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Moraga Inches Toward Enrolling in Community Choice Aggregation

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council agreed to send a non-binding letter to Marin Clean Energy (MCE), indicating its preliminary interest in having Moraga join the nonprofit structure that competes with PG&E for generating electricity. Other nearby cities, such as Lafayette, are moving forward with MCE (see related story on page A3), while the county is looking into forming an East Bay structure that would generate and/or procure its own renewable energy. The ultimate goal is to give residents the option to either get electricity generated by PG&E or by one alternate structure that secures renewable power at a competitive rate.

"We are proposing to send a non-binding letter of intent of exploring possible membership," said Assistant Planner Coleman Frick at the Jan. 27

council meeting. MCE proposes what is called a CCA, or Community Choice Aggregation, a nonprofit organization that provides electricity from renewable sources. In this scenario, PG&E continues to transport and deliver the electricity, and bills clients for that part of the service; the CCA includes the electric generation cost to the monthly PG&E bill. "Joining would give consumers a choice and increase the competition. It can benefit all consumers including PG&E's," added Frick. "It would also add a level of local control as a member of the town would be appointed to the CCA board."

Mayor Metcalf asked MCE representative Alex Digiorgio how his company provided electricity to users, even when the wind does not blow and the sun does not shine. Digiorgio

explained that it does not really provide individual users with electricity during day and night; what it does is feed the global system the equivalent of what its customers consume, coming from renewable sources, averaging during a one-year period. The electricity sources include wind, solar, geothermal and biomass energy providers in California.

The mayor also asked MCE what the consequences would be for the town if a more interesting solution would be offered by another CCA that would cause the town to want to exit its contract with MCE. The young man made it clear that Moraga signing into MCE would trigger investments from the nonprofit and that if the town would want to exit the contract it would be extremely expensive for Moraga. ... continued on page A8

Chief of Police Becomes Interim Town Manager

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga Chief of Police Robert Priebe with outgoing Town Manager Jill Keimach
 Photo Clinton Calkins

Chief of Police Bob Priebe turned in his uniform Feb. 1 to fill the position of Moraga town manager until a replacement for Jill Keimach can be found. Priebe, who has served on the police force for the past 38 years, welcomes the new challenge. Jon King will serve as acting police chief during this interim period, and Priebe will return as chief of police when a new manager is hired. But Priebe says if enjoys the new responsibilities, he might throw his hat in the ring for the permanent position.

Priebe was surprised when Keimach approached him before she left and suggested he become her interim replacement. "At first I said 'no way' because I did not know enough about planning," he says. But he realized that he could count on planning director Ellen Clark to hold her own and give him time to ramp up. Other department heads such as Edric Kwan (Public Works) and Jay Ingram (Parks and Recreation) approached him and encouraged him to accept.

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Moraga Community Foundation Seeks Applicants for Board Positions

The newly formed Moraga Community Foundation – a philanthropic organization that works with the community to build a vibrant future for Moraga – is seeking applicants to serve on its board of directors. Individuals residing in the Moraga area or with their principal place of business in the Moraga area are eligible to apply. Terms are for two years. Applicants must be willing to fulfill the responsibilities of directors as explained on the MCF website. For information, go to www.moragacommunityfoundation.org and click on the tab, "Board of Directors."

Letters of interest must be received no later than Friday, March 11 and emailed to applicants@moragacommunityfoundation.org. For additional information, call MCF Director Bob Fritzky at (925) 247-0171.

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