

SUMMARY OF LOW INCOME RELATED BILLS

Bill/Author	Topic	Existing Law	Proposed Change(s) to Existing Law
<p>AB 1693</p> <p>PEREA</p>	<p>Small independent telephone corporations rates (\$)</p>	<p>The PUC has regulatory authority over public utilities, including telephone corporations. Existing law authorizes the PUC to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable. Existing law, with certain exceptions, prohibits a public utility from changing any rate, except upon a showing before the PUC and a finding by the PUC that the new rate is justified. Existing law requires the PUC to exercise its regulatory authority to maintain the California High-Cost Fund-A Program to provide universal service rate support to small independent telephone corporations in amounts sufficient to meet the revenue requirements established by the commission through rate-of-return regulation in furtherance of the state's universal service commitment to the continued affordability and widespread availability of safe, reliable, high-quality communications services in rural areas of the state.</p>	<p>With Senate Appropriations committee amendments to the bill, AB 1693 would require the PUC to issue its final decision on a general rate case (GRC) of a small independent telephone corporation no later than 390 calendar days following the company's GRC filing. If the PUC fails to issue a final decision by the 390th day, the company's proposal would go into effect on an interim basis 390 days after the filing subject to a PUC accounting true-up in a final decision or resolution concluding the rate case, if issued within 540 days.</p>
<p>AB 1717</p> <p>PERA</p>	<p>Prepaid wireless surcharge collections (\$)</p>	<p>The Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge Act generally imposes a surcharge on amounts paid by every person in the state for intrastate telephone service to provide revenues sufficient to fund "911" emergency telephone system costs. Amounts are determined annually by the Office of Emergency Services, and upon collection are paid to the State Board of Equalization on a monthly basis by the telephone service supplier and are deposited into the State Treasury to the credit of the State Emergency Telephone Number Account in the General Fund, to be expended for limited purposes, including to pay the Department of General Services for its costs in administration of the "911" emergency telephone number system.</p>	<p>The bill would establish a prepaid MTS surcharge based upon a percentage of the sales price of each retail transaction that occurs in this state for prepaid mobile telephony services. The prepaid MTS surcharge would include the emergency telephone users surcharge and PUC surcharges (and user fee). The bill would require a seller to collect the prepaid MTS surcharge from a prepaid consumer and remit the amounts collected to the State Board of Equalization, unless the seller is a direct seller. Direct sellers remit under the processes currently in use.</p>
<p>AB 2218</p> <p>BRADFORD</p>	<p>Food bank energy discounts (\$)</p>	<p>Under existing law, the PUC has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations and gas corporations. The PUC is authorized to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and those rates and charges must be just and reasonable. Existing law requires the PUC to establish a program of assistance to low-income electric and gas customers, referred to as the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program. The CARE program provides lower rates to low-income customers that are financed through a separate rate component, that is required to be a nonbypassable element of the local distribution service and collected on the basis of usage. Eligibility for the CARE program is for those electric and gas</p>	<p>AB 2218 would require each electrical corporation and gas corporation, subject to direction and supervision by the PUC, to develop and implement a program of rate assistance to eligible food banks at a fixed percentage to be determined by the commission. The bill would authorize the PUC to adjust the fixed percentage of rate assistance as appropriate.</p>

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AB 2272	Prevailing wage for CASF projects (\$)	customers with annual household incomes that are no greater than 200% of the federal poverty guideline levels.	AB 2272 would revise the definition of "public works" to also include projects funded by the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), and was amended by Senate Appropriations to clarify that the PUC will not enforce prevailing wage rules.
GRAY	Prevailing wage for CASF projects (\$)	Existing law defines the term "public works" for purposes of requirements regarding the payment of prevailing wages. Existing law generally defines "public works" to include construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds. Existing law makes a willful violation of laws relating to the payment of prevailing wages on public works a misdemeanor.	This bill would establish the CalConserve Water Use Efficiency Revolving Fund and provide that the moneys in the fund are available to the Department of Water Resources, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purpose of water use efficiency projects. This bill would require moneys in the fund to be used for purposes that include, but are not limited to, at or below market interest rate loans to local agencies, as defined, and would permit the department to enter into agreements with local agencies that provide water or recycled water service to provide loans.
AB 2636	CalConserve Water Use Efficiency Revolving Fund (\$)	The California Constitution requires the reasonable and beneficial use of water.	This bill would require the commission to require a gas corporation that provides natural gas service in the San Joaquin Valley to identify by January 31, 2015, disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley that do not have natural gas service. The bill would require the commission, by March 31, 2015, to initiate a new proceeding to conduct an affordable energy feasibility study for those communities. The bill would require the commission to determine whether any option analyzed in the study would increase access to affordable energy in an economically viable manner. For these options, the bill would require the commission to take appropriate action and to determine appropriate funding sources.
AB 2672	Gas service extension (\$)	The PUC has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical and gas corporations, as defined. Existing law authorizes the PUC to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable. Existing law requires the PUC to establish various programs that provide assistance to low-income electric and gas customers.	This bill would require the commission to require a gas corporation that provides natural gas service in the San Joaquin Valley to identify by January 31, 2015, disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley that do not have natural gas service. The bill would require the commission, by March 31, 2015, to initiate a new proceeding to conduct an affordable energy feasibility study for those communities. The bill would require the commission to determine whether any option analyzed in the study would increase access to affordable energy in an economically viable manner. For these options, the bill would require the commission to take appropriate action and to determine appropriate funding sources.
PEREA	Gas service extension (\$)	The PUC has regulatory authority over public utilities, including water corporations. Existing law authorizes the PUC to fix just and reasonable rates and charges. The existing Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Law establishes the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and provides for its powers and purposes.	This bill would authorize the commission to issue financing orders to facilitate the recovery, financing, or refinancing of water supply costs, defined to mean reasonable and necessary costs incurred or expected to be incurred by a qualifying water utility, as defined, undertaking water supply activities, as specified. The bill would authorize the
SB 936	Water infrastructure financing (\$)	The PUC has regulatory authority over public utilities, including water corporations. Existing law authorizes the PUC to fix just and reasonable rates and charges. The existing Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Law establishes the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and provides for its powers and purposes.	This bill would authorize the commission to issue financing orders to facilitate the recovery, financing, or refinancing of water supply costs, defined to mean reasonable and necessary costs incurred or expected to be incurred by a qualifying water utility, as defined, undertaking water supply activities, as specified. The bill would authorize the
MONNING	Water infrastructure financing (\$)	The PUC has regulatory authority over public utilities, including water corporations. Existing law authorizes the PUC to fix just and reasonable rates and charges. The existing Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Law establishes the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and provides for its powers and purposes.	This bill would authorize the commission to issue financing orders to facilitate the recovery, financing, or refinancing of water supply costs, defined to mean reasonable and necessary costs incurred or expected to be incurred by a qualifying water utility, as defined, undertaking water supply activities, as specified. The bill would authorize the

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SB 1090 FULLER	Central Valley Time-of-Use Rates (\$)	Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations, as defined. Existing law permits the commission to authorize an electrical corporation to offer residential customers the option of receiving service pursuant to time-variant pricing, as defined, and to participate in other demand reduction response programs, but prohibits the commission from authorizing an electrical corporation to employ mandatory or default time-variant pricing for any residential customer, except that beginning January 1, 2018, the commission may require or authorize an electrical corporation to employ default time-of-use pricing for residential customers, subject to specified limitations and conditions.	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to issue water rate relief bonds if the commission finds that the bonds will provide savings to water customers on the Monterey Peninsula, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. This bill would require the commission to first explicitly consider evidence addressing the extent to which hardship will be caused to customers living in hot, inland areas, and residential customers living in areas with hot summer weather before it could require or authorize an electrical corporation to employ default time-of-use rates for residential customers.
SB 1139 HUESO	Geothermal Procurement Mandate (\$)	Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations, as defined. The Public Utilities Act imposes various duties and responsibilities on the commission with respect to the purchase of electricity and requires the commission to review and adopt a renewable energy procurement plan for each electrical corporation pursuant to the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program. The California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program requires a retail seller, as defined, to purchase specified minimum quantities of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources, as defined, for specified compliance periods. Existing law requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) to certify eligible renewable energy resources that it determines meet specified statutory criteria.	This bill would require, no later than December 31, 2024, each retail seller of electricity to procure a proportionate share, as determined by the Energy Commission, of a statewide total of 500 megawatts of electricity generated by specified baseload geothermal powerplants
SB 1364 FULLER	CA High Cost Funds Extension (\$)	Existing law, the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, establishes a program of cooperative federalism for the regulation of telecommunications to attain the goal of local competition, while implementing specific, predictable, and sufficient federal and state mechanisms to preserve and advance universal service, consistent with certain universal service	SB 1364 would delete the provision stating that moneys in each of the state's universal service funds are the proceeds of rates and are held in trust for the benefit of ratepayers and to compensate telephone corporations for their cost of providing universal service and would instead provide that moneys in the funds are held in trust. The bill

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		<p>principles. The universal service principles include the principle that consumers in all regions of the nation, including low-income consumers and those in rural, insular, and high cost areas, should have access to telecommunications and information services, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services, that are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas and that are available at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas.</p>	<p>would encourage the PUC, in administering the universal service program funds, and in administering state participation in federal universal service programs, to maximize the amount of federal funding to California participants in the federal programs. The bill would extend the repeal date of the CHCF-A program and CHCF-B program requirements until January 1, 2019. The bill would renumber the statute establishing the programmatic requirements for the CHCF-B program so that it is located in the code adjacent to the statute establishing the California High-Cost Fund-B Administrative Committee Fund.</p>