



## California Public Utilities Commission

### Legislative Bill Update – Office of Governmental Affairs

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*Bills of Interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board  
Quarterly Meeting – Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022*

The deadline for the Senate and Assembly Appropriations committees to hear and report on introduced bills is Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Several bills of interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) are active and summarized below:

#### **1. Assembly Bill 2316 (Ward) - Community Renewable Energy Program**

This bill would require the CPUC, by March 31, 2023, to establish a community renewable energy program, and require that the program complies with specified photovoltaic requirements, ensure at least 51% of its subscribers are low-income customers or low-income service organizations, minimize impacts to nonsubscriber ratepayers, and provide bill credits to subscribers. The bill requires the CPUC to evaluate customer renewable energy subscription programs to determine if those programs meet those criteria, efficiently serve distinct customer groups, minimize duplicative offerings, and promote robust participation by low-income customers, and to authorize the termination or modification of those programs that are duplicative or do not meet those criteria. The bill would require the CPUC by December 31, 2023, to report to the Legislature the results of its evaluation and its justification for terminating, modifying, or retaining those programs.

***Status:** Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, hearing date not yet set.*

#### **2. Assembly Bill 2419 (Bryan) - Environmental justice: federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

This bill would require a minimum of 40% of funds received by the state under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other federal funds to be allocated to projects that provide direct benefits to disadvantaged communities and a minimum of an additional 10% be allocated for projects that provide direct benefits to low-income households and low-income communities. The bill would establish the Justice40 Oversight Committee in the Office of Planning and Research to perform various actions related to the expenditure of those federal funds. The bill would require the committee, by December 31, 2024, to submit an interim report, and by December 31, 2027, to submit a final report on the expenditure of the federal funds to the Legislature.

***Status:** Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, hearing set for August 1.*

#### **3. Assembly Bill 2750 (Bonta) - Department of Technology: digital equity plan**

This bill would require the Department of Technology (CDT), by January 1, 2024 and in consultation with the public, the CPUC, and the California Broadband Council, to develop a state digital equity plan. The bill would

require that the plan include the identification of barriers to digital equity faced by specified populations and measurable objectives towards documenting and promoting digital equity among those populations. The state digital equity plan will include the creation of a California Connect Corps to promote digital inclusion and literacy through community outreach. The bill would require members of California Connect Corps members to receive paid compensation, free IT career training, and supportive services during their term of service. The bill would require CDT to seek all available federal funding (presumably this is referencing Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding) for purposes of developing and implementing the plan.

*Status: Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, hearing date not yet set.*

#### **4. Senate Bill 1020 (Laird, Caballero, Durazo, and Atkins) - Clean Energy, Jobs, and Affordability Act of 2022.**

This bill requires new interim targets for renewable and zero-carbon resources to supply 90% of all retail sales of electricity by December 31st, 2035, 95% of all retail sales of electricity by the end of 2040, and 100% of electricity procured to serve all state agencies by December 31st, 2030. The bill also establishes the California Affordable Decarbonization Authority to administer a new Climate and Equity Trust Fund to support decarbonization and equity initiatives and to assist electricity customers in disadvantaged communities.

*Status: Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee, hearing set for August 3.*

#### **5. Senate Bill 1188 (Laird) - Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: financial assistance**

This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to provide reduced or 0% financing to further the purposes of the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Law of 1997. The bill would remove the requirement that a water system serve a severely disadvantaged community to be provided with up to 100% grant funding or principal forgiveness and instead authorize providing that grant funding or principal forgiveness to certain other water systems. This bill would remove the existing authorization to provide grant or principal forgiveness to those water systems only to the extent the board finds the water system is unable to repay the full costs of the financing. The bill would also remove limitations on the financial assistance provided to water corporations regulated by the CPUC.

*Status: Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee, hearing set for August 3.*

#### **6. Senate Bill 1208 (Hueso) - Public Utilities Commission: commission-approved low-income customer assistance programs: universal application process**

This bill would require the CPUC, by June 30, 2024, to develop a process to enable a customer to concurrently apply to multiple low-income utility customer assistance programs.

*Status: Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee, hearing set for August 3.*

#### **7. Senate Bill 1213 (Hueso) - Public Utilities Commission and State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: public outreach: community-based organizations**

This bill would require the CPUC and California Energy Commission (CEC) to collaborate to develop and maintain a list of community-based organizations to help ensure adequate public outreach regarding

available programs and incentives. The bill also would require the CPUC and CEC to work with existing committees, boards, and community-based organizations in developing the list.

**Status:** *Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee, hearing set for August 3.*