



Legislative Update

October 19, 2020



Legislative Session Wrap-Up

COVID-19 Dominated the Session

- The Legislature lost significant chunks of time while adapting to COVID-19.
- Most legislative packages were significantly trimmed down in order to accommodate the shortened timeline.

CEC EV Infrastructure Budget Item

- EBCE scored a major victory in securing a \$51M budget allocation to the CEC for its EV infrastructure program.
- The budget allocation is necessary to fund EBCE's existing application to the program, which has high odds of approval because the CEC's analysis indicates that Alameda County currently has the largest need for EV chargers.

Energy Issues Remained Important

- PG&E and the finalization of its bankruptcy remained a major focus.
 - SB 917 (Wiener) was introduced to take over PG&E but the bill failed.
 - SB 350 (Hill) was signed into law, creating the framework for a state-run backstop entity should PG&E eventually fold.

Legislative Session Wrap-Up (cont'd.)

- Long duration storage continued to be an issue.
 - Multiple pieces of legislation – AB 2255 (Eggman) and AB 1720 (Carrillo) – were introduced in an attempt to enable long duration storage policy. Both failed.
- Central procurement remained on the table with competing bills, including AB 56 (Garcia), sponsored by TURN, and AB 3014 (Muratsuchi), sponsored by CalCCA.
- Several microgrid bills were introduced as the Legislature grappled with imminent wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoffs-- SB 774 (Stern), SB 1215 (Stern), AB 740 (Burke) – but none succeeded.
- SB 364 (Mitchell), which was introduced to preserve preferential tax treatment for utility-scale solar projects should the Prop. 13 reform initiative pass, was successfully enacted.
- AB 1941 (Gallagher) attempted to suspend the Renewable Portfolio Standard but was quickly quashed by the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee.

Legislative Session Wrap-Up (cont'd.)

Energy Committee Oversight Hearings

- COVID-19 limited the Legislature's appetite for oversight hearings.
- Blackout Hearing: Assembly Utilities and Energy held an oversight hearing on October 12th to discuss the root cause analysis behind the August rolling blackouts.

Expectations for Next Session

- Bills can be introduced as soon as early-December
- Highly likely that many bills that were shelved due to COVID-19 will be reintroduced, including:
 - Long-duration storage
 - Central procurement / reliability
 - PCIA reform
 - Distributed generation
 - Microgrids
 - Distributed system operator

Legislative Session Wrap-Up (cont'd.)

2020 Legislative Cycle Ended August 31

- September 30 - Last Day for the Governor to Sign or Veto Bills
- November 3 - General Election
- December 7 - 2021-22 Legislative Session Begins

Key Highlights from EBCE's Bill Tracker:

- SB 115 budget bill passed and signed by Gov; adds \$51 million to Energy Commission budget for CALeVIP funding
 - EBCE is an expected recipient of CALeVIP funds in 2021
- SB 364 (Mitchell) passed and signed by Gov; enables the existing solar property tax to continue should Prop 15 pass in November
- AB 1659 (Bloom) did not pass; would have extended an IOU nonbypassable fee from the year 2036 through 2051 to raise \$3B for a variety of wildfire and resilience activities
- AB 841 (Ting) passed and signed by Gov; supports IOU deployment of utility-side EV installation infrastructure
- AB 913 (Calderon) passed and signed by Gov; enables the IOUs to request financing orders for bad debt due to COVID