

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report – Item 7

To: Valley Clean Energy Alliance Board of Directors

From: Mitch Sears, Interim General Manager

Subject: Receive June 2020 Legislative Update and approve support of SB 862, SB 1117, and SB 1312

Date: June 11, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

1. Support SB 862
2. Support SB 1117
3. Support SB 1312

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Due to the unscheduled legislative recess and revision of the legislative calendar due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many energy related bills are no longer being pursued in the 2020 legislative session, including both bills CalCCA was sponsoring. However, energy bills related to public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) and community resilience and energy bills related to economic stimulus or cost savings continue to move forward. Staff is recommending support for the three bills; each are summarized below with links to the current bill language.

In the summaries below, staff notes CalCCA's position on the legislation being considered by VCE.

1. SB 862 (Dodd). Planned Power Outage: Public Safety.

Summary: This bill would additionally include a deenergization event within a sudden and severe energy shortage constituting a state of emergency and a local emergency. This bill would require an Investor Owned Utility (IOU) to coordinate with local governments to jointly identify and establish Community Resource Centers (CRC) to provide resources and services during a deenergization event. Once a CRC is established, the IOU will make any necessary electrical upgrades to the facility so that a mobile backup generator can be located at, and provide electricity, the CRC. The IOU must provide a mobile backup generator at the beginning of a deenergization event if the CRC does not have backup generation and the deenergization event is expected to result in loss of power to the CRC.

Recommendation: Staff is recommending support for this bill so that there is better coordination between PG&E and Yolo County and its cities regarding the preparation and implementation of community resource centers during a PSPS event. This is consistent with Board direction regarding policies to ensure PG&E improves its execution of PSPS.

Additional Information:

- CalCCA, several other CCAs, and the association of Counties support the bill
- Next hearing: Senate Appropriations, no date set
- Bill Language: [SB 862](#)

2. SB 1117 (Monning). Master-Meter Customers: Electrical or Gas Service.

Summary: Current law contains various provisions relative to the responsibilities of a gas or electrical corporation and master-meter customer when gas or electrical service is provided by a master-meter customer to users who are tenants of a mobilehome park, apartment building, or similar residential complex, including a requirement that the master-meter customer charge each user at the same rate that would be applicable if the user were receiving gas or electricity directly from the gas corporation or electric corporation. This bill would replace “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.

This bill addresses an issue raised by several CCAs in which electrical corporations and other third-party billers are charging submeter accounts in mobile home parks at the electric corporation rate for electricity, even if the park is served by a CCA with a different rate.

Consistent with adopted Board policy relating to time sensitive legislative issues, VCE staff worked with the VCE Board subcommittee to submit a letter supporting SB 1117 on May 12, 2020 for the bill’s hearing in Senate Energy, Utilities and Commerce Committee (SEUC). The SEUC unanimously passed this bill.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the ratification of VCE’s support for this legislation.

Additional Information:

- CalCCA and several other CCAs support the bill
- The bill is pending before the Senate Floor
- Bill Language: [SB 1117](#)

3. SB 1312 (McGuire). Electrical Corporations: Undergrounding of Infrastructure: Deenergization.

Summary: Would require the Public Utilities Commission to revise Electric Tariff Rule 20 to additionally authorize and fund, whenever feasible, the undergrounding of electrical and communication infrastructure within certain commission-designated high fire-threat areas for purposes of wildfire mitigation. The bill would also require the CPUC to develop a standard against which to measure the prudence of an IOU’s execution of a PSPS and an IOU’s fire risk mitigation capital expenditures on the distribution or transmission infrastructure that motivated the PSPS. The bill further requires that IOUs:

- Identify power lines that are more likely to cause PSPS events and harden those lines by July 1, 2025.
- Include details about the lines that causes the PSPS event in IOU after-event reports.

- Harden the IOU's infrastructure that caused the PSPS event and report back to the CPUC on their progress one year after the shutoff event.

Consistent with adopted Board policy relating to time sensitive legislative issues, VCE staff worked with the VCE Board subcommittee to submit a letter supporting SB 1312 on May 21, 2020 for the bill's hearing in Senate Energy, Utilities and Commerce Committee (SEUC). The SEUC passed this bill with no "no" votes.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the ratification of VCE's support for this legislation.

Additional Information:

- Several other CCAs support the bill
- Next hearing: Senate Appropriations, no date set
- Bill Language: [SB 1312](#)