



Staff Report Item 15

TO: East Bay Community Energy Board of Directors

FROM: Melissa Brandt, Senior Dir. of Public Policy and Deputy General Counsel

SUBJECT: Approval of Legislative Position (Action Item)

DATE: May 19, 2021

Recommendation

Take a “support” position on Senate Bill (“SB”) 68 (Becker).

Background and Discussion

In July 2018 the EBCE Board approved a Legislative Program which outlined three general legislative principles and five more specific public policy positions, as well as guidance for legislative policy coordination. The following recommended bill position aligns with the guidance in EBCE’s Legislative Program.

SUPPORT: SB 68 (Becker) would require California Energy Commission (“CEC”), in consultation with other state agencies, to develop a guide for overcoming barriers to electrification of buildings and installation of electric vehicle (“EV”) charging equipment. The bill would authorize the CEC in implementing the Electric Program Investment Charge (“EPIC”) grant program to also award funds for projects that reduce the costs of building electrification, including by reducing or avoiding the costs of expanding electrical service and electrical panel upgrades for existing buildings. Additionally, SB 68 would require the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) to specify reasonable timeframes for when an investor-owned utility (“IOU”) must complete an electrical service upgrade. The IOU would then be required to publish the timeframes on its website and annually report to the CPUC on its performance in meeting the established timeframes. In cases where the IOU does not meet the timeframe established by the CPUC, the IOU would have to report back to the CPUC and the building owner with reasons for the failure and the expected completion date.

SB 68 aligns well with EBCE’s legislative principle of Accelerating Decarbonization, as the legislation is designed to enable higher levels of building decarbonization through

supporting increased electrification. Furthermore, by putting more regulatory pressure on the IOUs to complete electrical service upgrades in a timely manner, the bill is likely to accelerate both building electrification and deployment of additional distributed energy generation and energy storage systems.

Fiscal Impact

SB 68 may result in additional CEC EPIC funding for projects that will benefit electricity ratepayers and lead to technological advancements to reduce the costs of building electrification.

Attachments:

- A. May 19, 2021 Legislative Update

MAY 19, 2021

Legislative Update



Legislative Highlights

Attachment Staff Report Item 15A

- SB 612
- Recommended Bill Positions
- Update on Bills EBCE is Supporting

Update on SB 612

Attachment Staff Report Item 15A

- Amended on 4/26 in accordance with cmte recommendations
- Passed out of Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Cmte on 4/26
 - Opposition includes PG&E, SCE, The Utility Reform Network (TURN), and the Coalition of Utility Employees (CUE)
 - Several members with “yes” votes indicated concern about the bill and/or CCAs more generally
- Currently in Appropriations Cmte (hearing 5/17), then moves to Senate Floor (1st house)
- If SB 612 passes out of the Senate, it will then move to the Assembly (2nd house) Utilities & Energy Cmte

Recommended Bill Position

Attachment Staff Report Item 15A

Bill #	Author	Description	Sponsor	Status	Recommended EBCE Position
SB 68	Becker	Requires CEC to develop guide for overcoming barriers to electrification of buildings and installation of EV charging equipment. Authorizes CEC EPIC \$ for reducing costs of building electrification. Requires the CPUC to specify reasonable timeframes for when an IOUs must complete an electrical service upgrade, and for the IOU to publish the timeframes on its website and annually report to the CPUC on its performance in meeting the timeframes. In cases where the IOU does not meet the timeframe established by the CPUC, the IOU would have to report back to the CPUC and the building owner with reasons for the failure and the expected completion date.	Author-sponsored	Sen Approps Cmte 5/17	SUPPORT

Adopted Bill Positions – Assembly

Attachment Staff Report Item 15A

Bill #	Author	Description	Sponsor	Status	EBCE Position
AB 33	Ting	Requires CEC to provide grants and loans to local governments to maximize energy use savings and expand installation of energy storage and availability of transportation electrification infrastructure.		Asm Approps Cmte 5/12	SUPPORT: letter to be sent to Asm floor
AB 427	Bauer-Kahan	Requires CPUC to establish rules governing the intersection of demand response, energy storage including customer-sited distributed generation plus storage, and RA.	CalSSA	Asm Approps Cmte 5/12	SUPPORT: letter sent 3/31
AB 525	Chiu	Requires CEC to develop plan to achieve 10,000 MW offshore wind by 2040; requires CPUC to include offshore wind in IRP.	ACPA	Asm Approps Cmte	SUPPORT: letter sent 3/31
AB 843	Aguiar-Curry	Allows CCAs to enter into Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT) contracts and recover related costs through the existing nonbypassable charge for the BioMAT program.	Marin Clean Energy	Asm Approps Suspense File	SUPPORT: letter sent 3/31
AB 1087	Chiu	EJ Community Resilience Hubs. Reallocates funding from CA Climate Credit towards streamlined grant program run by third-party administrator for climate resiliency improvements to buildings that constitute community hubs.	APEN, CEJA, NRDC	Asm Approps Cmte 5/12	SUPPORT IF AMENDED: drafted amendments; sponsors rejected
AB 1239	Ting	Requires investigation into causes of demand response market failures and why demand response is not reaching its potential; recommendations to ensure market failures not repeated. Recommendations to CPUC to revise policies governing demand response resources. CEC and CAISO to develop initiatives to achieve all cost-effective demand response by 2030.	California Efficiency + Demand Management Council	2-year bill: Asm U&E Cmte	SUPPORT
TBD	Ting	Budget bill – not yet in print. Reallocates unused funds from the New Solar Homes Partnership Program and applies them to two new programs to be administered by the CEC for residential building decarbonization efforts and grants to local governments to adopt automated permitting systems to support reducing home GHG emissions.	NRDC	Being prepared for June budget pkg	SUPPORT: signed on to coalition as supportive

Adopted Bill Positions – Senate

Attachment Staff Report Item 15A

Bill #	Author	Description	Sponsor	Status	EBCE Position
SB 31	Cortese	Requires CEC to identify/implement programs to promote existing & new building decarb. Would authorize expending fed funds for these projects. Would require CEC under EPIC to award funds for projects benefiting electric ratepayers & leading to development of building decarbonization technologies and investments to reduce GHG in those bldgs.	Author-sponsored	Sen Approps Suspense File	SUPPORT
SB 52	Dodd	Expands sudden and severe energy shortage definition to include deenergization events, constituting state of emergency and local emergency.	Napa Cty Board of Supervisors	Assembly – 2 nd house	SUPPORT: letter to be sent to Asm cmte
SB 99	Dodd	Community Energy Resiliency Act of 2021. Requires the CEC to develop and implement a grant program for local govts to develop community energy resilience plans.	The Climate Center	Sen Approps Suspense File	SUPPORT: letter sent 4/14
SB 345	Becker	Requires the CPUC to establish common definitions of nonenergy benefits, incorporate into DER programs and projects, and track nonenergy benefits produced in DER program evals.	Author-sponsored	Sen Approps Suspense File	SUPPORT: letter to be sent to Asm cmte
SB 551	Stern	Establishes California EV Authority in the Governor's office, responsible for coordinating state agency activities to deploy EV and zero emission charging infrastructure, create funding/financing tools to support deployments, prioritize equity	LACI, TEP	Sen Approps Cmte 5/17	SUPPORT: letter sent 3/31
SB 589	Hueso	Requires CEC to identify workforce development and training resources needed to meet EV charging infrastructure goals.	Author-sponsored	Sen Approps Suspense File	SUPPORT
SB 612	Portantino	Requires electrical corporations to annually offer for the following year an allocation of each product arising from legacy resources that departed load customers currently bear cost responsibility for through the PCIA. Requires the CPUC to recognize and account for the value of all products in the legacy portfolio in determining the PCIA.	CalCCA	Sen Approps Cmte 5/17	SUPPORT: letter sent 3/1