

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIN

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September 30, 2008

Dear Fellow Elected Representatives,

We are writing to acknowledge that all of our local governments are making efforts to meet the challenge of climate change and prepare for implementation of AB32 legislative mandates, soon to be finalized by State and regional agencies. Under AB32, local governments are required to significantly reduce our current greenhouse gas emissions. While most of our agencies have already undertaken a number of positive actions to achieve the 30% reduction target, AB32 will require that substantially more be done. With its significant promise of green house gas reduction, the Marin County Board of Supervisors stands ready to adopt Marin Clean Energy (MCE) and the formation of a Joint Powers Authority to carry out MCE and other energy initiatives.

Accelerating the conversion of Marin's energy supply to renewable sources has been identified as having the single greatest potential benefit of all greenhouse gas reduction initiatives studied to date. For the past three years, representatives from local governments and special districts have worked closely together with industry experts to develop MCE. MCE would implement a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program authorized by State legislation in 2002. During 2008, there have been numerous public workshops and informational sessions at the Board of Supervisors, council meetings, and in other venues to explore the potential benefits and risks associated with taking local control of energy supply decisions and the associated rate setting.

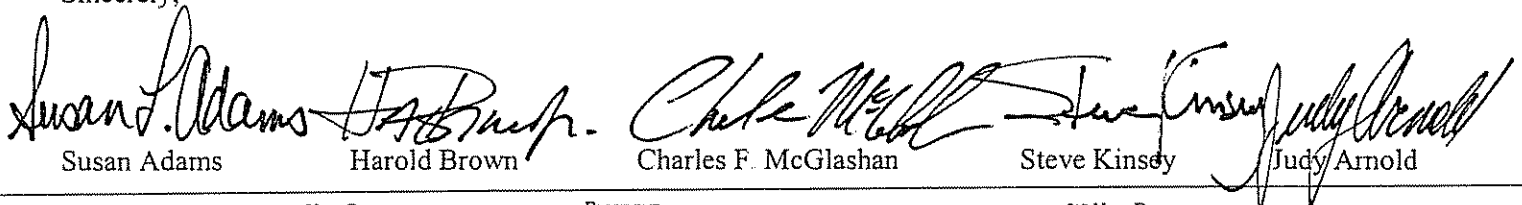
We have reached a point where it is necessary to create a legal framework to permit further consideration of MCE. Forming a JPA is a prerequisite for submittal of an application to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), as well as solicitation of proposals from interested third party energy suppliers. Both of these tasks are essential before a final decision can be reached whether or not to proceed with MCE. The ordinance you will consider authorizes each jurisdiction to launch the next steps in considering MCE and forming the Marin Energy Authority (the broader JPA for our energy initiatives).

The draft JPA agreement to form the Marin Energy Authority is structured to allow for a broad array of activities that can help public agencies meet our AB32 obligations whether MCE is activated or not. Agencies that join the JPA will retain their full authority to decide whether to participate in the MCE program once energy provider contract bids have been received. These bids will give all of Marin a clear understanding of how much renewable power is truly available in the market and at what cost.

The County of Marin has agreed to pay the costs required to set up and administer the Marin Energy Authority until a final decision is made, subject to reimbursement from the JPA should MCE go forward.

Our Board believes that MCE is a viable policy option that can significantly increase Marin's percentage of renewable power. We also think that there is a mutual advantage for all of us to have a framework in place to facilitate our shared actions to comply with AB32. For these reasons, we strongly encourage your Council to join with us in adopting the attached ordinance and agreement that creates the Marin Energy Authority and continues our implementation of MCE.

Sincerely,


Susan Adams Harold Brown Charles F. McGlashan Steve Kinsey Judy Arnold

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