

**MCE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, October 7, 2021**  
**9:00 A.M.**

This Meeting was conducted pursuant to the requirements of [Assembly Bill No. 361](#) (September 16, 2021) which allows a public agency to use teleconferencing during a Governor-proclaimed state of emergency without meeting usual [Ralph M. Brown Act](#) teleconference requirements. Committee Members, staff and members of the public were able to participate in the Committee Meeting via teleconference.

---

**Call to Order:** Chair Butt called the Special Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**Present:** Denise Athas, City of Novato  
Edi Birsan, City of Concord  
Tom Butt, City of Richmond, Board Chair  
Christina Strawbridge, City of Benicia  
Barbara Coler, Town of Fairfax  
Cindy Darling, City of Walnut Creek  
Gina Dawson, City of Lafayette  
David Fong, Town of Danville  
Alexis Fineman, Alternate, Town of San Anselmo  
John Gioia, Contra Costa County  
Maika Llorens Gulati, City of San Rafael  
C. William Kircher, Town of Ross  
Kevin Haroff, City of Larkspur  
Janelle Kellman, City of Sausalito  
Katy Miessner, City of Vallejo  
Leila Mongan, Town of Corte Madera  
Devin Murphy, City of Pinole  
Gabriel Quinto, City of El Cerrito  
Katie Rice, County of Marin  
Shanelle Scales-Preston, City of Pittsburg  
Holli Thier, Town of Tiburon  
Brad Wagenknecht, County of Napa  
Brianne Zorn, City of Martinez

**Absent:** Aaron Meadows, City of Oakley  
Teresa Onoda, Town of Moraga  
Scott Perkins, City of San Ramon  
Patricia Ponce, City of San Pablo  
Matt Rinn, City of Pleasant Hill  
John Vasquez, County of Solano

Sally Wilkinson, City of Belvedere and City of Mill Valley

**Staff**

**& Others:**

Jesica Brooks, Assistant Board Clerk  
Stephanie Chen, Senior Policy Counsel  
Darlene Jackson, Board Clerk  
Vicken Kasarjian, Chief Operating Officer  
Alice Havenar-Daughton, Director of Customer Programs  
Leanne Hoadley, Manager of Community and Customer Engagement  
Justin Marquez, Community Development Manager  
Alexandra McGee, Manager of Strategic Initiatives  
Sol Phua, Administrative Assistant II  
Evelyn Reyes, Administrative Services Assistant  
Lindsay Saxby, Director of Power Resources  
Enyonam Senyo-Mensah, Administrative Services Associate  
Heather Shepard, Director of Public Affairs  
Shalini Swaroop, General Counsel  
Dawn Weisz, Chief Executive Officer

**1. Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted and quorum established.

**2. Public Open Time (Discussion)**

There were comments made by member of the public Ken Strong.

**3. Opening Remarks and State of MCE (Discussion)**

Opening remarks were provided by Chair Butt, Vice Chair Scales-Preston, Leanne Hoadley, Manager of Community and Customer Engagement, and CEO, Weisz. Chair Butt noted a few things indicating how far MCE has come.

- MCE continues to lead California in renewable electricity and the agency is providing our member communities with more than 15 programs in addition to our core clean energy electricity service.
  - Portfolio 98% clean energy, reporting 90% carbon-free based on state reporting.
- Energy Equity underpins the vast majority of our programs and service and is a core component of our mission. We have a special focus on communities burdened by pollution, power shut offs, medical equipment and those communities with less access to clean energy employment.
  - This past year we have launched many new programs, workforce partnerships and policies that support energy

- equity and will continue to make this a priority across the agency.
- In 2017, MCE implemented our Sustainable Workforce and Diversity policy which equitably directs MCE's hiring, training, and purchasing efforts. In 2019 MCE launched our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) team to create additional support for increasing our DEI efforts across the agency.
  - MCE proposed and led the way to form the California Community Choice Financing Authority. This JPA, initially comprised of four founding member CCAs, has been set up to reduce the initial and ongoing cost to issue bonds and is expected to increase the savings to the CCAs by millions of dollars over time.
    - With MCE achieving a S&P "A" credit rating this year, the long-term commitment to conservative fiscal management has been paying off. During the first few years of operations, we had to put our revenues in a lock-box controlled in part by one of our energy suppliers to assure them we would be able to pay our bills. Fast forward 8 years; we now command the best possible terms when procuring for energy and when negotiating with potential counterparties on new renewable and storage projects. These favorable terms result in reduced cost of serving our customers. As of January of 2021, the last commercial counterparty eliminated the need for MCE to post collateral while MCE requires collateral from our lower rated counterparties and currently holds over \$80 million in Letters of Credit or cash.
    - MCE remains focused on positively impacting our communities beyond our role of providing competitively priced renewable and GHG free energy. In addition to those important goals, MCE has been focused on reinvesting in our communities through energy efficiency, EV adoption and the build out of charging stations, facilitating local solar projects, investments in battery storage for resiliency and of course, the MCE Cares program.
  - The Agency continues to grow a bit as more communities vote to join MCE.
    - Additional communities joining MCE means that we must procure more renewable energy to meet our clean energy/GHG reduction goals.
    - The cost of energy has been going up in recent years although we have not increased rates since 2019.
  - In terms of renewable energy MCE is continuing to explore and innovate.
    - Our Green Hydrogen and our Solar & Storage efforts will be covered later this morning.

- To help expand access to bioenergy – AB 843 was sponsored by MCE and signed by the Governor on Sept 23 as part of a historic package of climate action bills, including a \$15 billion state investment in various climate and clean energy programs and funds. This bill allows CCAs to access the CPUC's BioMAT program, an existing state program that supports bioenergy electricity projects.
- As renewables become a larger part of California's grid, electric reliability in the evening hours after the sun sets is a focus for the Governor and the legislature. There are new mandates for reliability resources in the evening hours, which have significantly increased MCE's costs. Unfortunately, the vast majority of these reliability contracts are powered with fossil fuels.
  - One of MCE's agency goals for FY 20-21 was to deepen the transition away from fossil-based reliability resources through energy efficiency, load-shifting, and adding storage to solar.
  - In response to these reliability challenges, MCE launched several new programs:
    - Commercial Efficiency Market and the PeakFlex Market – these sister programs offer payments for long term energy efficiency or targeted demand reduction that corresponds with evening peak demand hours when electricity now costs the most. These programs are both first of their kind in California.
    - Energy Storage Program – Provides our customers with rebates, financing, and technical assistance to install batteries at their homes or businesses. The batteries provide resiliency to our customers by serving as back-up power during outages. When not using their batteries as backup power, the customer receives compensation in exchange for allowing MCE to directly control the battery to reduce peak demand in the evening hours.
    - MCEv Sync – This vehicle smart charging pilot offers customers an app that syncs to their vehicles or car chargers and helps shift vehicle charging to times of the day when renewable energy is most available.
- We have strengthened our operations and pivoted to adapt to our remote work environment from recruitment to on-boarding, training and our daily work.
  - MCE expanded our LinkedIn partnership to allow for a seamless hiring platform that provides a positive user experience for applicants and interviewees alike.
  - New staff are greeted week one with in depth introductions to each department, one-on-one trainings for MCE platforms

- All staff participate in comprehensive year-round Diversity, Equity and Inclusion trainings
- Staff benefits reflect work remote accessibility, including cell phone, wi-fi, and external monitor reimbursements
- Rolled out several new platforms including a learning and training management software and increased cybersecurity for access to our day-to-day work platforms and collaboration tools
- MCE has greatly expanded our customer engagement this year through direct marketing, advertising and through community partners.
- Because our largest customers represent more than 35% of our load, we have prioritized engagement and relationship building with them over the past two years.
  - More than 25% of our top customers are now working with MCE across multiple programs and services.
  - These are some examples of large customer partnerships and the types of projects and services we are collaborating on with them.
- A warm welcome to Fairfield who will be our 37th community to receive service starting next April!

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

**4. Assembly Bill No. 361: New Teleconferencing Legislation Resolution No. 2021-07 Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for the Board of Directors and Every Committee of the Board of Directors Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e); and Resolution No. 2021-08 Delegating Authority to MCE Executive Committee to Adopt Findings Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) (Discussion/Action)**

Shalini Swaroop, General Counsel, presented this item and addressed questions from Board members.

Action: It was M/S/C (Haroff/Quinto) to **Adopt proposed Resolution No. 2021-07 Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for the Board of Directors and Every Committee of the Board of Directors Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)**. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (Absent: Directors Darling, Meadows, Onoda, Rinn, Perkins, Vasquez and Wilkinson).

Action: It was M/S/C (Thier/Strawbridge) to **Adopt proposed Resolution No. 2021-08 Delegating Authority to MCE Executive Committee to Adopt Findings Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)**. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (Absent: Directors Darling, Meadows, Onoda, Rinn, Perkins, Vasquez and Wilkinson).

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

**5. Creation of 2022 Ad Hoc Rate Setting Committee (Discussion/Action)**

CEO Weisz, introduced this item and addressed questions from Board members. Director Perkins was not in attendance but expressed interest to

Action: It was M/S/C (Coler/Gulati) **to approve the creation of the Ad Hoc Rate Setting Committee and add the following Board Members** Directors: Fong, Haroff, Miessner, Murphy, Perkins, Quinto, Scales-Preston, and Thier. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. (Absent: Directors Meadows, Onoda, Rinn, Perkins, Vasquez and Wilkinson).

CEO Weisz prior to the meeting, that he would like to serve on the Ad Hoc Rate Setting Committee.

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

**6. Power Resources Innovative Procurement (Discussion)**

Lindsay Saxby, introduced this item and addressed questions from Board members.

Chair Butt opened the public comment period and there were comments made from members of the public Howdy Goudey, Doug Wilson, and Dan Segedin.

Action: No action required.

**7. Using Low-Carbon Fuel Standard to add Value (Discussion)**

Alice Havenar-Daughton, Director of Customer Programs, introduced this item and addressed questions from Board members.

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

Action: No action required.

**8. Opportunities to Promote Racial Equity in MCE Communications (Discussion)**

Alexandra McGee, Stephanie Chen, and Justin Marquez, introduced this item and addressed questions from Board members.

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

Action: No action required.

**9. Emerging Technology Showcase (Discussion)**

- a. Waste to Green Hydrogen: Raven's Innovative Non-combustion Technology

Chair Butt introduced, Matt Murdock, CEO of Raven SR who presented this item and addressed questions from Board members.

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

- b. Charm Industrial: Putting Oil Back Underground

Chair Butt introduced Katie Holligan, Business Operations at Charm Industrial, who presented this item and addressed questions from Board members.

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

Action: No action required.

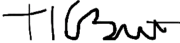
**11. Board Matters & Staff Matters (Discussion)**

Comments were made by Director Haroff.

**12. Adjournment**

The Board Chair adjourned the Special Meeting at 2:26 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting on October 21, 2021.

DocuSigned by:




5EFDDF8E1E86437...

---

**Tom Butt, Chair**

**Attest:**

DocuSigned by:



A59878416EBC4F8...

---

**Dawn Weisz, Secretary**