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MCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 15, 2026
6:30 P.M.

Present:

Liz Alessio, County of Napa and Four Napa Cities/Town (American Canyon, Calistoga, St. Helena, and Yountville)
Stephanie Andre, City of Larkspur
Eli Beckman, Town of Corte Madera
Mark Belotz, Town of Danville
Barbara Coler, Town of Fairfax
Cindy Darling, City of Walnut Creek, Vice Chair
Jill Hoffman, City of Sausalito, joined at 7:20 p.m.
Arlene Kobata, City of Pittsburg
Kevin Jacobs, City of Novato
Maika Llorens Gulati, City of San Rafael
Eduardo Martinez, City of Richmond
John McCormick, City of Lafayette
Aaron Meadows, City of Oakley
Laura Nakamura, City of Concord
Beth Painter, City of Napa
Charles Palmares, City of Vallejo, joined at 6:42 p.m., left at 9:26 p.m.
Max Perrey, City of Mill Valley
Jack Ryan, Alternate, Town of Tiburon
Mary Sackett, County of Marin
Mathew Salter, Alternate, Town of Ross
Shanelle Scales-Preston, County of Contra Costa, Chair
Amanda Szakats, City of Pleasant Hill
Chantel Walker, Town of San Anselmo
Sally Wilkinson, City of Belvedere
Brianne Zorn, City of Martinez

Absent:

Dion Bailey, City of Hercules
Kari Birdseye, City of Benicia
Monica Brown, County of Solano
Devin Murphy, City of Pinole
Patricia Ponce, City of San Pablo
Manveer Sandhu, City of Fairfield
Graham Thiel, Town of Moraga
Sridhar Verose, City of San Ramon
Carolyn Wysinger, City of El Cerrito

Staff

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& Others: Jared Blanton, VP of Public Affairs
Karin Bloomer, Leading Resources, Inc.
Jesica Brooks, Lead Board Clerk and Executive Assistant
Alice Havenar-Daughton, VP of Customer Programs
Alcides Hernandez, Director of Rates
Vicken Kasarjian, Interim CEO & COO
Tanya Lomas, Board Clerk
Catalina Murphy, General Counsel
Ashley Muth, Internal Operations Associate
Efren Oxlaj, Manager of Finance
Justine Parmelee, VP of Internal Operations
Mike Rodriguez-Vargas, Internal Operations Coordinator
Enyonam Senyo-Mensah, Manager of Internal Operations
Bill Slaton, Leading Resources, Inc.
Maira Strauss, Chief Financial Officer
Son Tran, Internal Operations Assistant
Jamie Tuckey, Chief Customer Officer

1. Roll Call

(Video 0:00:42)
Chair Scales-Preston called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. with quorum established by roll call.

2. Board Announcements (Discussion)

(Video 0:02:41)
Chair Scales-Preston pulled item 7 to be discussed at a future budget workshop.

There were comments from Directors Alessio, McCormick, Szakats, Walker, and Coler.

3. Public Open Time (Discussion)

(Video 0:15:00)
Chair Scales-Preston opened the public comment period and there were no comments.

4. Report from Chief Executive Officer (Discussion)

(Video 0:16:19)
Vicken Kasarjian, Interim CEO & COO, introduced this item.

Chair Scales-Preston opened the public comment period and there were no comments.

5. Consent Calendar (Discussion/Action)

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(Video 0:17:50)

C.1 Approval of 9.17.26 Meeting Minutes

Chair Scales-Preston opened the public comment period and there were no comments.

Action: It was M/S/C (Darling/Alessio) to **Approve the Consent Calendar.** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (Absent: Bailey, Birdseye, Brown, Hoffman, Murphy, Ponce, Sandhu, Thiel, Verose, and Wysinger).

6. Proposed Fiscal Year End (FYE) 2027 Budget Amendment with Increased Temporary Rate Credit (Discussion/Action)

(Video 0:20:27)

Maíra Strauss, Chief Financial Officer, Alcides Hernandes, Director of Rates, and Efren Oxlaj, Manager of Finance, introduced this item and addressed questions from Board members.

Chair Scales-Preston opened the public comment period and there was a comment from member of the public, Ken Strong.

Action: It was M/S/C (Coler/Nakamura)

1. **Increasing the authorized Operating Reserve Fund withdrawal from $62,000,000 to $85,906,000 to fund a temporary increased rate credit of up to $0.03725/kWh effective November 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027.**
2. **Approving the proposed amended budget lines as presented in Table 8 from this staff report.**
3. **Authorizing contingency as a separate category within the Operating Fund budget, to be applied to any Operating Fund expense line item other than cost of energy.**

Motion carried by roll call vote. 24- Yeas, 4-Nos, 1-Abstain. (Nos: Jacobs, Martinez, Salter, Wilkinson. Abstain: Hoffman. Absent: Bailey, Birdseye, Brown, Murphy, Ponce, Sandhu, Thiel, Verose, and Wysinger).

7. Equitable Distribution of Customer Program Benefits (Discussion/Action)

This item will be discussed at a future budget workshop.

8. Governance Update (Discussion/Action)

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a. Presentation from Leading Resources, Inc on Policy Workplan and Board Size Workplan

(Video 1:08:22)

Karin Bloomer and Bill Slaton of Leading Resources Inc. introduced this item and addressed questions from Board members.

Chair Scales-Preston opened the public comment period and there were comments from members of the public, Jody Timms, Robert Miller and Dan Segedin.

Action: It was M/S/C (Coler/Llorens Gulati) **moving forward with options 1-4.**

1. **Status quo: Every party to the JPA has a seat on the Board.**
2. **Delegated Model: Reduce the size of the Board through delegation as allowed under the current JPA.**
3. **Strong Committee Model: Delegate more authority to the ExCom; reduce the frequency of Board meetings.**
4. **Permanently downsized Board: Based on a preferred Board size, determine a process for selecting representatives from each county.**

Motion carried by roll call vote. 27-Yeas, 2-Nos. (Nos: Szakats and Zorn. Absent: Bailey, Birdseye, Brown, Murphy, Ponce, Sandhu, Thiel, Verose, and Wysinger).

b. Proposed Second Amendment to the First Agreement with Leading Resources. Inc

(Video 2:48:11)

Karin Bloomer and Bill Slaton of Leading Resources Inc. introduced this item and addressed questions from Board members.

Chair Scales-Preston opened the public comment period and there were no comments.

Action: It was M/S/C (Painter/Walker) **to Approve the Second Amendment to the First Agreement with Leading Resources, Inc, as present, with a not to exceed amount of $598,085 with the requirement to provide deliverables as directed by the Ad Hoc Governance Committee.**

Motion carried by roll call vote. 27-Yes, 1-No. (No: Jacobs. Absent: Bailey, Birdseye, Brown, Murphy, Palmares, Ponce, Sandhu, Thiel, Verose, and Wysinger).

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11. Board & Staff Matters (Discussion)

This item was not discussed.

12. Adjournment

(Video 3:25:00)

Chair Scales-Preston adjourned the meeting at 9:59 p.m. to the next scheduled Board Meeting on November 19, 2026.

Signed by:
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Shanelle Scales-Preston, Chair

Attest:

Signed by:
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Justine Parmelee, Secretary