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## Corrections to recent IJ story on MCE

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From Jared Blanton <jblanton@mcecleanenergy.org>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 5:20 PM

To jswartz@marinij.com <jswartz@marinij.com>

Hello Jennifer,

I am writing on behalf of MCE to provide corrections to the article published on April 14, 2026, titled "MCE critics: Transparency needed on fossil fuel sources."

Before I address specific claims, I would like to note that this article presents quotes from many individuals as though the content is factually accurate, when they are not. It also carelessly takes quotes from several people out of context including Sue Sanders, Tom Habashi, and George Tyson.

There are no citations for claims, and claims have not been checked for accuracy. Several statements in the article are factually incorrect or inconsistent with California regulatory accounting methodologies, and we ask for your consideration to adjust and correct these items in your reporting. **Below are the most significant inaccuracies:**

- **Claim: MCE is only 36% carbon-free.**  
**Correction:** MCE's Light Green option sources 60% of its energy from renewable resources and is currently 95% greenhouse gas-free. The 36% figure is inaccurately calculated using limited information from MCE's public documents and doesn't align with the California Energy Commission's (CEC) accounting methodology. It excludes the value of MCE's short-term renewable energy and carbon free energy contracts as clean resources under CEC guidelines and misrepresents the amount of energy MCE has under long-term contracts. Applying alternative power accounting methods selectively to MCE creates a misleading and incomplete comparison. The same analytical approach applied to any California utility would produce a similarly incomplete picture, which is precisely why it isn't the standard methodology the CEC uses in the annual Power Content Label.
- **Claim: The power content label does not include unspecified power.**  
**Correction:** This is incorrect. MCE's Power Content Label (PCL) explicitly includes a line item for "Unspecified power." Please refer to the [2024 PCL](#) for confirmation. MCE has had unspecified power on its PCL in the past.
- **Claim: MCE has spent \$330 million on standalone renewable energy credits and greenhouse gas-free attributes.**  
**Correction:** MCE does not purchase unbundled renewable energy credits or standalone greenhouse gas-free attributes. Beginning in 2027, MCE will have some greenhouse gas-free attributes through the allocation of nuclear power from PG&E, but those assets were not purchased.
- **Claim: Hedges are where MCE is using fossil energy.**  
**Correction:** Hedges are financial instruments that allow MCE to lock in or stabilize electricity prices tied to market prices from the California Independent System Operator. They are price protection tools, not contracts for electricity from specific power plants. Overall, hedges help protect MCE customers from price spikes in the electricity market and allow MCE to provide renewable energy while keeping prices predictable.

- **Claim: Without credits, MCE emissions would be 606 pounds.**  
**Correction:** This number refers to what MCE's portfolio would look like without short-term contracts, not credits. MCE does not purchase unbundled RECs or "credits", as specified in the claim regarding RECs above.
- **Claim: MCE is using carbon offsets.**  
**Correction:** MCE does not use carbon offsets.

We request that these inaccuracies be corrected promptly to ensure readers are provided with accurate and complete information. MCE takes the accuracy of public reporting seriously and reserves all rights with respect to the publication of materially incorrect statements.

This continued misreporting of information is causing unwarranted reputational harm to a local public agency that is governed by a Board of elected officials who represent their communities. It is our expectation moving forward that the *Marin Independent Journal* will adhere to its responsibility to provide accurate and unbiased information to the public. Please contact me if you need additional clarification in correcting this reporting.

Best regards,

Jared

**Jared Blanton**

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