



March 13, 2009

TO: Marin City & Town Councils
FROM: Jamie Tuckey, MEA Planning Aide
RE: Marin Energy Authority

Dear City and Town Council Members:

The Board of the newly established Marin Energy Authority (MEA), composed of nine elected representatives from the County, Belvedere, Fairfax, Mill Valley, Ross, San Anselmo, San Rafael, Sausalito, and Tiburon, convened its first official meeting on February 5, 2009 and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month at MCERA Headquarters located at 1 McInnis Parkway, San Rafael.

The Board of Directors, chaired by Marin County Supervisor Charles McGlashan and vice chaired by Mill Valley Councilmember Shawn Marshall, will collectively study, promote, develop, and manage energy programs that will address climate change by decreasing energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. The first activity of the MEA Board is the consideration of a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. Other programs that aid in complying with AB32, the California global warming solutions act, will also be considered as appropriate.

In its initial start-up meetings, Committees of the Board including an Executive Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee were appointed to allow for focused discussion and review in key areas. The Board also adopted Operating Rules & Regulations and a Conflict of Interest Code.

The Board of Directors approved a detailed budget for the authority which outlines the distribution of the \$330,000 allocated to the MEA by the Marin County Board of Supervisors. For legal and technical assistance with Phase IV of CCA implementation, contracts with Richards, Watson, & Gershon, a legal consulting firm, and Navigant Consulting, a technical consulting firm, have been executed.

The MEA has prepared a grant proposal for the Federal Department of Energy (DOE) to respond to the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009. The proposal comprises renewable energy, energy efficiency, and job creation programs that are cost-effective, efficient, and further the goals of achieving 100% renewable energy delivery for Marin's 247,000 residents and 240 MW peak load. The proposal is being updated based on information gathered by staff while participating in meetings with DOE representatives on the east coast.

At this stage, the MEA's primary focus is the development of a detailed Request for Bid (RFB) to engage in a competitive solicitation process to identify the energy supplier for a potential CCA program. Navigant Consulting is coordinating with the Board of Directors and legal counsel to ensure that the RFB appropriately addresses MEA's specific interests and concerns. Interim Director Weisz also interfaces with the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Group, whose combined expertise in a wide array of disciplines will aid in successful development of the RFB.

PG&E has not been interested in meeting with the MEA to discuss further partnership and has instead elected to meet with staff from Marin cities and towns. Interim Director Weisz has been involved with these meetings with PG&E, which began in January and continued in February and March. Three more meetings have been scheduled over the next two months to review any proposals, which would ultimately go to the MEA Board and to cities and towns and the County for input and discussion.

A plan for continued interface with city and town councils is being drafted and will be discussed and further explored at future MEA Board meetings. All of the aforementioned documents, as well as meeting agendas, minutes, and audio recordings, are available at www.marinenergyauthority.org.

For more information, please contact MEA Planning Aide Jamie Tuckey at (415) 507-2813 or jtuckey@co.marin.ca.us.