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MCE, IJ not telling whole story about clean energy

The IJ's story about Marin Clean Energy's new solar farm going into service neglects to include information that puts things in perspective.

First, when MCE's Richmond-located solar farm is included, only one-half of 1 percent of MCE's total load is served by its "local" solar production.

Second, MCE claims that its solar farm is dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions, yet the IJ neglects to report that since MCE's business launch, nearly half of its "clean" power is actually green-washed fossil-fired power. Accordingly, MCE fails to disclose 1.2 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions in energy that it rebrands as "clean." This constitutes what MCE claims as exceeding the state requirement for "sourcing a certain percentage of its electricity from renewable sources."

Last, MCE claims that it has brought many new clean energy resources to market compared to Pacific Gas and Electric Co. This is an overstatement. For example, MCE is merely contracting for available energy from a large solar farm in Kings County and a large wind farm in Kern County until PG&E and Southern California Edison begin taking deliveries from these resources that these utility companies bankrolled.

It is hyperbole for MCE to claim that it is out-greening PG&E when these activities are going on behind the curtain.

— *Jim Phelps, Novato*