

Ava 2025 May California Legislative Update

May 9, 2025



Agenda

- 2025 California Legislative Timeline
- 2025-2026 Governor's Revised Budget
- May 2025 Bill Review:
 - Accelerating Decarbonization
 - Promoting Local Development
 - Protecting Community Choice
 - Making Electricity More Affordable
 - Increasing Bill Transparency and Understanding
 - Bills Concerning IOUs
 - Board Operations
 - Other Ava Priorities



2025 California Legislative Timeline

January 6: Legislature reconvenes 10: Governor submits budget	February 21: Bill introduction deadline	March	April
May 2: Policy cmtes move fiscal bills to fiscal cmtes (1st chamber) 9: Policy cmtes move non-fiscal bills to floor (1st chamber)	June 6: Last day for bills to be passed by 1st house 15: Budget bill must be passed	July 18: Policy cmtes move bills to fiscal cmtes or floor (2nd chamber)	August 29: Fiscal cmtes move bills to floor (2nd chamber)
September 12: Last day for each chamber to pass bills	October 12: Last day for Governor to sign/veto bills	November	December



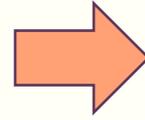
2025-2026 Governor's Revised Budget

TO BE UPDATED UPON MAY RELEASE



2025 Bill Review

California legislators proposed
2,350 bills



Ava legislative team is
monitoring **~100 bills**

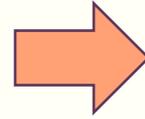
"The purposes [of Ava]... include securing electrical energy supply for customers in participating jurisdictions, addressing climate change by reducing energy related greenhouse gas emissions, promoting electrical rate price stability, and fostering local economic benefits such as jobs creation, community energy programs and local power development. It is the intent of this Agreement to promote the development and use of a wide range of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency programs, including but not limited to State, regional and local solar and wind energy production."

[Ava Community Energy's Joint Powers Agreement](#)



2025 Bill Review

Ava legislative team is monitoring **~100 bills**

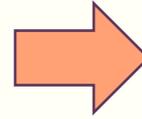


Cross-functional analysis of **35 bills**
(Internal, CalCCA, Board)



2025 Bill Review

Cross-functional analysis of
35 bills
(Internal, CalCCA, Board)



Staff recommends Board take a
position on **14 bills**

1. Directly impacts our operations or legislative program.
2. Supports the JPA's vision of an affordable, sustainable, and local energy ecosystem and has broad-based support.
3. Ava's perspective has specific resonance with key decisionmakers and could impact the legislative language or path forward.



Bill # (Author)	Description	Staff-Recommended Action	Bill Status (progress through leg)
Making Electricity More Affordable			
AB 99 (Ta-R)	Prohibits an IOUs from proposing a rate increase above the level of inflation for any general rate cycle, except for cases related to safety improvements, system upgrades, or increased costs of materials.	Monitor	Asm. Appr. Committee <i>(Suspense File) (25%)</i>
AB 729 (Zbur-D)	Provides bill relief by reallocating the Climate Credit to align with periods of highest statewide energy usage. Rather than a single payment in April, residential customers will receive the electricity Climate Credit in August and September and the natural gas Climate Credit in February.	Support	Asm. Appr. Committee <i>(25%)</i>
SB 254 (Becker-D)	Senate affordability package; creates Clean Energy Infrastructure Authority empowered to support project development by connecting clean energy developers with financing entities and public incentives. Streamlines wildfire mitigation and clean energy permitting, limits IOU cost recovery for major projects, expands low-income Credit Climate, and increases scrutiny of utility cost hikes.	Support	Sen. Appr. Committee <i>(25%)</i>

Bill # (Author)	Description	Staff-Recommended Action	Bill Status (progress through leg)
Accelerating Decarbonization (Battery Storage)			
SB 283 (Laird-D)	Requires energy storage facilities to comply with NFPA 855 fire safety standards, certify fire department consultation, and undergo inspections before operation.	Support if Amended	Sen. Appr. Committee (25%)
Accelerating Decarbonization (Local Permitting)			
AB 39 (Zbur-D)	Requires that no later than 2030 cities and counties with over 75,000 residents adopt an electrification / decarbonization / community energy plan or integrate these subjects into their general plan.	Support	Asm. Appr. Committee (25%)
AB 306 (Schultz-D, co:Wicks-D)	June 2025 to June 2031, places restrictions on local changes to building standards (including reach codes) for residential units, emphasizing uniformity and the protection of health, safety, and home hardening.	Monitor	Sen. Housing & Local Gov. Committee (55%)
SB 282 (Wiener-D)	Requires municipalities to streamline application and certification processes for residential heat pump systems.	Support	Sen. Appr. Committee (25%)
Accelerating Decarbonization			
AB 915 (Petrie-Norris-D)	Establishes Clean Energy Reliability Investment Plan and requires CEC and CPUC to report on significant delays or barriers affecting deployment of renewable energy and zero-carbon resources. Establishes central pool of project citing and permitting experts within CEC.	Support	Asm. Appr. Committee (25%)
SB 698 (McNerney-D)	Authorizes CEC to establish DER equipment lists and adopt guidelines that further energy goals including solar energy systems, energy storage, bidirectional charging, and charging stations.	Support	Sen. Appr. Committee (<i>Suspense File</i>) (25%)

Bill # (Author)	Description	Staff-Recommended Action	Bill Status (progress through leg)
Promoting Local Development (Vehicle Charging)			
AB 1423 (Irwin-D)	Expands CEC's reliability and uptime regulations to a subset of publicly-funded/utility-funded chargers installed since 2018 (including medium- and heavy-duty). Provides authority for CEC to impose civil penalties of no greater than \$2,500 for each violation on companies that don't meet the CEC's standards.	Monitor	Asm. Appr. Committee (25%)
SB 314 (Padilla-D)	Allows chargers to be self-certified by installers and manufacturers be entered into operation during the state inspection period. Provides exemptions from some state laws for chargers only available to certain individuals.	Support	Sen. Appr. Committee (25%)
Promoting Local Development (Datacenters)			
AB 222 (Bauer-Kahan-D)	Before using or making a covered AI model or system available, developers must calculate the total energy used and the percentage generated in California, then publish this data on their website. Additionally, the Commission may adopt regulations to improve energy standards generally for datacenters more generally.	Support if Amended	Asm. Appr. Committee (25%)
SB 57 (Padilla-D co: McNerney-D)	Requires CPUC to establish transmission and distribution (T&D) tariffs for data centers to protect nonparticipating customers from cost shifts; allows CEC to establish a minimum requirement for zero-carbon procurement.	Monitor	Asm. Appr. Committee (<i>Suspense file</i>) (25%)
Protecting Community Choice			

Bill # (Author)	Description	Staff-Recommended Action	Bill Status (progress through leg)
Increasing Bill Transparency and Understanding (Dynamic Rates)			
AB 44 (Schultz-D)	Requires the CEC to define and publicize load modification protocols by 12/2026, allowing LSEs to adjust their electrical demand forecasts. The bill aims to improve grid reliability by incorporating flexible demand tools, supporting decarbonization, and helping LSEs manage their resource adequacy obligations.	Support	Asm. Appr. Comm. <i>(Consent Calendar)</i> (25%)
SB 541 (Becker-D)	Requires CEC via IPER to establish load shifting targets allocated to each retail supplier based on its relative share of statewide load and the CEC's estimate of its load shifting potential. Requires CEC to work with the CPUC to identify barriers to meeting these estimates and develop a local-based avoided cost metric.	Oppose Unless Amended	Sen. Appr. Committee (25%)

Bill # (Author)	Description	Staff-Recommended Action	Bill Status (progress through leg)
Bills Concerning IOUs			
AB 740 (Harabedian-D)	Mandates IOUs report on their efforts to achieve load shifting goals. Directs the CEC to develop a strategic plan to facilitate the large-scale deployment of Virtual Power Plants.	Monitor	Asm. Appr Comm. (25%)
AB 884 (Essayli-R)	Prohibits an IOU from contributing to a candidate for elective state office and would prohibit a candidate for elective state office from accepting a contribution from an IOU.	Monitor	Asm. Elections Committee (25%)
AB 1117 (Schultz-D)	Requires the implementation of dynamic pricing for all commercial and residential customers by 2030. CCA participation in dynamic pricing is voluntary but requires gen rate alignment with market conditions while preventing cost shifts between bundled and unbundled customers.	Monitor	Asm. Appr. Committee (25%)
AB 1167 (Berman-D, Addis-D)	Prohibits IOUs from using ratepayer funds for activities like political influence or promotional advertising that don't directly benefit customers. Requires these utilities to disclose whether advertising costs are covered by ratepayers or shareholders.	Monitor	Asm. Appr. Committee (25%)
SB 24 (McNerney-D)	Prohibits IOUs from using ratepayer funds to undertake political influence activities, make charitable contributions, or lobby against municipalization. Mandates utilities to report detailed expense data to ensure compliance and requires service restoration during poor air quality conditions.	Monitor	Sen. Appr. Committee (25%)

Bill # (Author)	Description	Staff-Recommended Action	Bill Status (progress through leg)
Bills Concerning IOUs			
SB 332 (Wahab-D)	Requires the CEC to evaluate the transition of the IOU model to a successor entity, implements disconnection transparency reporting, requires third party equipment audits, and prohibits ratepayer funds to be used for wildfire mitigation infrastructure investment, among other changes.	Monitor	Sen Appr. Committee (25%)
SB 500 (Stern-D)	Directs the CPUC to develop and track IOU performance metrics and financial incentives to better align utility investments with cost-effective, safe, and reliable service. Emphasizes minimizing unnecessary infrastructure spending by prioritizing demand flexibility, distributed energy resources, and lower-cost safety upgrades over traditional capital investments.	Monitor	Sen. Appr. Committee (25%)
Board Operations			
AB 259 (Rubio-D)	Extends Brown Act alternative teleconferencing rules indefinitely (currently scheduled to expire in 2026).	Support	Asm. Floor (35%)
SB 239 (Arreguín-D)	Authorizes subsidiary bodies to use alternative teleconferencing until 2030 with specific notice, agenda, and public participation rules.	Support	Sen. Judiciary Committee (15%)

Bill # (Author)	Description	Staff-Recommended Action	Bill Status (progress through leg)
Other Ava Priority Bills			
AB 13 (Ransom-D)	Establishes geographic representation for CPUC Commissioners and adds a legislative liaison. Mandates an annual report on rate affordability and case resolutions, along with increased transparency on rate-setting decisions, including detailed reports to the Legislature within 15 days of final decisions.	Monitor	Asm. Appr. Committee (25%)
AB 942 (Calderon-D)	Removes legacy NEM 1.0 and 2.0 tariffs upon the sale of property.	Monitor	Asm. Appr. Committee (25%)
AB 1260 (Ward-D)	Requires the CPUC to modify customer renewable energy subscription programs and requires CEC to evaluate community solar+storage as a load-modifying resource.	Monitor	Asm. Appr. Committee (25%)
SB 453 (Stern-D)	Extends SGIP to end of 2027 and requires the CEC to report on the program.	Support	Sen. Appr. Committee (25%)
SB 842 (Stern-D)	Requires the CEC and CPUC to support and prioritize the development of firm zero-carbon resources. By 2027, state agencies must identify funding opportunities, deployment barriers, and procurement mechanisms to integrate these resources into local reliability planning. The bill also mandates that Integrated Resource Plans consider firm zero-carbon resources to meet local reliability.	Monitor	Sen. Appr. Committee (25%)



RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, DISTRICT 51



FACT SHEET

AB 39 (Zbur) – Local Electrification Planning Act

SUMMARY

AB 39 requires cities and counties with populations above 75,000 to create and adopt a plan to meet their electrification goals. This bill will help to ensure that everyone – particularly low-income communities, renters, and those who may need to park on the street – have the electric vehicle charging infrastructure they need and are able to retrofit their homes to install electric appliances. Local governments will play a critical role in ensuring California has an equity-based approach in achieving a clean energy future.

AB 39 will empower local jurisdictions to develop solutions that meet communities' unique needs, ensure equal access, and form long-term climate solutions.

BACKGROUND

California has adopted ambitious climate goals that require drastic cuts in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The state is moving quickly to electrify its modes of transportation¹ and encourage electrification in new construction.² Strategies to expand electric charging infrastructure and convert existing homes to electric appliances are critical to support these efforts.

Californians will need an estimated 1 million vehicle chargers to support the 8 million passenger electric vehicles (EV) that are

anticipated to be on the road by 2030, and even more will be necessary to meet the state's 2035 electric vehicle mandate. In the building sector, over 60 jurisdictions in the state have adopted ordinances to require or encourage electrification in new construction but more needs to be done for existing homes.

Meeting these challenging goals requires that governments at all levels to partner in developing and implementing strategies that ensure our most vulnerable communities are not left behind as we take steps towards electrification.

PROBLEM

Low-income communities face significant barriers and costs to adopting electric cars and appliances in their homes. Adding to the complexities of the transition, there has been insufficient planning at the state and local levels to ensure the requisite infrastructure exists as we advance California's goals around electric vehicles and electrifying homes.

These challenges are enhanced for renters and those who live in multi-family homes, where they typically do not have the option to install charging infrastructure or electric household appliances. Assuring that electric chargers are available for all community members and that charging and transmission infrastructure is sufficient to support truck and vehicle delivery fleets and small businesses requires deep

¹ [Executive Order N-79-20](#)

² [California Energy Commission 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards - Title 24, Part 6](#)

knowledge of these communities and the on-the-ground expertise that local governments have, to develop strategies and policies to meet our climate goals.

It is clear that California needs to take steps to catalyze the construction and adoption of the infrastructure necessary for a clean energy transition and close the gaps that hinder low-income and disadvantaged community members from participating in our climate efforts.

SOLUTION

AB 39 requires cities and counties with 75,000 or more people to adopt an electrification plan, composed of climate strategies and goals. This bill recognizes the importance of local decision-making and empowers local governments to pursue solutions tailored to their communities' specific needs.

These local jurisdictions are essential partners in meeting California's climate goals because they are best positioned to assess the needs of their residents' and business's electric transmission and infrastructure requirements.

Establishing these local plans will better assist California with identifying equitable solutions to critical statewide goals.

SUPPORT

Building Decarbonization Coalition (Sponsor)
CALSTART (Sponsor)
The Climate Center
Natural Resource Defense Council
California Environmental Voters
California Solar & Storage Association
California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce
California African American Chamber of Commerce
California Electric Transportation Coalition
Advanced Energy United
Electric Vehicle Charging Association
San Diego Gas and Electric Company
City of Santa Monica
Rewiring America
Streets Are For Everyone

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER – DISTRICT 44

Nick Schultz

AB 44 – Electricity Affordability Through Load Shifting

Summary:

AB 44 addresses California’s energy affordability challenges by clarifying the process by which load-serving entities may use demand management technologies to reduce or shift their electricity consumption away from the most expensive hours.

Background:

Resource adequacy (RA) requirements are established by California’s energy agencies to ensure reliability in the state’s energy supply. The California market for RA resources is experiencing significant challenges, largely driven by extreme weather events causing energy agencies to increase RA obligations for load serving entities (LSEs), as well as resource constraints. As a result, RA prices have been increasing significantly over the last few years, leading to increases in ratepayer costs.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has a process to allow each LSE to reduce or modify its electric demand forecast, which is used to set its RA procurement requirements, using behind-the-meter distributed energy resources. This process is technology-neutral and requires detail on each technology’s operational performance to allow the electric demand forecast of the LSE to be confidently modified for certain hours of the year.

When an LSE’s forecast is reduced under this process, its wholesale procurement (i.e. resource adequacy) need is also reduced, yielding ratepayer benefits from avoided wholesale power purchases.

Problem:

The existing CEC load modification process using distributed energy resources is sound policy, but it has seen limited participation by LSEs and technology providers because there are no publicly available criteria on how the performance of each technology is assessed to qualify for load modification.

Further, there is usually a multi-year lag between when technologies are deployed and operational and when the LSE’s demand forecast is reduced.

These factors create a financial risk for LSEs and technology providers interested in pursuing this demand management strategy, deterring them from using this cost saving opportunity.

AB 44 will provide LSEs, technology providers, and demand response aggregators with greater assurances that they will achieve cost savings through the CEC’s load-modifying process, ensuring that the cost savings become a reality.

AB 44 (as amended on 3/25/2024):

- requires the CEC to define and publicize its load modification protocols to allow each LSE to confidently reduce their peak demand forecast with distributed energy technology;
- encourages the CEC to use available funds to test load-modifying technologies to maximize confidence in aggregated distributed energy resource performance; and,
- requires the CEC to evaluate new opportunities that could allow LSEs to get further RA relief using load management.

Support:

Advanced Energy United

Contact:

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FACT SHEET

ASSEMBLY MEMBER
Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
DISTRICT 16

AB 222 – Data centers: energy usage reporting and modeling

Summary

AB 222 creates transparency around energy usage by developers of artificial intelligence (AI) models and data centers, creates energy efficiency standards for data centers, and prevents the cost of constructing new data centers from being passed onto ratepayers.

Background

The rapid development of the AI industry is fueling a boom in data center construction in California. These facilities, which house the servers and hardware needed to train and operate AI, require vast amounts of electricity. According to a recent article in the Los Angeles Times:

“In Santa Clara — the heart of Silicon Valley — electric rates are rising as the municipal utility spends heavily on transmission lines and other infrastructure to accommodate the voracious power demand from more than 50 data centers, which now consume 60% of the city’s electricity. And earlier this year, Pacific Gas & Electric told investors that its customers have proposed more than two dozen data centers, requiring 3.5 gigawatts of power — the output of three new nuclear reactors.¹”

The California Energy Commission (CEC) helps ensure California’s energy infrastructure is ready to meet the needs of its population and economy by analyzing trends in energy consumption and forecasting future demand. The CEC also establishes energy efficiency standards for appliances, buildings, and industrial processes, with the goal of reducing energy waste, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting sustainability. These efforts support California’s transition to a cleaner, more resilient energy

system while helping Californians save on energy costs.

The construction of energy-intensive data centers often requires an expansion of grid infrastructure to accommodate increased energy demand. When this occurs, utility companies can seek approval from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to pass on the costs of electricity production and infrastructure upgrades to ratepayers.

Problem

Large AI models require a tremendous amount of energy to develop. At the same time, the rapid expansion of the AI industry is driving the widespread construction of energy-intensive data centers across the state. The increase in energy demand due to AI, paired with grid infrastructure expansion necessitated by the construction and expansion of data centers, threaten to increase energy costs for Californians.

What the Bill Does

AB 222 requires developers of AI models to disclose the amount of energy consumed during the training of large models; it requires the California Energy Commission to adopt energy efficiency and reporting standards for data centers; and it minimizes costs to ratepayers resulting from the construction of new data centers.

Support

California Environmental Voters
Compute Exchange Inc.
Sierra Club
Sustainable Rossmoor
Transparency Coalition.ai

¹ [Power-hungry AI data centers are raising electric bills and blackout risk](#)

Contact

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Blanca E. Rubio

DISTRICT 48

AB 259 (Rubio): Ralph M. Brown Act

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill 259 (Rubio) extends the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by Assembly Bill 2449 (Rubio, 2022), a bill that provided additional flexibility for Brown Act meeting procedures, allowing board members to participate remotely in the event of an absence due to "just cause" or "emergency circumstances", allowing for those members so-affected to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill. The provisions of AB 2449 include restrictions on how often its provisions may be invoked and require that a majority of the board be present in-person in order to constitute a quorum. This bill will extend the sunset on these provisions until 2030

BACKGROUND

The Brown Act ensures that officials and their constituents can have open and transparent meetings, which we now know can occur using modern technology. AB 2449 provided an avenue for constituents to interact with their representatives in situations where they might have not previously been able to. AB 2449 followed other legislation like Assembly Bill 361 (R. Rivas, 2021) related to the Brown Act. However, while bills like AB 361 were concerned with entire agencies and disaster emergency scenarios posing a threat to the general health and welfare of all attendees, AB 2449 is more limited in scope. AB 2449 is applicable to individual board members – rather than the entire agency – and is concerned with the specific "just cause" and "emergency circumstances" enumerated within the bill.

PROBLEM

Several special districts and other local agencies have utilized the procedures established by AB 2449, successfully facilitating remote participation for legislative policymakers that would otherwise been encumbered by illness, official travel, or medical emergency. Though the terms of AB 2449 have been amended since their passage, the sunset date associated with its terms has not been changed; the alternative Brown Act meeting procedures established by the bill expire at the end of 2025.

SOLUTION

By extending the sunset, AB 259 preserves the additional flexibility for individual board members of local agencies looking to meet remotely to continue providing the public with essential services.

SUPPORT

California Special Districts Association
(Sponsor)
Three Valleys Municipal Water District
(Sponsor)

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Assembly Bill 915 – Fact Sheet Local Incentives for Siting Clean Energy

SUMMARY

AB 915 provides local cities and counties with the resources necessary for California to successfully transition to a clean energy economy.

BACKGROUND

The goal of replacing all of the energy consumed by the world's fourth largest economy with clean and renewable sources presents a reindustrialization challenge of unprecedented pace and scale. For example, over the next decade, based on the California Public Utility Commission's February 2024 Integrated Resources Plan Decision (D. 24-02-047), California must install 19 GWs of solar, 7 GWs of terrestrial wind, and over 15 GWs of energy storage to meet its renewable energy targets. If successful, California will demonstrate to the world that this transition is possible technically and economically.

Despite the global implications of these statewide goals, the burden to deliver on this promise has historically fallen on the cities and counties who are largely on their own to permit and site clean energy projects. When new technologies emerge, cities and counties are forced to quickly adapt their permitting and planning to meet the new opportunity. For the foreseeable future, the bulk of the responsibility and infrastructure development will be left to the cities and counties to authorize and oversee.

Permitting clean energy projects requires an understanding of federal, state, and local regulations as well as expertise in the technology being permitted. Permits involve multiple agencies and departments with jurisdictions ranging from health and safety concerns to siting and zoning. Some challenges are intentional, including bans, moratoriums, setbacks, noise restrictions, and aesthetic concerns. For many

local jurisdictions, however, permitting challenges are less about resistance and more about a lack of resources, time, and expertise.

NEED FOR THE BILL

In-house staffing and expertise is a primary challenge for local permitting authorities. Without a steady stream of permit requests of similar projects, there is little incentive or ability to "staff up." To successfully complete clean energy project permits, sensitivity to hyper-local culture, conditions, and concerns must be paired with subject matter expertise and knowledge of complex state and federal regulations.

SOLUTION

- AB 915 requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to establish and make available to local permitting authorities a central pool of subject matter experts with experience in clean energy project siting and permitting.
- States the legislative intent to appropriate \$900 million previously committed in SB 846 (Dodd, 2022) to the CEC to award local grants to incentivize investment in clean energy infrastructure.

SUPPORT

California Municipal Utilities Association
California Solar & Storage Association
Rural County Representatives of California
Southern California Public Power Authority



CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR

Jesse Arreguín

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 07

SB 239 – Local Advisory Body Teleconferencing

SUMMARY

SB 239 would allow non-voting local advisory bodies to conduct meetings remotely if certain conditions are met.

BACKGROUND

Participation in our democratic processes is a key way of building trust in our institutions, yet limited options for engagement makes it difficult for many to have their voices heard. Many local governments create advisory bodies to ensure that citizen input is received for varying issues prior to enacting ordinances. Local governments have struggled to attract members of the public to serve on these advisory bodies due to the requirement that these bodies meet in person. Qualified members of the public who would be an important voice for diverse issues have reasonable concerns about time constraints, transportation issues, and caregiving duties that leaves them unable to participate

The Ralph M. Brown Act, established in 1953, ensures that the public has adequate access to participate in government decision making processes. This essential democratic right remains just as relevant today, however the conditions of our society have changed – necessitating updates to this critical law.

With increasing technological advancement, the nature of our society and public discourse has fundamentally changed. When individuals can see a doctor, engage in social events or advocate for policies at a state level through zoom or other teleconferencing technologies, they are able to access discourse in a fundamentally

different way – without the need to add commuting time to their day-to-day lives.

PROBLEM

The COVID-19 pandemic showed us all that meeting remotely can improve efficiency and accessibility for everything from routine work meetings to public meetings subject to the Brown Act. However, the end of pandemic-era remote meeting flexibility has caused many community members to resign from local advisory bodies due to conflicts with work, caregiving, disabilities, or long driving distances needed to attend meetings in person.

Based on results from a survey of counties, over 82% report recruitment and retention challenges and over 90% report occasional or frequent failures to establish quorum needed to conduct an advisory body meeting. When these advisory bodies are unable to recruit or retain members of the public to serve, local government diversity and responsiveness suffers.

While remote meeting is possible under current law, members must post the address of their remote location and open it to the public. Often, the most convenient and accessible location to participate in a meeting is from someone's home. This reality is exacerbated by those who live in rural locations, where there are simply fewer public locations willing to accommodate someone participating in a meeting who may be joined by members of the public.

SOLUTION

SB 239 would remove barriers to public participation on local advisory bodies, ensuring that those bodies can represent the true diversity of our communities, including working families, single parents, persons with disabilities, those living in distant locations, and others by allowing remote meetings. SB 239 would allow members of public bodies that are simply advisory in nature, with no decision-making powers, to meet remotely without needing to post their home address or open their home to the public. It would improve meeting accessibility for the public at large, ensuring that the public can also view and participate in remote meetings, while also ensuring that there are in-person meeting locations to attend and participate in a meeting.

CONTACT

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SUPPORT

Association of Bay Area Governments (co-sponsor)
California State Association of Counties (Co-sponsor)
California League of Cities (Co-sponsor)
City Clerks Association of California (Co-sponsor)
The California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (Co-sponsor)
The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (co-sponsor)
Area 4 Agency on Aging
Bet Tzedek
California Association of Area Agencies on Aging
California Association of Council of Governments
California Association of Recreation & Park Districts
California Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Association
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
California IHSS Consumer Alliance
California Senior Legislature
California Special Districts Association
California Travel Association
City of Corona
County of Contra Costa
County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
County of Mendocino
County of Monterey

County of Riverside
County of Sacramento
County of Yolo
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Homebridge
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network
Imperial County
Justice in Aging
Marin Center for Independent Living
Placer Independent Resources Services
Rural County Representatives of California
San Diego Community Power
Sourcewise
Town of Hillsborough
Urban Counties of California



Senator Scott Wiener, 11th Senate District

SB 282- Heat Pump Access Act

SUMMARY

SB 282, the Heat Pump Access Act, will save Californians on energy bills, reduce indoor air pollution, mitigate the effects of extreme weather, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving access to safe heat pump water heater and HVAC systems. SB 282 will require automated permitting for standard heat pump water heater and HVAC installations, streamlining the permitting process for a key affordability and climate technology.

BACKGROUND/EXISTING LAW

Heat pumps are a win-win-win climate solution—they provide efficient, cost-saving, zero-emission cooling and heating that can displace dirty and hazardous fossil fuel furnaces with a single appliance.

Because heat pumps are highly energy efficient, the average household in the US can save nearly \$400 a year by switching to a heat pump.¹ When paired with solar and/or battery systems, and outfitted with demand response capabilities, heat pumps can save residents even more.

Water and space heating through gas water heaters and furnaces are responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions from residential buildings. Buildings— including both residential and commercial — are responsible for 25% of California’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Replacing these gas appliances with highly efficient electric heat pump devices not only reduces emissions but also improves the health and safety of buildings. According to the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), a heat pump installed in California today will cut emissions from space heating by 93% over the

lifetime of the equipment compared to a gas furnace, in addition to providing potentially life-saving AC as our climate warms. To be on track for meeting California’s climate goals, at least 20% of existing buildings will need to convert their fossil-powered appliances to electric alternatives by 2030.²

California has already taken action to reduce permit barriers for homeowners seeking to electrify and decarbonize their homes. State laws mandate automated permitting processes for solar photovoltaics and home batteries ([Senate Bill 379](#), Wiener, 2021), require expedited solar permitting and restrict reasons for denying solar permits ([Assembly Bill 2188](#), Muratsuchi, 2014), and limit high fees for solar permits ([AB 1132](#), Friedman, 2023). For electric vehicle charging stations, California requires an expedited and simplified permit process focused solely on a health and safety review ([AB 1236](#), Chiu, 2015), and limits jurisdictions to a simple nondiscretionary permit type ([AB 970](#), McCarty, 2021).

Heat pumps have yet to receive such streamlining — despite heat pump contractors regularly citing time-consuming and cost-driving complexities associated with local permitting and despite ambitious clean air rules and state climate targets setting the stage for enormous heat pump growth. In 2023, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (AQMD) passed a rule to require newly installed space and water heaters to be zero-emission. The South Coast AQMD and CARB are considering similar rules for residential customers. Similarly, Governor Newsom has set a building decarbonization goal of installing 6 million heat pumps statewide by 2030.

¹ A Guide to Cutting Costs with Heat Pumps | Rewiring America

² Neumann, Ingrid. “Key Building Decarbonization Strategies towards California Climate Goals.” PowerPoint

presented at Redwood Energy Zero Carbon Retreat, January 21, 2021

PROBLEM

Meeting California’s climate goals will require a greater number of residential heat pump appliances to be installed quickly and cost-effectively over the coming years. However, a patchwork of burdensome local permitting requirements adds cost, time, and hassle to these clean appliance retrofits. Interviews with heat pump installers point to a number of barriers at the local level to installing heat pump equipment, including long inspection wait times, local architectural requirements, wide variations in requirements across jurisdictions, high permit fees, and the need to obtain multiple permit types for a water heater installation.

These burdensome requirements can drive up the cost of installations for homeowners, and limit the time that qualified contractors have to work on other projects, further tightening the supply of labor available to meet increasing demand for heat pump appliances. Because public rebate and direct install programs for heat pumps require permit verification, onerous permit requirements risk impacting the efficiency of hundreds of millions in funding for heat pumps, much of which is targeted toward low-income customers.

In light of Governor Newsom’s ambitious target of installing 6 million heat pumps statewide, California has only 5 years left to install over 4 million heat pumps in order to meet this goal.

SOLUTION

Heat pump permitting must be modernized in line with other pro-climate technologies to improve access to a cost-saving technology and meet California’s ambitious climate goals.

This bill would streamline heat pump permitting and ensure California meets its climate goals by:

1. Mandating automated permitting for standard Heat Pump installations
2. Requiring local jurisdictions to allow licensed contractors to self-certify that their heat pump installation is up to code, when contractors have met a threshold of both training and installed a specified number of heat pumps without requiring any cures during the inspection process.

3. Prohibiting HOAs from imposing architectural review on clean appliance installations
4. Requiring a maximum of one permit for heat pump water heater installations
5. Prohibiting jurisdictions from imposing additional requirements on heat pump installations beyond state code, with a specific carve-out for Title 24 reach codes and/or local policies intended to advance clean energy adoption
6. Capping fees for heat pump permits to the reasonable cost of providing service

SUPPORT

- **Building Decarbonization Coalition, Sponsor**
- **SPUR, Sponsor**
- **Bay Area Air District, Sponsor**
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Rewiring America
- US Green Building Council California
- Acterra
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- SAFE Cities at Stand.earth
- Carbon Free Silicon Valley
- Carbon Free Palo Alto
- California Center for Sustainable Energy
- California Housing Partnership Corporation
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- Permit Power
- QuitCarbon
- SF Climate Emergency Coalition
- San Diego Building Electrification Coalition
- San Diego 350
- Stand Earth
- Stop Waste
- 350 Humbolt: Grass Roots Climate Action

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Senate Bill 698

Solar Equipment Lists

Senator Jerry McNerney (SD 5)

THIS BILL

California has the largest solar market in the U.S., with solar energy supplying more than 25% of the state's electricity. The success of CA's solar industry is due in part to the state's world-leading system of standards, known as the Solar Equipment Lists (SELs).

Developed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to set industry standards for solar, the state's SELs are now used by state agencies, local governments, and stakeholders across the U.S. and abroad to ensure solar equipment is safe and reliable.

SB 698 modernizes CA's Solar Equipment Lists statute, preserving the program into the future. The bill also expands the scope of the SELs to include bidirectional charging equipment and battery storage systems, which homeowners with rooftop solar are increasingly using in conjunction with their solar systems.

ISSUE

California has statewide goals to power its electrical grid with 100% clean energy by 2045. One early plank of CA's clean energy platform was the California Solar Initiative in 2006 which sought to install a million solar roofs on homes, farms and businesses in CA. To complement the CA Solar Initiative, the CEC established the Solar Equipment Lists to set industry standards for solar equipment, ensuring safe and reliable interconnections to the grid. While the California Solar Initiative programs have sunset, the Solar Equipment Lists remain a key resource. Industry professionals from California and across the country have relied on these lists for almost two decades. Local governments use them to facilitate streamlined permitting of rooftop solar systems on homes and businesses.

As California accelerates its transition to clean energy sources, grid safety and reliability are of

the utmost importance. Home electrification includes more than just solar panels – electric vehicles, bidirectional charging cables, and battery storage all play a role in reducing the use of natural gas in homes and providing energy back to the grid. Without sufficient standards and testing, the energy transition could be undermined by poor equipment, leading to safety issues.

Today, the CEC continues to update the SELs three times per month, allowing California to adapt to emerging technologies. In 2024 alone, over 8,000 new models of equipment were added to the Solar Equipment Lists.

Expanding the purview of the Solar Equipment Lists will allow California to streamline a broader array of equipment that can help reduce emissions and make the grid more reliable.

SOLUTION

SB 698 would:

- Modernize the Solar Equipment Lists statute by removing references to the sunsetted CA Solar Initiative
- Expand the Solar Equipment Lists to include bidirectional charging systems, energy storage systems, and electric vehicle supply equipment through a companion distributed energy resource list.

SUPPORT

California Solar and Storage Association
Center for Sustainable Energy
Permit Power
Union of Concerned Scientists

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SB 314 – EV Chargers Weight and Measures

According to the California Energy Commission (CEC), one million public chargers are needed in California by the end of 2030 to support California's goal of 100% zero-emission vehicle sales by 2035. Per an August 28, 2024, CEC news release, California surpassed 150,000 public and shared private chargers installed statewide, including 137,648 Level 2 chargers and 14,708 fast chargers. However, according to a January 13, 2025, report by the California Department of Food & Agriculture, Division of Weights and Measures (DMS), only 7,761 EV charging stations have been registered statewide, with none registered in twenty-two of the fifty-eight counties, including Los Angeles and Sacramento counties. When an EV charging station is registered with a county sealer in California, it means the station has been inspected, tested, and determined to comply with the regulations for commercial EV chargers, ensuring accurate electricity metering and fair business practices. The existing process of bringing charging stations online is confusing, inconsistent, costly, and delayed. Solutions are needed to efficiently build infrastructure while ensuring consumer protection and future investment.

Charging stations are required to be tested and placed in service by a Registered Service Agency (RSA) after installation to confirm meter functionality and compliance with the California Division of Measurement Standards' (DMS) Weights and Measures program, which maintains accurate standards of measurement for consumers. Charging station owners must complete this process before stations can be used by EV drivers. However, two major issues arise with the current process. First, testing and inspection is primarily conducted by RSAs — electricians certified by DMS to inspect charging stations. Unfortunately, the state currently only has 16 certified RSAs (that are not charging manufacturers) and RSA's access to testing equipment is limited, a shortage that delays bringing stations online. Second, enforcement of the compliance process is defined by each of California's 58 counties, varying implementation. To meet the state's goal of one million chargers by 2030, California needs to install 366 charging stations per day which is unattainable under existing regulations.

SB 314 offers a solution to help ensure that California weight and measures regulations do not impede the state's ability to install much needed charging infrastructure, while simultaneously ensuring that consumers are protected. First, the bill would direct County Sealers to test and place in service all charging stations subject to regulations that have been installed prior to January 1, 2026 no later than January 1, 2027. Second, the bill would direct CalDMS and the California Energy Commission to identify existing funding that could be expanded to cover the purchase of testing equipment for County Sealers or RSAs to help alleviate cost and access constraints of testing equipment. Third, SB 314 supports and codifies efforts currently underway by CalDMS to allow manufacturer factory testing of equipment and, and opens the door for CalDMS to explore and implement additional testing pathways in the future to further streamline the placed in service process.. Four, the bill authorizes County Sealers to allow a charging station that has been issued a violation that does not impact the station's metrology, to remain operational for 30 days while the violation is addressed. Lastly, SB 314 requires counties to adopt standardized statewide compliance resources and information developed by CalDMS and made available on their website, to ensure consistency and transparency.

The bill aims to establish a more efficient, sustainable, and consumer-protective system for the deployment of EV chargers. By supporting SB 314, California can overcome the barriers currently hindering the deployment of EV chargers. This bill provides a comprehensive approach that supports the state's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and effective EV charging infrastructure, which is a crucial step in helping California meet its ambitious goal of one million chargers by 2030.

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