) **The first is related to operations and management.** Obviously, I can't comment on the Agency's day-to-day business practices, but our team works with your CEO and senior leadership on a regular basis and we have experienced nothing but the highest in professionalism and best practices in over a decade of working together. I am glad that MCE is pursuing a governance assessment in the name of ongoing operational excellence, and at the same time, is proactively correcting misinformation, half truths, and misstatements when they occur.
- 2) **The second is related to energy contracts and recent budget variances.** When the damning series came out in the IJ, our team closely reviewed the stated issues, with a particular focus on budget variances and power contracting. And, while unfortunate, we found nothing related to mismanagement or malfeasance in either case. We too have to deal with energy market volatility, unplanned and often costly compliance mandates, invoice and allocation payment lags. We too are dealing with lower than projected energy sales due to mild weather conditions. And while this will be offset by lower power costs, it doesn't solve the whole problem, and it can result in budget deficits due to lags in energy pricing and payments.
- 3) **Third, I want to comment on the important role you play as a member of this Board.** I once sat in your seat, and I know first-hand how complicated and multi-layered this work is. It takes years to understand the nuances of energy markets,

regulatory compliance etc, and this is why MCE, PCE and other CCAs have hired experienced professional staff to run Agency operations; and MCE has some of the best in the business. But staff can't succeed without an informed and supportive Board. It's good to debate and fine to disagree at times, but I truly hope the few angry members of this Board will find a way to come to the table in a way that is constructive – with an attitude of cooperation, a learning mindset, and commitment to rebuilding trust with your staff. Anything else is demoralizing, destabilizing and frankly, hinders MCE's progress.

- 4) **Finally, as a long-time advocate, proud customer, and practitioner in the CCA sector, I find it a shame that the Marin IJ decided to take the low road in its sensationally negative four-part series last Fall.** And it did so without any counter-balance or recognition of the 15 years of groundbreaking value that MCE has consistently delivered. Without MCE, PCE and 23 other high-performing CCAs serving over 15 million customers in California would not exist. Billions of dollars in electric rates would not have been saved, and millions of metric tons of carbon would still be in our air. Energy programs like those offered by PCE got their start at MCE. We stand on the shoulders of this Agency, and it deserves the public's respect.

In closing, I am calling upon the MCE Board and the Marin IJ to launch another four-part series, this one focused on MCE's many accomplishments these past 15 years, and all that it does right every single day.

Thank you.

Shawn E. Marshall
CEO, Peninsula Clean Energy
MCE Founding Vice Chair and Board Member (2009-2013)
Mill Valley City Council (2005-2013)