

February 2, 2018

Dawn Weisz, CEO Marin Clean Energy 1125 Tamalpais Ave San Rafael, CA 94901

## Dear Dawn:

We are writing as members of Marin Conservation League's (MCL's) Climate Action Working Group (CAWG). MCL has worked since 1934 to protect and enhance the environment of Marin. The CAWG is an MCL committee that is composed of environmental leaders representing many organizations from across Marin County focused on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, carbon sequestration and climate change adaptation.

MCL supported the establishment of MCE and we consider it to be a great success, having already had a substantial impact on reducing GHG emissions from electricity consumed in Marin.

Despite these gains, we must always seek to do more at the local level and do it even faster due to the continuing rise of greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere. The members of MCL's Climate Action Working Group urge MCE to continue its efforts and to continue re-examining its options and priorities toward the goal of GHG reduction.

Thus with a sense of urgency, the CAWG has some questions for MCE:

- 1. <u>Speeding GHG reduction</u>: A goal of MCE is to make its Light Green default product 100% renewable and 100% GHG free by 2025.
  - a. What are the primary obstacles that MCE faces in reaching 100% GHG free and 100% renewable energy goals more quickly?
  - b. What trade-offs would have to be made to reach these targets before 2025?
  - c. What support will MCE offer for local distributed generation of clean energy?
  - d. As Light Green approaches 100%, has MCE considered reducing the \$0.01 premium to preserve motivation for Deep Green?
  - e. What rate of increased Deep Green enlistment would be ideal and feasible?
- 2. <u>Making the Switch</u>: What plans does MCE have to encourage its customers to replace fossil fuel furnaces, water heaters, appliances and cars with electric models? How much priority does MCE place in this work, and have timing goals been set?
  - a. Since well over half the GHGs produced in MCE's territory are from transportation, and the Governor wants five million zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030, we look to



MCE to develop programs to promote electric vehicles (EVs) and charging infrastructure. What are the primary obstacles and trade-offs to MCE in promoting and enabling the use of EVs? What are MCE's plans to work with the State, PG&E and other bodies to promote EVs?

- b. Is enough priority being placed on encouraging customers to switch furnaces, water heaters and appliances from fossil fuels to electric?
- c. How does MCE plan to expand its work in energy efficiency? What are the primary obstacles here? What realistic metrics is MCE using to gauge the effectiveness of efficiency programs?
- 3. Public Advisory Body: MCE provides information to the community through multiple channels such as its newsletter and Facebook. However it doesn't have a robust mechanism for coordinating GHG reduction efforts with other community organizations and major public facilities such as schools, water, wastewater, transportation, local business organizations, and community groups. With the goal of furthering two-way communication and collaboration, has MCE considered forming a MCE territory-wide public advisory body or committee to provide feedback to MCE before or after policies are developed? Has the concept of a series of charrettes been considered with other North Bay agencies to further interagency coordination for GHG reduction, climate adaptation and community engagement?

We commend MCE for its work to date and are confident in its future success. We realize the answers to each of these questions is complex, yet we believe it is urgent that we act as rapidly and as effectively as we can in the face of a changing climate.

<u>Note</u>: Please forward this letter to MCE Board Chair Kathrin Sears, Vice Chair Tom Butt, and Members Athas, Baily, Birsan, Blackwell, Coler, Cruz, Glover, Greene, Haroff, Higgins, Longmire, Lyman, McCaskill, McCollough, McEntee, O'Donnell, Perkins, Russell, Schroder, Schwartzmann, Swearingen, Trotter, Wagenknecht, Wilk, and Withy.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Doug Wilson, MCL CAWG Co-Chair

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Pamela Reaves, MCL CAWG Co-Chair

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