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Public comment on July 16, 2026 agenda items

From Andy Blauvelt <andy.blauvelt@gmail.com>

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To MCE Clerk <clerk@mcecleanenergy.org>

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To the Board of Directors of MCE,

These comments are on items no. 7, 8 and 9 on the upcoming board agenda. I am providing these comments together because it is important that these three items be considered in light of one another.

8. Civil Grand Jury Report

This needs to be the starting point, driver and primary point of reference for all of MCE's major actions at least throughout this fiscal year, and probably well beyond.

The Civil Grand Jury is composed of fair-minded, unbiased individuals acting in a rigorously nonpartisan structure for the good of the community. The disinterested volunteers take the time to provide a carefully considered review of important and sometimes controversial public matters. MCE and other agencies should welcome the Grand Jury's reports for the independent, well-informed perspective that can sometimes see things those close to an agency cannot.

What they found at MCE was a lack of transparency, accountability and good governance. These are very serious issues that must be addressed. Respect for tradition, trust in one's colleagues and a culture of avoiding conflict can all be useful -- but they can also lead to an ingrown culture with insider behavior, insufficient oversight and a failure to keep up with changing times and emerging challenges. It appears this happened to MCE.

The Grand Jury report raises very serious questions about board oversight, as well as accountability and transparency at all levels of the organization. I support the report and urge the Board to do everything they can to fully, publicly and in good faith address the troubling issues it raises.

The report doesn't address every issue or detail the solutions, but its overall themes and the core of its arguments are extremely persuasive, and should be embraced and not dismissed.

In any endeavor, there is always room for improvement and we all could do better at whatever it is we do. Few of us are given a good roadmap of where to start.

7. CEO Search Committee

The original CEO of MCE deserves credit for leading the effort to get Marin Clean Energy off the ground and help it become what MCE is today. As the Grand Jury report and a great deal of fair-minded, community spirited comment from civic and clean energy groups makes clear, however, times have very much changed and MCE has not kept pace.

It is essential that the new CEO fully understand and embrace the findings of the report and the spirit of the public engagement to bring MCE to the next level.

It is also essential that the search committee include some of the reform-minded directors who accepted the constructive criticism and have been pushing not just for transparency but also for accountability and real change. Otherwise, potential candidates may not get the whole picture of what the job entails, and those candidates willing to continue asking hard questions and pursuing answers wherever they lie may be shunted aside.

At a minimum, at least one if not both of directors Stephanie Andre and Sally Wilkinson should be on the committee.

9. Civil Grand Jury Response Committee

Similarly, the members of the Board selected to lead MCE's response to the Grand Jury report must include, in fact, should be led by, those voices that are committed to accepting the report's findings and working in good faith to implement its recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration of these remarks.

Andy Blauvelt
Larkspur