



2020 California Energy Laws



**Local
Government
Commission**

Produced by the Local Government Commission

For full context and bill language, please refer to leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

AB-78 Bergeson-Peace Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank.

- » Creates the Climate Catalyst Revolving Loan Fund within the State Treasury and requires the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank to administer the Climate Catalyst Revolving Loan Fund.
- » Defines “climate catalyst projects” as any building, structure, equipment, infrastructure, or other improvement within California, or financing the general needs of any sponsor or participating party for operations or activities within California that further California’s climate goals, activities that reduce climate risk, and the implementation of low-carbon technology and infrastructure.
- » Require the Strategic Growth Council, in consultations with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to advise the Legislature of potential categories of climate catalyst projects that would focus on the state’s key climate mitigation and resilience priorities and inform the bank of the advice provided to the Legislature.

AB-841 Energy: transportation electrification: energy efficiency programs: School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program.

- » Requires not less than 35% of the investments from electrical corporations to accelerate widespread transportation electrification to be in underserved communities.
- » Requires each electrical corporation, by February 28, 2021, to file an advice letter and requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to approve, by June 30, 2021, a new tariff or rule that authorizes each electrical corporation to design and deploy all electrical distribution infrastructure on the utility side of the customer meter for all customers installing a separately metered infrastructure to support charging stations, and provide for cost recovery.
- » Requires the PUC, the Energy Commission, and the Air Resources Board, for work performed on and after January 1, 2022, to require all electric vehicle charging infrastructure and equipment located on the customer side of the electric meter that is funded or authorized by those state entities to be installed by a contractor with the appropriate license classification and at least one electrician on each crew who holds an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program certification.
- » Requires, no later than May 1, 2021, and periodically thereafter, the Energy Commission, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to conduct joint public workshops to determine if the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program curriculum and testing should be supplemented to include updated or additional topics necessary to ensure safe installation of charging infrastructure.
- » Requires the PUC to require large electrical corporations and gas corporations to establish the joint School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program within each of its energy efficiency portfolios and allocate a specific portion of their energy efficiency budget for program years 2021, 2022, and 2023 to fund the program that shall consist of:
 - The School Reopening Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair Program to provide grants to local educational agencies to reopen schools with functional ventilation systems that are tested, adjusted, and, if necessary or cost effective, repaired, upgraded or replaced to increase efficiency and performance, and
 - The School Noncompliant Plumbing Fixture and Appliance Program to provide grants to local educational agencies to replace noncompliant plumbing fixtures and appliances that fail to meet water efficiency standards and waste potable water and the energy used to convey that water, with water-conserving plumbing fixtures and appliances.
- » Requires the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program to be a joint program among all the participating utilities, be consistent across the utility territories, and be designed, administered, and implemented by the Energy Commission as the program administrator. Requires that not less than 25% of projects funded by those programs be in underserved communities and requires that those programs prioritize underserved communities by ensuring that all schools that are in an underserved community are offered the opportunity to apply for and receive grants before those schools that are not in an underserved community.

AB-913 Electrical corporations: wildfire and undercollection.

- » Authorizes an electrical corporation to file an application requesting the Public Utilities Commission to issue a financing order to authorize the recovery of certain incremental undercollection amounts for calendar year 2020 through the issuance of bonds by the electrical corporation that are secured by a rate component.
- » Prohibits the recovery of the incremental undercollection amounts that are subject to such a financing order through any other cost recovery application, mechanism, or request by the electrical corporation.

AB-1657 State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California: report.

- » Requires, on or before March 1, 2021, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to establish and convene the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California. Requires the Blue Ribbon Commission to review, investigate, and analyze certain issues and potential incentives, as described, regarding lithium extraction and use in California, and to consult, if feasible, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy in performing these tasks. Requires the Blue Ribbon Commission to submit, on or before October 1, 2022, a report to the Legislature documenting its findings and recommendations, as specified.

AB-2788 Public utilities: cooperation with immigration authorities.

- » Prohibits an electrical corporation, gas corporation, or local publicly owned electric utility from sharing, disclosing, or otherwise making accessible to any immigration authority a customer's electrical or gas consumption data without a court-ordered subpoena or judicial warrant.

AB-3163 Energy: biomethane: procurement.

- » Defines "biomethane" as methane produced from an organic waste feedstock that meets specified standards adopted by the Public Utilities Commission and is either produced from the anaerobic decomposition of organic material or produced from the noncombustion thermal conversion of specified materials.

SB-350 The Golden State Energy Act.

- » Authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to petition a court to appoint a receiver to assume possession of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's property and to operate its electrical and gas systems if the commission determines in a proceeding that the appointment of a receiver is warranted pursuant to the processes or procedures set forth in a specified commission investigation. Authorizes a court to appoint such a receiver and would require the receiver to control and operate Pacific Gas and Electric Company upon such terms and conditions as the court prescribes.
- » Authorizes the Governor, or the Governor's designee, to incorporate Golden State Energy as a nonprofit public benefit corporation for the purpose of owning, controlling, operating, or managing electrical and gas services for its ratepayers and for the benefit of all Californians.
- » Establishes a 9-member board of directors for Golden State Energy and requires the initial board to amend Golden State Energy's bylaws to include procedures for the transition to a board consisting of 6 board members who are elected by Golden State Energy's customers, as specified, and 3 board members who are appointed, as provided.
- » Expressly provides that Golden State Energy is a nonprofit public benefit corporation, subject to all statutory provision and regulatory authority of the commission as an electrical corporation and gas corporation, except as specified. The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission, upon a specified event occurring, to initiate a proceeding to modify the rules and processes that apply to Pacific Gas and Electric Company as necessary to reflect the differences in Golden State Energy's capital structure to ensure continued regulation of rates, electrical and gas safety, wildfire mitigation, climate change mitigation and adaption, public purpose programs, and any other commission requirements applicable to an electrical corporation or gas corporation.

SB-364 Change in ownership: nonresidential active solar energy systems: initiative.

- » Provides that a nonresidential active solar energy system, as defined, is personal property, not an improvement.
- » Exempts a nonresidential active solar energy system constructed or installed prior to January 1, 2025 from taxation until there is a subsequent change in ownership of the nonresidential active solar energy system.

SB-596 In-home supportive services: additional higher energy allowance.

- » Authorizes a county welfare department to use materials provided by an electrical corporation that is serving the county to inform each applicant or recipient of benefits under the In-Home Supportive Services program that the applicant or recipient may be eligible to receive that higher energy allowance and any advanced notifications that are provided by a public utility when the public utility plans to deenergize portions of the electrical distribution system or in an emergency.

SB-702 California Renewable Portfolio Standard Program: procurement.

- » Authorizes a retail seller to rely on contracts of 10 years or more in duration or ownership agreements entered into before January 1, 2019, directly by its direct access nonprofit educational institution end-use customer for eligible renewable energy resources located in front of the customer meter to satisfy the portion of the 65% requirement attributable to the retail sales of that end-use customer.

SB-895 Energy: zero-emission fuel, infrastructure, and transportation technologies.

- » Requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, within the limits of available funds, to provide technical assistance and support for the development of zero-emission fuels, zero-emission fueling infrastructure, and zero-emission fuel transportation technologies.

SB-1117 Master-meter customers: electrical or gas service.

- » Replaces “electrical corporation” with “load-serving entity,” defined as including electrical corporations, community choice aggregators, and electric service providers, in many of these provisions relative to the responsibilities of an electrical corporation and master-meter customer when electrical service is provided by a master-meter customer to users who are tenants of a mobilehome park, apartment building, or similar residential complex.
- » Expressly provides that the requirement for the distribution of rebates received by master-meter customers includes the credits received by those customers from revenues generated by the sale of the direct allocation of greenhouse gas allowances to an electrical corporation.

SB-1320 Climate change: California Climate Change Assessment.

- » Requires the Office of Planning and Research, through the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program and in coordination with the Natural Resources Agency, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, and the Strategic Growth Council, and in consultation with partner public agencies, to develop and complete the California Climate Change Assessment no less frequently than every 5 years
- » Requires the assessment to provide an integrated suite of products that report the impacts and risks of climate change, based on the best available science, and identify potential solutions to inform legislative policy. Requires the products to include downscaled climate projections that assess climate change impacts throughout the state, including at regional and local levels, for near-term, medium-term, and long-term timescales, and under varied emissions scenarios, as provided.
- » Requires the office to engage with regional and local governments, tribes, vulnerable communities, businesses, and members of the public, as necessary, in determining the scope of the assessment.