

MCE
BOARD RETREAT MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 18, 2020
9:00 A.M.

The Board of Directors' Meeting was conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's [Executive Order N-29-20](#) (March 17, 2020) which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. Board Members, staff and members of the public were able to participate in the Board Meeting via teleconference.

Call to Order: Chair Kate Sears called the Special Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Mike Anderson, City of Lafayette
Denise Athas, City of Novato
Edi Birsan, City of Concord
Tom Butt, City of Richmond
Barbara Coler, Town of Fairfax
John Gioia, County of Contra Costa
Ford Greene, Town of San Anselmo
Kevin Haroff, City of Larkspur
Sue Higgins, City of Oakley
C. William Kircher, Jr., Town of Ross
David Kunhardt, Town of Corte Madera
Greg Lyman, City of El Cerrito
Bob McCaskill, City of Belvedere
Andrew McCullough, City of San Rafael
Elizabeth Patterson, City of Benicia
Scott Perkins, City of San Ramon
Kate Sears, County of Marin
Holli Thier, Town of Tiburon
Brad Wagenknecht, County of Napa
Justin Wedel, City of Walnut Creek
Ray Withy, City of Mill Valley and City the City of Sausalito

Absent: Lisa Blackwell, Town of Danville
Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, City of San Pablo
Matt Rinn, City of Pleasant Hill
Vincent Salimi, City of Pinole
Shanelle Scales-Preston, City of Pittsburg

Renata Sos, Town of Moraga
John Vasquez, County of Solano

Staff: Jessica Brooks, Assistant Board Clerk
John Dalessi, Pacific Energy Advisors
Jennifer Green, Manager of Customer Programs
Darlene Jackson, Board Clerk
Vicken Kasarjian, Chief Operating Officer
Shaheen Khan, Director of Human Resources, Diversity, and Inclusion
Justin Marquez, Community Equity Specialist
Alexandra McGee, Strategic Initiatives Manager
Evelyn Reyes, Administrative Services Assistant
Garth Salisbury, Director of Finance
Enyonam Senyo-Mensah, Administrative Services Associate
Heather Shepard, Director of Public Affairs
Shalini Swaroop, General Counsel
Jamie Tuckey, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Dawn Weisz, Chief Executive Officer

1. Roll Call/Quorum

Roll call was conducted and quorum established.

2. Public Open Time (Discussion)

There were no comments.

3. Opening Remarks by Chair/Board Member Introductions, Part I (Discussion)

Opening remarks were provided by Chair Sears. She noted that 2020 is a year where MCE has demonstrated stability, success and service:

- We celebrated our 10-year anniversary, a landmark for MCE and the California CCA movement
- We enrolled new customers from Solano County and welcomed two new communities, Pleasant Hill and Vallejo, into the MCE family
- We were able to maintain stable and healthy operations despite the PG&E bankruptcy which ended mid-year

- We increased our proactive customer outreach resulting in a stable and increasingly engaged customer base
- We were able to pivot quickly to all remote work during the shelter in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, while growing programs and activities
- We launched an energy storage resiliency program to help folks with outages and emergencies
- We continued installing EV charging stations at businesses and multifamily properties, reaching the milestone of 500 installations so far, with 400 more in the pipeline
- We deepened our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion through on-going staff trainings, an internal steering committee and targeted community activities
- And on the financial front, we received an upgrade to our Fitch credit rating
 - from triple B (BBB) to triple B+ (BBB+) with Stable Outlook
 - Fitch cited “stronger than expected financial performance last year, sound energy risk management practices and the resolution of rate and regulatory uncertainty that existed during the PG&E bankruptcy”

Board Member introductions were facilitated by Board Clerk, Darlene Jackson.

4. Inaugural MCE Climate Action Leadership Award Presentation to Senator Mike McGuire (Discussion)

Chair Sears presented the award and there were additional comments by Board members.

5. Report on the MCE FY 2019/20 Financial Audit (Discussion)

Director Bob McCaskill reported on this item. There were additional comments by Board members.

6. MCE Responses to 2020 Events (Discussion)

a. COVID-19 Operational Impacts and Responses

Vicken Kasarjian, Chief Operating Officer presented this item and addressed questions from Board members.

b. Resiliency Activities

Jamie Tuckey, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Alexandra McGee, Strategic Initiatives Manager presented this item and addressed questions from Board members. There were comments from members of the public, Howdy Goudey, Richard Blair and Peter Mendoza.

c. Social Equity

Shaheen Khan, Director of Human Resources, Diversity, and Inclusion, Jennifer Green, Manager of Customer Programs, and Justin Marquez, Community Equity Specialist presented this item and addressed questions from Board members. There were comments from member of the public, Doug Wilson.

d. Customer Engagement and Participation during COVID-19

Heather Shepard, Director of Public Affairs presented this item and addressed questions from Board members.

7. On the Horizon (Discussion)

a. The Future of Reliability Procurement

Dawn Weisz, Chief Operating Officer introduced John Dalessi, Pacific Energy Advisors, who presented this item and addressed questions from Board members.

b. Owning Energy Projects: MCE Bond Issuance

Director Ray Withy introduced Garth Salisbury, Director of Finance, who presented the item and addressed questions from the Board.

Chair Sears opened public comment period and there were no speakers.

8. Board Member Introductions, Part II (Discussion)

Dawn Weisz, Chief Operating Officer reintroduced this item. Introductions were facilitated by Board Clerk, Darlene Jackson.

9. Addition of Board Members to Committees (Discussion/Action)

Dawn Weisz, Chief Operating Officer presented this item and addressed questions from Board members.

Chair Sears opened the public comment period and there were no comments.

Action: It was M/S/C (Gioia/Coler) to **add Shanelle Scales-Preston to the Executive Committee**. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (Absent: Directors Blackwell, Pabon-Alvarado, Rinn, Salimi, Scales-Preston, Schroder, Sos, Thier and Vasquez).

10. New Technology: Renewable Hydrogen

Director John Gioia introduced Janice Lin, CEO of Green Hydrogen Coalition, who presented this item and addressed questions by Board members. There were comments from member of the public, Ken Strong.

11. Carry-over Discussion from Morning Items

There were none.

12. The Board Chair adjourned the Special Meeting at 3:18 P.M. to the next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for October 15, 2020.

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Kate Sears, Chair

Attest:

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Dawn Weisz

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Dawn Weisz, Secretary