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December 11, 2020

Lucy Dilworth, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

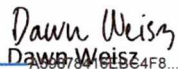
Re: Response to Grand Jury Report - Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt

Dear Foreperson Dilworth,

Enclosed please find a response from Marin Clean Energy ("MCE") to the findings and recommendations sections of the September 11, 2020 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report: Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt. This response was approved by MCE's Board of Directors at their November 19, 2020 regular meeting.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


Dawn Weisz

Chief Executive Officer



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Marin Clean Energy's Response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report "Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?"

Report Title: Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt? ("Report")

Respondent/Agency Name: Marin Clean Energy ("MCE")

Your Name: Supervisor Kathrin Sears

Title: Chair, MCE Board of Directors

As California's first Community Choice Aggregation ("CCA") Program, MCE and its member communities have proven a model for locally-controlled electricity providers. The CCA model has grown to 23 CCAs and over 4,000,000 customers throughout California. The vast majority of these CCAs have a mission to exceed state requirements for clean energy. MCE's impact carries beyond its service area and member communities. MCE appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury Report "Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?" The Report directs MCE to respond to Findings F1–F4; F7-F8 and Recommendations R1 and R4.

FINDINGS

F1 - Climate change mitigation efforts by Marin governments have been notably effective in meeting their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Response: MCE agrees with this finding in part. The efforts are notable, and more opportunities for mitigation should be identified. MCE will continue to mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing energy-related greenhouse gas emissions with renewable energy and energy efficiency at cost-competitive rates while offering economic and workforce benefits, and creating more equitable communities. To date, MCE has reduced over 340,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. MCE's standard service, Light Green, currently represents 97.6% of MCE customer accounts and has been comprised of at least 60% renewable energy since 2017, meeting state goals 13 years ahead of schedule. Light Green will ramp up to 85% renewable energy by 2029 and is on track to become 95% greenhouse gas free by 2022. These bolder goals will deepen the mitigating impact of MCE's energy supply and are described within MCE's 2021 Operational Integrated Resources Plan.

Transitioning away from fossil-fueled transportation to electric vehicles represents a significant mitigation measure. MCE has allocated \$4,000,000 to building electric vehicle ("EV") charging infrastructure for multifamily properties and workplaces. In addition, MCE has allocated \$300,000 to income-qualified electric vehicle (EV) rebates. MCE's programs will help spur the adoption of EVs and accelerate the mitigating effect of reducing fossil-fuel consumption.

F2 - Adaptation planning is essential to protect local public utility and transportation infrastructure as well as private property interests, and to enable Marin's citizens to maintain their current standards of living.

Response: MCE agrees that adaptation planning is essential to protect local public utility and transportation infrastructure as well as private property interests, and to enable Marin's citizens to maintain their current standards of living. MCE is currently engaged in several adaptation efforts that may provide insight into future planning opportunities.

As climate change causes temperatures to rise, existing buildings have greater demand for cooling and energy efficiency. MCE is an administrator of California's ratepayer-funded, energy efficiency programs alongside Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) and Regional Energy Networks. MCE has received CPUC funding approval for efficiency programs to be administered through 2025 and currently administers programs across the multifamily, single family, commercial, agricultural, and industrial sectors. MCE has disbursed approximately \$2.5 million in energy efficiency rebates throughout its service area. These programs help keep energy costs down and improve comfort as temperatures rise and demand for electricity increases. Additional related efforts are discussed in response to Finding 4 below.

F3 - With the BayWAVE and C-SMART initial vulnerability assessments completed, the county is now well-positioned to focus on adaptation planning and policies related to sea level rise.

Response: MCE is not an expert in climate adaptation related to sea level rise and refrains from responding.

F4 - The existing adaptation efforts across the county pay insufficient attention to the other potential effects of climate change, including impacts on public health, ecosystems, and social equity.

Response: MCE agrees with this finding in part and recognizes the impacts of climate

change on public health, ecosystems, and social equity, and there is always more work to be done in these critical areas.

Climate change has dramatically increased the size and frequency of wildfires in California. In order to adapt to this new reality, Pacific Gas & Electric Company ("PG&E") established a Public Safety Power Shutoff ("PSPS") program. This program is designed to de-energize PG&E-owned power lines during hot and windy weather events when wildfire risk is highest. These power outages create extraordinary burdens on communities, and in particular, for customers that rely on electricity to power medical devices. In August 2020, MCE donated 100 high-capacity portable back-up batteries to the Marin Center for Independent Living to be distributed to MCE's most medically vulnerable customers in Marin. These batteries will help provide continuity of service for Marin residents who rely on medical devices in anticipation of PSPS events in the future. Adaptation measures such as the PSPS program can have unintended consequences that planning can help identify and avoid.

MCE also developed a program focused in Napa County that may serve as a model in fire-impacted communities should this need arise in Marin County. In 2018, MCE worked in partnership to develop a program to help adapt to the destruction caused by wildfires in Napa County. MCE partnered with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Napa County, BayREN, and PG&E to administer up to \$1 million for electrification and solar rebates for single family homes affected by the 2017 and 2018 wildfires in Napa County. Homeowners can access up to \$17,500 in incentives for measures that include high performance insulation in attics and walls, efficient windows, heat-pump water and space heating, smart thermostats, electric vehicle charging, and solar plus storage. This process braids multiple funding sources through one application and MCE offers start-to-finish technical assistance. There is an additional 20% incentive provided to income-qualified households. As of July 2020, four Advanced Energy Rebuild Napa customers have completed their projects, and an additional 19 customers are enrolled and on track to receive their incentives once their rebuilds are finished. A similar effort was undertaken in Sonoma County by Sonoma Clean Power. Rebuild programs like this help customers adapt to the significant public health and social equity impacts of climate-related wildfires.

MCE also designs customer programs to address a warming climate and new costs imposed by climate change. In many instances in Marin County, existing buildings have no air conditioning due to a historically moderate climate. However, the need for air conditioning is growing as temperatures rise. MCE established the Low-Income Families & Tenants ("LIFT") Program to provide additional energy efficiency incentives for income-qualified households, including for highly efficient electric heat pumps that provide heating and air conditioning. Many of the residents served previously had no air conditioning and MCE's LIFT program improved their health, comfort, and safety to help

adapt to a changing climate. Additionally, when technological change happens, like a transition to electric vehicles, the wealthy are most able to adopt technology early and enjoy its benefits. Early adoption by the wealthy can contribute to social inequity as older technologies are retained in lower-income communities. To improve participation of all communities in needed technological transitions, MCE has developed incentive programs to help income-qualified customers purchase new or used electric vehicles and battery backup systems for their homes.

MCE also requires pollinator-friendly ground cover for new solar projects. This requirement, established in early 2020 will take even greater advantage of land where solar projects are built, ensuring that the space is used to generate clean energy for our customers, while providing much-needed habitat for pollinators such as monarch butterflies. This program addresses impacts of climate change in degrading pollinator habitat.

F7 - Cross-jurisdictional collaboration and coordination will be required for successful adaptation efforts, but Marin lacks any overarching organizational or governance structure to facilitate this.

Response: MCE supports this finding in part. While the Grand Jury Report identifies opportunities to enhance collaboration and coordination on adaptation planning, there are examples of regional collaboration and communication on adaptation efforts underway today.

MCE was invited to join Drawdown: Marin, a community-driven campaign that prepares for climate change impacts, when the organization first formed. MCE participates as an active advisor on the Renewable Energy, Transportation, and Buildings and Infrastructure working groups. MCE has encouraged the group to focus on increased adoption of 100% renewable energy services and accelerating EV adoption in Marin County, and explored what it would take to build a community-scale microgrid in Fairfax. MCE has also worked directly with County staff to provide feedback about the working groups and strategies developed, as well as how to improve the engagement process for Drawdown as a whole.

MCE's adaptation efforts, as discussed in this letter, are examples of regional collaboration and communication on adaptation efforts underway today.

F8 – MCE was directed to respond to F8.

Response: The Report did not include an eighth finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

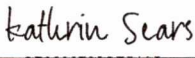
R1 - The board of supervisors, in collaboration with the municipalities and other agencies affected by climate change, should convene a multi-jurisdictional task force (referred to in this report as the Marin Climate Adaptation Task Force) charged with developing a single, comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional adaptation strategy for all of Marin.

Response: MCE supports formation of a multi-jurisdictional task force charged with developing a single, comprehensive, adaptation strategy. However, this task force and strategy should consider mitigation in addition to adaptation. MCE also suggests further analysis on the scope, costs, and resources associated with participation in the task force. For example, MCE has established customer programs that provide mitigation and adaptation related to energy use, but may not be well-suited to contribute to non-energy-related adaptation strategies. If constituted, the task force should create a participation model with limited engagement by entities with specialized expertise related to adaptation.

R4 - Each member of the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership, should declare its support for broadening the partnership's mission and increasing its funding as necessary to enable it to support overall climate change planning efforts, including both mitigation and adaptation in cities, towns, and other member agencies throughout the county.

Response: As a member of the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership ("MCEP"), MCE declares its support for broadening the partnership's mission and increasing its funding as necessary to enable it to support overall climate change planning efforts, including both mitigation and adaptation in cities, towns, and other member agencies throughout the County. MCE has a representative at MCEP, and on the MCEP Executive Committee. Therefore, this recommendation has been implemented.

Date: 11/20/2020

DocuSigned by:

Signed: Kathrin Sears
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Kathrin Sears, Chair of MCE Board of Directors

Number of pages attached: 0