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2016 Citizen of the Year **Nominations Requested**

Do you have a person in mind for the City of Lafayette to honor as 2016 Citizen of the Year?

Criteria are as follows:

- Must NOT be a current elected or paid member of any city council, school board or commission;
- Must be a current Lafayette resident;
- Must be someone who has given of their time, money or energy to help make Lafayette a healthy community, where people will want to live,
- Must be someone who models excellence in everything they do;
- Must be someone who brings this community together and/or makes us proud to be a member of the community.

A celebration dinner will be held on Friday, March 18 at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa to honor the winner. The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, Feb. 12. The 2016 Lafayette Citizen of the Year Award is co-sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and Lamorinda Weekly. Please email your nomination to Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson at jay@lafayettechamber.org or send your nomination to the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, attention Lafayette Citizen of Year nomination, 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite103, Lafayette, CA 94549. - C. Tyson

Greener Power Likely Coming to Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



electricity comes from.

After weighing all the options, Lafayette City Council members bust outreach campaign by MCE to voted to move forward with Marin help customers make an informed Clean Energy – a nonprofit that procures electricity from renewable electricity service starting in late sources such as solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal, and small hydro, ship analysis is positive. Additional then partners with PG&E to deliver outreach will include local events it – so that they can conduct a mem- and workshops, as well as presentabership analysis. Assuming the tions to clubs and organizations. analysis is positive in terms of rates Customers will have the choice of and environmental impact, the city opting out of the MCE arrangement will join MCE.

The energy used in homes, businesses and municipal buildings is now provided solely by PG&E, impact on the city. In addition, this which currently reports that 27 percent of its energy production comes from renewable sources. The utility is working toward one-third of its en- ronmentally sustainable community. ergy portfolio from renewables by 2020.

By going with MCE, residents will have a choice of power options: stay with PG&E, or pick from MCE's power options: "light green" with 56 percent renewable energy, "deep green" 100 percent renewable, or "Local Sol" with 100 percent local solar.

vote, Ordinance 644 was officially introduced, and continued to March rently serves 165,000 customers in 14 for its second reading and adoption. The ordinance approves the areas of Marin County. The organi-Marin Clean Energy Joint Powers Agreement and authorizes the implementation of a Community Choice house gas emissions through a range Aggregation program.

"Today we don't have a choice," said Mark Higgins, Environmental Task Force member. "Joining a CCE (community choice energy) provider enables more competition where there currently is none - two competing entities that have to compete for customers. At the end of the day it's the market that wins."

By offering service with Marin Clean Energy, Lafayette joins a been actively investigating energy op-Community Choice Aggregation program, or CCA, which enables local governments to acquire cleaner renewable power on behalf of residents and businesses, and creates a partnership with house gas emissions, control over local utilities – in this case, PG&E - to deliver it through its power concluded that taking no action would lines, benefitting customers with limit customer choice. affordable rates, local control and greener energy. PG&E would nate that Contra Costa County is not continue to provide consolidated further along the CCE path, Council billing, still owns the grid, provides customer service and maintains power lines.

Since 2002, when the state of California passed AB 117, public agencies and joint power authorities "Who doesn't like choice?"

ity leaders want residents to are able to pool the electricity dehave a choice of where their mands of their constituents to provide a local power choice.

> Residents can expect to see a rodecision later this year, with actual summer or fall 2016, if the memberand can return to PG&E service at

> Offering this option has no fiscal move coincides with the city's Environmental Strategy that was adopted in 2006 to encourage a more envi-

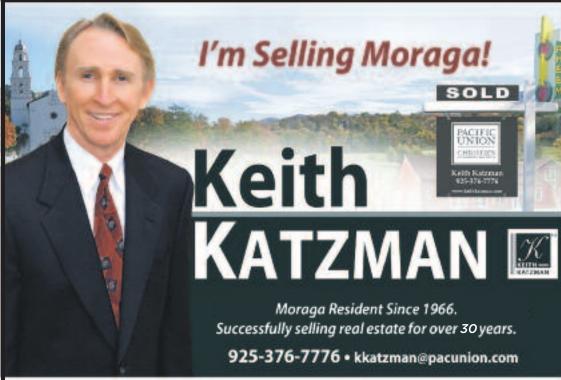
> Although Contra Costa County is in the initial phase of creating its own CCE, it is unknown how long that may take and there is uncertainty about start-up costs, rate competitiveness, timing and risk.

City leaders chose to go with MCE, an existing provider that was formed in 2008, serving customers since 2010, with a proven track With a unanimous affirmative record. According to the City of Lafayette Staff Report, MCE curall of the cities and unincorporated zation is addressing climate change by reducing energy related greenof renewable energy sources, providing 50 to 100 percent of their electricity through renewable sources: solar, wind and waste-to-energy. So far MCE reports that it has reduced more than 131 million pounds of green- house gas emissions, and in the process, is saving its customers more than \$5.9 million via lower electricity rates.

The environmental task force has tions since 2014. It evaluated a long list of considerations before making its recommendation to the city council to join MCE, including rate volatility, financial liability, the impact of green governance and more. The group

Acknowledging that it's unfortu-Member Mike Anderson said, "This is something that is available now that we can take advantage of - we get a choice to our residents quickly."

Mayor Mark Mitchell agreed:

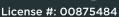


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