



From: MCE
To: Moraga Town Council members
Regarding: Moraga NextDoor Concerns
February 21, 2018

We understand there has been some confusion about MCE's service and costs recently voiced on Moraga's NextDoor community. In order to address some of the concerns raised in this online forum, we'd like to provide the following response to the Town Council members, in case they have begun to receive questions about MCE's service, and particularly how MCE works with residential solar customers:

The ultimate purpose of a Community Choice program is to provide the community with a choice in how they want their electricity generated. With MCE's track record of providing stable rates with more renewables in the mix, we hope to help Moraga reduce electricity-related greenhouse-gas emissions and achieve climate action goals without committing taxpayer dollars.

Comparing MCE's cost to PG&E's has been challenging as there have been unprecedented delays in publishing PG&E's 2018 rates. PG&E typically publishes its rates by mid-December, but this year these were not published until February 16th. Now MCE's Board of Directors has the necessary information to set MCE's 2018 rates. The concerns of Moraga customers will be represented in these decisions, since Mayor Dave Trotter is both a Board Member and a member of MCE's ad-hoc rate-setting committee.

Comparing costs on solar accounts is especially challenging because each solar net energy metering (NEM) customer will have unique circumstances leading to the ultimate bottom line on their bill. We recognize that the cost calculator discussed on the NextDoor thread is not a perfect tool, but can give a rough approximation for expected charges. That said, one critical fact to keep in mind is that MCE's NEM program credits solar customers a higher rate for surplus electricity (full retail plus \$0.01 per kWh) compared to PG&E, which pays lower, wholesale rates for surplus electricity. For this reason, most NEM customers should see a benefit from the change to MCE service. For those who want the details of the comparison, please contact MCE directly by emailing info@mcecleanenergy.org.

For solar customers, it's important to note that if you remain with MCE and begin service in April, PG&E will conduct an automatic true-up of your bill in April. This will change your natural true-up to April. If this negatively impacts you financially, then we recommend that you opt-out until your natural true-up date. If it's more advantageous to opt-in early to start getting MCE's NEM credits, you can do so by calling 1.888.632.3674 and asking to be opted out for now but then opted-in at your natural true-up date (noted on your MCE mailer). Last note regarding solar, if you're on E6 you will remain on E6 with MCE.



Regarding accountability, MCE is accountable to the public. As a joint powers authority, MCE is a public agency governed by a board of elected officials from the communities in which it serves. MCE is still regulated by all the same agencies that regulate any utility – including complying with and reporting to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC). However, rate-setting and procurement are under the discretion of the MCE Board.

Should you wish to opt out of MCE, please do so before June to help MCE and PG&E more accurately procure for our respective customers. If you opt out after 60 days of service, there is a one-time \$5 fee for residential accounts (\$25 for commercial accounts) and you may not return to MCE for one year, due to PG&E's terms and conditions. You may opt out by calling 1.888.632.3674 or by going to www.mcecleanenergy.org/optout/.

If you have further concerns, especially if you're a solar customer, please reach out to MCE's Account Services team by emailing info@mcecleanenergy.org.