



# 2023 LEGISLATIVE OUTCOMES REPORT

Office of Governmental Affairs

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California Public  
Utilities Commission

## **Office of Governmental Affairs**

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# Acronyms

AB = Assembly Bill

ARPA = American Rescue Plan Act

BEAD = California Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program

BIL = Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

CAISO = California Independent System Operator

CalAdvocates = California Public Advocates Office

CalFIRE = California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

CalGEM = California Department of Conservation, Geological Energy Management Division

Cal OES = California Office of Emergency Services

CalTrans = California Department of Transportation

CARB = California Air Resources Board

CASF = California Advanced Services Fund

CDT = California Department of Technology

CEC = California Energy Commission

CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act

CMUA = California Municipal Utilities Association

CPUC = California Public Utilities Commission

CSD = Department of Community Services and Development

CTA = Core Transport Agents

CUE = Coalition of California Utility Employees

DCPP = Diablo Canyon Power Plant

DER = Distributed Energy Resources

DOE = Department of Energy

DOF = Department of Finance

DWR = Department of Water Resources

EDF = Environmental Defense Fund

EV = Electric Vehicle

FERC = Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

FFA = Federal Funding Account

FY = Fiscal Year

GHG = Greenhouse Gas

GO = General Order

GO-Biz = Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

IEPR = Integrated Energy Policy Report

IJJA = Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

IOU = Investor-Owned Utility

IRA = Inflation Reduction Act

IRP = Integrated Resource Plan

JRPA = Joint Reliability Planning Assessment

LATA = Local Agency Technical Assistance Program

LEA = Local Educational Agency

LIOB = Low Income Oversight Board

LSE = Load Serving Entity

MOU = Memorandum of Understanding

MPO = Municipal Planning Organization

NEM = Net Energy Metering

OGA = Office of Governmental Affairs (California Public Utilities Commission)

OEIS = Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

PG&E = Pacific Gas and Electric

Pub. Util. Code = Public Utilities Code

RA = Resource Adequacy

ROW = Right of Way

RPS = Renewables Portfolio Standard

RTPA = Regional Transportation Planning Authority

SB = Senate Bill

SCE = Southern California Edison

SGIP = Self-Generation Incentive Program

SoCalGas = Southern California Gas Company

SOMAH = Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing Program

SRR = Strategic Reliability Reserve

TNC = Transportation Network Company

TPP = Transmission Planning Process

TURN = The Utility Reform Network

ZEV = Zero Emissions Vehicle

# Legislative Overview

This year marked the beginning of the 2023-24 Legislative Session. Each year, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), through the Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA), actively engages with the Legislature during the legislative and budget processes, providing essential insight, perspective, and information about the organization's regulatory activities. This engagement helps shape proposed policies and budget appropriations to effectuate effective solutions toward addressing important and identifiable public problems. Over the course of this legislative year, the OGA formally tracked 112 budget and policy bills of interest to the CPUC. Each of the CPUC's divisions provided insight on the potential impacts of each bill on the agency's existing policies, practices, procedures, and objectives.

Of the 112 policy and budget bills formally tracked by the OGA, 24 passed the Legislature and were signed by the Governor. In addition, the CPUC participated in ten informational, oversight, and confirmation hearings focused on topics such as transmission development, electric and gas investor-owned utility rates, electric vehicles, distribution planning, and California's Middle-Mile and Last-Mile Broadband Initiatives. The OGA, in close collaboration with CPUC subject matter experts, also organized and provided five formal legislative staff informational briefings on a variety of topics, including electric and gas utility rates and affordability, distributed energy resources, and energy institutions 101. These formal briefings were aimed at informing legislative staff about the CPUC's current regulatory activities and relevant policy actions as they prepare their bill portfolio for the following legislative year.

The OGA also actively collaborated and coordinated with its primary sister agencies and organizations, including the California Energy Commission (CEC), California Independent System Operator (CAISO), California Air Resources Board (CARB), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS), Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), California Department of Technology (CDT), Department of Finance (DOF), and the California Department of Conservation, Geological Energy Management Division (CalGEM) on its engagement with the Legislature this year. This collaboration allowed the agencies to actively communicate shared interests and concerns about legislation to the Legislature and stakeholders.

In many circumstances, leveraging each organization's subject matter expertise was essential and helped lead to positive legislative outcomes. The following sections of this report highlight these outcomes by subject area and provide a summary of topics that were a focus of introduced legislation and deliberated upon throughout the legislative process. However, these sections are not fully indicative of the daily, ongoing engagement and conversations the OGA has with legislative staff, including legislator personal staff and policy, fiscal, and budget committee consultants, as well as with stakeholders and the Governor's Office. It is the combination of all these efforts that mold the evolution of legislation that affects the CPUC and its ability to ensure the safe, accessible, affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible provision of critical services overseen by the agency.



## Summary of Legislative Engagement

<b>Total Policy and Budget Bills Tracked</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Policy and Budget Bills Passed by the Legislature</b>	<b>24 policy and 5 budget</b>
<p>AB 41 (Holden), AB 50 (Wood), AB 286 (Wood), AB 414 (Reyes), AB 604 (Lee), AB 678 (Alvarez), AB 965 (Carrillo), AB 1065 (Patterson), AB 1068 (Valencia), AB 1373 (Garcia), SB 38 (Laird), SB 49 (Becker), SB 88 (Skinner), SB 319 (McGuire), SB 355 (Eggman), SB 410 (Becker), SB 420 (Becker), SB 429 (Bradford), SB 506 (Laird), SB 619 (Padilla), SB 664 (Stern), SB 757 (Archuleta), SB 822 (Durazo), SB 825 (Limon), SB 101 (Skinner), AB 102 (Ting), AB 124 (Committee on Budget), AB 127 (Committee on Budget), SB 123 (Committee on Budget)</p>	
<b>Policy and Budget Bills Signed by the Governor</b>	<b>17 policy and 5 budget</b>
<p>AB 50 (Wood), AB 286 (Wood), AB 414 (Reyes), AB 604 (Lee), AB 678 (Alvarez), AB 965 (Carrillo), AB 1068 (Valencia), AB 1373 (Garcia), SB 38 (Laird), SB 49 (Becker), SB 88 (Skinner), SB 319 (McGuire), SB 355 (Eggman), SB 410 (Becker), SB 506 (Laird), SB 757 (Archuleta), SB 825 (Limon), SB 101 (Skinner), AB 102 (Ting), AB 124 (Committee on Budget), AB 127 (Committee on Budget), SB 123 (Committee on Budget)</p>	
<b>Participation in Informational, Oversight and Committee Confirmation Hearings</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Formal Legislative Staff Informational Briefings Provided</b>	<b>5</b>

# Telecommunications Bills

In 2023 the Legislature focused its telecommunication related agenda on bills clarifying, modifying, or amending the new broadband funding programs and mechanisms. For example, the telecommunications bills that garnered legislative approval in 2023 were primarily related to amending the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), broadband data collection and mapping, and digital equity and broadband access.

The following telecommunications bills passed the Legislature and are summarized below, along with the Governor's final action on these policies.

## Broadband Infrastructure Deployment

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### **AB 286 (Wood): Broadband infrastructure: mapping.**

The bill requires the CPUC to update the public feedback feature on its California Interactive Broadband Map to include five new features plus a feature for users to submit a verified speed test at their location. The bill additionally requires the CPUC to publicly release the self-reported data received after obtaining consent from the individuals providing that data. The bill would also require the CPUC to update the map to identify for each address, each broadband service provider and the maximum speed of broadband services offered by each provider.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 10, 2023*

### **AB 965 (J. Carrillo): Local government: broadband permit applications.**

This bill requires local governments to undertake a batched permit process for broadband infrastructure, creates timelines for local agencies to approve batched permit applications, and establishes that batched broadband permit applications are deemed approved if the local agency fails to act within timelines provided in the bill.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 7, 2023*

### **AB 1065 (Patterson): Communications: California Advanced Services Fund.**

This bill would have expressly authorized otherwise eligible wireless broadband service providers to apply for and receive funding from the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account and the Federal Funding Account. The bill would specify that the changes made by the bill do not require the CPUC to initiate or reopen any proceeding as a result of the bill.

*Status: Vetoed by the Governor, October 8, 2023*

**SB 387 (Dodd): State property: sale or lease: broadband development.**

This bill authorizes the Department of General Services to enter into a lease for real property under the jurisdiction of a state agency, department, or district agricultural association, with the consent of that state agency, department, or district agricultural association at an amount less than fair market value in support of broadband infrastructure deployment to connect unserved or underserved locations in the state, if specified conditions are met, including that the lease terms enable the state to recover all direct costs for the term of the lease.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 8, 2023*

**SB 825 (Limon): Local government: public broadband services.**

This bill expands the definition of “local agency” in Government Code Section 53167(e) to include metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and regional transportation planning authorities (RTPAs). The purpose of the bill is to allow MPOs and RTPAs to qualify for technical assistance grant funding from the CPUC’s Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) Program.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, September 8, 2023*

## Digital Equity

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**AB 41 (Holden): Telecommunications: The Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2023.**

This bill would make various changes to California's cable video franchise regulation laws, including, but not limited to, clarifying the CPUC cable franchise regulatory authority, extending timelines for the franchise renewal process at the CPUC, prohibiting franchises from denying potential subscribers equal access to services based on the community income of those subscribers, and updating certain maximum fines for customer service violations to reflect inflation rates.

*Status: Vetoed by the Governor, October 8, 2023*

**AB 414 (Reyes): Communications: Digital Equity Bill of Rights.**

This establishes a principle of the state to ensure digital equity for all residents and establish a policy goal that, to the extent technically feasible, broadband subscribers benefit from equal access to service.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 8, 2023*

## Energy Bills

At the beginning of this legislative year the OGA was tracking roughly 57 energy (electricity and gas) bills. These bills proposed a multitude of new policies related to multifamily rooftop solar programs, modifying the electric transmission permitting processes, customer energization, and clean energy resource procurement, among other policy areas.

Other bills focused on creating new or expanded distributed energy resources (DER) through the Resource Adequacy (RA) program and existing programs. In addition, there were numerous bills focused on restructuring or refining the state's clean energy procurement policies, namely the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) programs and providing procurement preferences for zero-emission resources. There were also bills aimed at advancing numerous approaches to decarbonize new and existing buildings throughout the state as well as setting statutory service energization timelines for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

The following energy bills passed the Legislature and are summarized below, along with the Governor's final action on these policies.

### Electric Transmission Permitting & Development

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#### **SB 319 (McGuire): Electricity: transmission planning and permitting.**

This bill requires the California Energy Commission (CEC), the CPUC and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to update their December 2022 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding Transmission and Resource Planning and Implementation. This bill additionally requires these entities to jointly develop an electrical transmission infrastructure development guidebook by July 1, 2025. Finally, this bill requires the CPUC, in consultation with California balancing authorities, to submit a biennial report to the Legislature on electrical transmission project applications.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 7, 2023*

#### **SB 420 (Becker): Electricity: electrical transmission facility projects.**

This bill would have exempted construction of certain electrical lines rated below 138 kilovolts (kV) and associated equipment from the need to receive a discretionary permit from the CPUC. This bill additionally would have required the CPUC to update its General Order (GO) 131-D by January 1, 2025, to implement the exemption.

*Status: Vetoed by the Governor, October 7, 2023*

**SB 619 (Padilla): State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: certification of facilities: electrical transmission projects.**

This bill would have authorized an electrical corporation that applies to the CPUC to authorize construction of a high voltage electrical transmission line, rated at 138 kilovolts (kV) or greater, to apply to the CEC for certification of the facility pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), instead of the CPUC conducting the CEQA review. This bill would have provided that the CEC certification authorizes the project to be eligible for the CEQA judicial streamlining afforded to Environmental Leadership Development Projects and the CEC's "Opt-in" permitting process.

*Status: Vetoed by the Governor, October 7, 2023*

## Customer Energization & Distribution Planning

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**AB 50 (Wood): Public utilities: timely service: customer energization.**

This bill requires the CPUC to determine the criteria for customers to receive timely electricity service when requesting new service connections or upgraded service, known as energization. This bill requires IOUs that fail to meet specified energization benchmarks to submit a report to the CPUC. The bill requires IOUs to engage local agencies on capacity and energization issues. The bill requires each large IOU to evaluate and update its existing distribution planning process. Finally, the bill requires the CPUC to annually collect specified information from large IOUs until the CPUC establishes new reporting requirements on this subject.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 7, 2023*

**SB 410 (Becker): Powering Up Californians Act.**

This bill requires the CPUC to establish by September 30, 2024, energization time periods for electric IOUs to connect new customers to the electrical grid and upgrade the service of existing customers. This bill also requires reporting by IOUs and authorizes specified annual cost-recovery, subject to a cap set by the CPUC. Finally, this bill requires the CPUC to authorize a ratemaking mechanism that the IOU can use for energization projects that exceed the costs projected in their authorized spending for energization.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 7, 2023*

## Renewable & Zero Carbon Resources

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**AB 1373 (Garcia): Energy**

This bill authorizes the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to act as a centralized procurement entity for energy resource procurement until January 1, 2035. The bill requires the CPUC and CEC to assess

capacity payments for electric load serving entities (LSEs) that are deficient in their reliability obligations. Finally, the bill gives the CPUC additional enforcement and penalty authority over the LSEs' integrated resource plans (IRP) and establishes a rebuttable presumption regarding the need for a proposed transmission project in favor of a CAISO governing board-approved need evaluation.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 8, 2023*

**SB 49 (Becker): Renewable energy: Department of Transportation: evaluation.**

This bill requires the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with the CEC and CPUC, to evaluate the issues and policies impeding the development of land within Caltrans-owned rights-of-way (ROW) for renewable energy generation facilities, energy storage facilities, and electrical transmission and distribution facilities. The bill requires the evaluation to consider Caltrans owning or leasing facilities, granting easements, or entering into joint-use agreements with public utilities or other entities.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 8, 2023*

## Customer Generation & Multifamily Solar Programs

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**SB 355 (Eggman): Multifamily Affordable Housing Solar Roofs Program.**

This bill extends the sunset date for the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program from December 2030 to December 2032, expands the eligibility criteria that determines whether a multifamily residential building is eligible for the program, and authorizes the CPUC to allow advance loans to eligible applicants.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 7, 2023*

## Biomethane Procurement

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**AB 678 (Alvarez): Biomethane procurement targets or goals: core transport agents.**

This bill requires the CPUC to consider adopting biomethane procurement targets for core transport agents (CTAs), which are third party, non-investor-owned utility natural gas providers. The bill requires the CPUC to initially allocate each CTA their proportionate share of the existing biomethane procurement targets established by CPUC for gas investor-owned utilities (IOUs). It also allows the gas IOUs to procure biomethane on behalf of CTAs, pursuant to an agreement between the IOU and CTA.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 7, 2023*

## Clean Energy Infrastructure Assessments & Reporting

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### **SB 493 (Min): Air pollution: alternative vehicles and electric and hydrogen infrastructure.**

This bill would have expanded the scope of several assessments and strategies developed by the CEC and CARB related to zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure. The bill would have required the assessments to identify barriers to the deployment of hydrogen infrastructure and any barriers to the deployment of electric infrastructure for medium- and heavy-duty fleets and recommendations for addressing those barriers. The bill would have required the CEC to publish a determination regarding the adequacy of completed or planned charging or fueling sites for the 5 years following the completion of the initial statewide assessment and the findings of the EV charging infrastructure assessment. The bill would have also required the CEC to identify any charging or fueling site deficiencies and categorize those deficiencies by refueling speed and by type of facility, as either a public facility or a private facility. The bill would have required the CEC to update the EV charging infrastructure assessment and the determination at least once every 2 years.

*Status: Vetoed by the Governor, September 30, 2023*

### **SB 664 (Stern): Energy: reliability planning assessment: integrated energy policy report.**

This bill would have expanded the information the CEC and CPUC are required to include in the Joint Reliability Planning Assessment (JRPA) on electricity reliability. Specifically, this bill would have required the JRPA to include the status of transmission upgrades and grid infrastructure capacity, CPUC approvals of applications for permits, among other information. This bill would have also required the JRPA to report on the use of fossil fuel by certain DWR facilities. This bill would have required the CEC to account for extreme weather events in its Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR). Lastly, this bill would have required the CEC, with the support of CPUC, to create an energy development dashboard on its website and to update it quarterly.

*Status: Vetoed by the Governor, October 8, 2023*

## Safety Bills

The OGA engaged with the Legislature on various energy, transportation, and rail safety related matters. California is increasingly relying on new and emerging energy storage technologies, especially lithium-ion battery systems, to ensure electric reliability and meet statewide GHG emissions reduction goals. Given the exponential growth in energy storage project development and safety issues that have arisen, the OGA engaged with the Legislature on policies to clarify emergency response planning requirements for battery storage facilities.

The following safety related bills passed the Legislature and are summarized below, along with the Governor's final action on these policies.

### Energy Storage Safety Oversight & Emergency Planning

#### **SB 38 (Laird): Battery energy storage facilities: emergency response and emergency action plans.**

This bill requires each battery energy storage facility located in the state that is subject to CPUC jurisdiction to prepare an emergency response and emergency action plan that covers the premises of the battery energy storage facility. The bill also requires the facility to coordinate with local government agencies in developing the plan and submit the plan to those agencies.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 7, 2023*

#### **SB 506 (Laird): Public Utilities Commission: railroads: colored pavements marking project.**

This bill requires the CPUC to develop and implement a pilot or limited demonstration and research project to test the efficacy of pavement markings painted in color at one or more at-grade highway-railroad crossings, to the extent permissible under federal law or regulation, by January 1, 2026. The bill requires the CPUC to report its findings to the Legislature within one year of completing a project.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 7, 2023*



## Transportation Bills

The OGA engaged several legislative offices and committee consultants throughout the year on various transportation-related matters. Specifically, the OGA engaged on Transportation Network Companies (TNC), passenger safety, rail crossing grade separation projects, and at-grade rail crossing safety issues. Outside of bills seeking to decarbonize the transportation sector, there were three bills focused on modifying the CPUC’s oversight authority over passenger safety for TNCs. These bills are described below.

The following transportation bills passed the Legislature and are summarized below, along with the Governor’s final action on these policies.

### Transportation Network Companies

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#### **SB 88 (Skinner): Pupil transportation: driver qualifications.**

This bill establishes new safety requirements for drivers that are employed by a local educational agency (LEA), performing transportation services under contract with an LEA, or providing school-related transportation services to an entity with funding from an LEA.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 8, 2023*

#### **SB 429 (Bradford): Transportation network companies: participating drivers: vehicle inspections.**

This bill would have modified vehicle inspection requirements that must be completed before transportation network company (TNC) vehicles can serve passengers and requires TNCs to compensate drivers for time spent completing a vehicle inspection.

*Status: Vetoed by the Governor, October 8, 2023*

#### **SB 757 (Archuleta): Railroads: contract crew transportation vehicles.**

The bill defines the term “contract crew transportation vehicle” as a motor vehicle primarily used by third parties under contract with a railroad corporation to transport railroad crews. The bill would prohibit the operation of a contract crew transportation vehicle without a valid permit, as determined by the CPUC. The bill would specify insurance requirements for operating a contract crew transportation vehicle.

*Status: Signed by the Governor, October 8, 2023*

## Water Bills

The CPUC is responsible for ensuring that California’s water IOUs deliver clean, safe, and reliable water to their customers at reasonable rates. The CPUC regulates over 100 privately-owned water and sewer utilities, which provide water service to about 16 percent of California’s residents. Approximately 95 percent of that total is served by nine large water IOUs, and the annual water and wastewater revenues for these companies total \$1.4 billion. Relating to the CPUC’s oversight of private water IOUs, the Legislature only had one bill focused on water services for mobilehome parks. This bill is described below.

### Provision Of Water Service

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**AB 604 (Lee): Mobilehome parks: water utility charges.**

This bill clarifies that water service billing limitations in the Mobilehome Residency Law (MRL) apply to mobilehome parks that are subject to the jurisdiction of the CPUC and mobilehome parks that acquire water from a water corporation that is subject to the jurisdiction of the CPUC.

*Status: Signed by Governor, October 13, 2023*

# Legislative Committee Informational, Oversight, and Confirmation Hearings

## Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee

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### **February 22, 2023– Energy Affordability: Managing the Cost of Powering Our Future**

This Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy held an informational hearing on affordability and heard from a range of presenters including the CPUC, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) Valley Clean Energy, Southern California Edison (SCE), Agricultural Energy Consumers Association, The Utility Reform Network (TURN), Stanford University, Public Advocates Office and Coalition of California Utility Employees (CUE) on electric and gas IOU rate trends, cost drivers, and proposed bill and rate impact mitigation proposals. The CPUC provided presentations on solutions for gas affordability, electric affordability and big sky proposals for affordability. The first presentation highlighted rate component trends for natural gas IOU customers, provided an overview of the near-term cost drivers for fossil natural gas, and identified recent policy actions and rate mitigation measures the CPUC has taken to lessen the burden of high natural gas prices on customers. The second presentation provided information on electric rate trends for IOU customers, recent policy actions the CPUC has taken to promote electric affordability, and examples of how the gas market influences the electricity market. Lastly, the third presentation provided examples of enacted and proposed solutions for long-term electric and gas rate affordability.

### **May 16, 2023 – Annual Oversight Hearing of California’s Energy Entities**

This Committee heard from the CPUC, Public Advocates Office, California Energy Commission (CEC), Department of Water Resources (DWR) and California Independent System Operator (CAISO) on electric grid reliability and summer readiness. President Reynolds highlighted the CPUC’s recent procurement orders for reliability, total capacity under contract to meet reliability needs, the pace of new energy resource development, and status of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) extension during her opening testimony and presentation. The Public Advocates Office then presented on the costs and ratepayer impacts of meeting the state’s energy reliability needs. The CEC provided an update on the summer 2023 reliability outlook, highlighting the reliability challenges in California as well as interagency coordination efforts and activities. The DWR then provided an update on generation procured for use during extreme events through the state’s Strategic Reliability Reserve and the CAISO presented its summer 2023 reliability assessment and updates on new installed capacity.

### **May 24, 2023 – Electrical Distribution Planning: How Addressing Current Delays in Connecting to the Distribution Grid may Ensure Readiness for an Electrified Future**

With this informational hearing, the committee was focused on shortening service connection timelines and improving demand forecasting. The Committee heard from the CPUC and CEC on distribution planning processes and short-, medium- and long-term efforts to support timely energization and investments in the distribution system. The CEC provided a presentation on demand forecasting, resource adequacy, and transmission planning efforts. The CPUC then provided information on electric distribution system connection, as well as the CPUC's efforts to shorten service connection timelines. Other panelists included PG&E, Roseville Electric Utility, a Humboldt County Supervisor, and housing developer Bill Webb.

### **June 14, 2023 – Building Transmission for a Clean Energy Transition**

The Committee held an informational hearing on electric transmission development, including planning, siting, permitting and interconnection of new generation with the intent of improving timelines for permitting and permitting processes related to transmission development. The CPUC participated as a panelist, alongside the CAISO, San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), the United States Department of Energy (DOE), Clean Air Task Force, and Americans for a Clean Energy Grid. The hearing was focused on transmission development and the importance of building out the electric transmission system as a critical component of achieving the state's clean electricity goals. The CPUC provided an overview of the transmission planning, permitting, construction and ratemaking process and discussed the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) resource portfolios which inform the CAISO's Transmission Planning Process (TPP), including mapping and the focus on guiding the use of existing transmission capacity to help manage costs and ensure electric affordability. The CPUC then highlighted its oversight role in the electric transmission permitting process, including providing an overview of General Order 131-D and the ongoing rulemaking to update electric utility transmission siting regulations to provide a clearer, more efficient, and consistent process. Lastly, the CPUC explained that most transmission projects in California are not subject to CPUC permitting processes but are instead utility self-approved. The CPUC highlighted its new Transmission Project Review Process to ensure a uniform process for reviewing the IOUs' capital transmission projects and provide clarity on the costs of projects aimed at making progress towards the state's clean energy goals.

### **August 23, 2023 – Joint Hearing with Select Committee on Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure: Charging Forward: Identifying Roadblocks to Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment across California**

These two Committees held a joint informational hearing on electric vehicle charging and the infrastructure needed to meet the state's transportation electrification (TE) goals. The CPUC participated as a panelist, alongside the CEC, Greenlining Institute, Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE), San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), and UC Berkeley. The CPUC provided an overview of near-term and medium/long-term TE infrastructure needs, California's electric sector planning processes and grid planning process reforms in progress to support TE. The CPUC also highlighted various ongoing and future initiatives related to grid

management, electric rates and vehicle-grid integration. Lastly, the CPUC provided an overview of EV charging investments over the last decade, emphasizing related legislation, executive orders, and regulatory actions made in furtherance of TE. The other panelists discussed equity in EV infrastructure access, projected distribution system capacity needs, and transmission planning. Committee members asked questions regarding cost impacts, bidirectional charging, and electric freight vehicles.

## Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee

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### **May 23, 2023 – Digital Equity and the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program**

The Committee heard from the CPUC on broadband infrastructure funding through the BEAD program. The CPUC provided an overview of the BEAD program, the various last mile broadband investments, and statewide public engagement in coordination with the California Department of Technology on digital equity. The Committee was focused on the strategy for the BEAD program’s integration and coordination with other broadband infrastructure funding programs and California Advanced Services Fund (CASF). Members also were focused on eligibility requirements, federal rules governing the program, integration with the Middle Mile network, and the CPUC’s process for administering the program. The second panel included stakeholders’ perspectives on BEAD implementation from Next Century Cities, #OaklandUndivided/California Alliance for Digital Equity, US Telecom – Broadband Association, and CalBroadband.

## Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee

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### **February 28, 2023 – Annual Update to the Legislature by the California Public Utilities Commission and the Public Advocates Office: A Focus on Utility Bill Affordability**

The Committee heard from the CPUC about the critical issues before the agency and its efforts to ensure the safe, accessible, affordable, environmentally responsible, and reliable provision of private electric, gas, water, telecommunication, and transportation services. The CPUC highlighted electric and gas IOU rate and bill affordability, energy resource planning and procurement, and utility wildfire mitigation efforts during opening testimony. The committee was largely focused on these topics but also asked questions related to gas utility profits, Net Energy Metering (NEM), demand response, low-income utility bill assistance programs, new business energization timelines, and transmission planning.

### **March 7, 2023 – State Broadband Investments: Progress Towards Connecting the Unserved**

This committee heard from the CPUC on progress in implementing the various last-mile broadband programs in the state’s Broadband for All Initiative. The CPUC provided updates related to the Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant program for local agencies and tribes, the Loan Loss Reserve

program to enable local governments and nonprofits to secure financing for broadband infrastructure, the Federal Funding Account (FFA) and the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF). The committee was largely focused on these topics and asked questions related to the CPUC's outreach and stakeholder engagement related to updating the FFA priority area maps, coordination with the California Department of Technology's (CDT) middle mile broadband initiative, federal funding expenditure deadlines, CASF Public Housing Account projects, and overall impact of the CASF program on connecting unserved Californians.

### **August 29, 2023 – Powering Through: Electricity Reliability as California Transitions to a Zero-Carbon Future**

This committee held an oversight hearing on electric reliability needs as California transitions to a zero-carbon future. The CPUC participated as a panelist, alongside the CEC, DWR, and the CAISO. The CPUC, CEC, and CAISO provided a joint update on Summer 2023 electric grid reliability, progress to increase clean energy resources, and grid planning processes. This included updates on demand-side clean energy resources, planning for extreme events, Resource Adequacy, and the Strategic Reliability Reserve. The committee was focused on transmission regionalization, large hydroelectric resources, battery storage, the cost of renewable energy, and rate and bill affordability for customers.

## Senate Rules Committee

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### **February 1, 2023– Governor Appointee Confirmation: CPUC Commissioner John Reynolds**

Governor appointee John Reynolds appeared before this committee and provided opening remarks about his desire and qualifications for serving as Commissioner of the CPUC. Commissioner Reynolds responded to committee member questions about his goals and vision for the CPUC. Commissioner Douglas was confirmed by the full Senate on February 6, 2023

### **July 12, 2023 – Governor Appointee Confirmation: CPUC Commissioner Karen Douglas**

Governor appointee Karen Douglas appeared before this committee and provided opening remarks about her desire and qualifications for serving as Commissioner of the CPUC. Commissioner Douglas responded to committee member questions about her goals and vision for the CPUC. Commissioner Douglas was confirmed by the full Senate on September 1, 2023.

# Formal Legislative Staff Informational Briefings

## **January 20, 2023, and November 30, 2023– Electric & Gas Customer Rates: Ratemaking & Bill Affordability**

The CPUC provided Senate and Assembly staff with an overview of the CPUC’s role in evaluating costs and designing electric and gas customer rates applicable in California’s large electric and gas IOU territories. The briefing provided information on IOU costs and cost drivers, as well as the analytical and public decision-making process the CPUC facilitates to evaluate these costs and design fair and equitable customer rates that provide for accessible, safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible electric and gas service. This briefing also discussed recent customer bill affordability initiatives and forecasted electric and gas customer rate trends. Lastly, the briefing highlighted the challenges of balancing competing policy objectives and emerging opportunities regarding IOU cost evaluation and electric and gas customer rate design.

## **January 23, 2023 and October 27, 2023– CA Energy Governing Institutions**

The CPUC, CAISO, CEC and CARB provided Senate and Assembly staff with information on the roles each respective organization has as California’s Energy Governing Institutions to ensure the provision of essential energy services for all Californians. The briefing explained the mission, core responsibilities and authorities of each institution, as well as our efforts, individually and collectively, to implement California’s clean energy policies. The briefing also highlighted the active coordination between organizations that is aimed at addressing our state’s most pressing energy issues.

## **December 15, 2023 – Grid Modernization and Distributed Energy Resources (DERs)**

The CPUC provided Senate and Assembly staff with an overview of the CPUC’s role in DER planning, integration, and deployment. The briefing provided information on DER interconnection, demand response, resource adequacy, and net energy metering. This briefing also discussed the CPUC’s ongoing High DER proceeding, ongoing programs such as the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), and other DER opportunities.

# Budget Overview

During the first half of every calendar year, the Legislature evaluates, modifies, and approves the CPUC budget for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1 and ending June 30. For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Legislature appropriated approximately \$2.6 billion to the CPUC for operations.

Every fiscal year, the CPUC typically requests modifications to its budget through Budget Change Proposals, Legislative Budget Change Proposals, Spring Finance Letters, May Revisions, Budget Bill Language, and Budget Trailer Bills. For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Legislature approved nine Budget Change Proposals, nine Legislative Budget Change Proposals, one May Revision proposal, one Budget Bill provision, and three Budget Trailer Bill provisions specific to the CPUC.

Most of these approvals and associated funding were appropriated primarily through the two main Budget Bills – SB 101 (Skinner): Budget Act of 2023 and AB 102 (Ting): Budget Act of 2023. By the end of the budget process, the Legislature and the Governor approved 84 new permanent positions and 6 limited-term staff for the CPUC.

## Approved Budget Change Proposals

Title	Positions		CPUC Division Lead
	Permanent	Limited-Term	
Permanent Staffing to Support Wildfire, Enforcement, and Reform Statutes (SB 101, Skinner, 2023)	29	-	Legal
Support for Communications Regulatory Programs (SB 101, Skinner, 2023)	8	-	Communications
CalSPEED Testing Continuation (SB 101, Skinner, 2023)	3	-	Communications
Electric Transmission Rates Advocacy (SB 101, Skinner, 2023)	5	-	Legal
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Federal Courts of Appeal Litigation Contract (SB 101, Skinner, 2023)	-	-	Legal



Server Room and Telecommunications Closets Upgrade at SF Headquarters (SB 101, Skinner, 2023)	-	-	Information Technology Services
Water Compliance and Enforcement (SB 101, Skinner, 2023)	-	2	Water
Strengthen CPUC Administrative Functions (SB 101, Skinner, 2023)	2	-	Administrative Services
Digital Divide Grant Program (SB 101, Skinner, 2023)	-	-	Communications
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>2</b>	

### Approved Legislative Budget Change Proposals

Title	Positions		Legislation
	Permanent	Limited-Term	
Net energy metering: construction of renewable electrical generation facilities: prevailing wage	2	1	AB 2143 (Carrillo, Chapter 774, 2022)
Public Utilities Commission: customer renewable energy subscription programs and the community renewable energy program	5	-	AB 2316 (Ward, Chapter 350, 2022)
Transportation electrification: electrical distribution grid upgrades	-	-	AB 2700 (McCarty Chapter 254, 2022)
Electricity: expedited utility distribution infrastructure undergrounding program	6	1	SB 884 (McGuire, Chapter 819, 2022)
Corrections: communications	3	-	SB 1008 (Becker, Chapter 827, 2022)

Electricity: Planning and Procurement	8	-	SB 1174 (Hertzberg, Chapter 229, 2022), SB 887 (Becker, Chapter 358, 2022), SB 1158 (Becker, Chapter 367, 2022), SB 1020 (Laird, Chapter 361, 2022)
Low-income utility customer assistance programs: concurrent application process	4	-	SB 1208 (Hueso, Chapter 840, 2022)
Electricity: storage facilities: standards and records	5	2	SB 1383 (Hueso, Chapter 725, 2022)
Water corporations: rates	4	-	SB 1469 (Bradford, Chapter 890, 2022)
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	

### Additional Budget Actions

<b>Budget Trailer Bill Actions</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Chapter/Section(s)</b>	<b>CPUC Division Lead</b>
Requirement to prioritize grants to public housing developments (CASF Public Housing Grants)	AB 127 (Committee on Budget, 2023): Section 47	Communications
Modifications in administering the Self-Generation Incentive Program	SB 123 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, 2023): Section 6	Energy
Requirement to continue Independent Peer Review Panel until 8/26/2030 and Independent Safety Committee to continue until operations cease	SB 124 (Committee on Budget, 2023): Sections 8 and 11	Energy

<p>\$4,000,000 for CEC and CPUC to implement CERIP program critical planning studies</p>	<p>AB 102, (Ting, 2023): Section 69, Item 3360-007-0001</p>	<p>Energy</p>
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## CPUC-Related Budget Bills

### **SB 101 (Skinner): Budget Act of 2023**

Makes appropriations for the support of state government and the CPUC for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

*Status: Signed, Chapter 12, June 27, 2023*

### **AB 102 (Ting): Budget Act of 2023**

Makes appropriations for the support of state government and the CPUC for the 2023-24 fiscal year, most notably \$33 million to support disadvantaged community renewable generation and storage-backed renewable generation programs.

*Status: Signed, Chapter 38, July 10, 2023*

## Budget Trailer Bills Directly Affecting the CPUC

### **AB 127 (Committee on Budget): State Government**

- Section 47 – CASF

Amends Pub. Util. Code Section 281 to require the commission to prioritize grants from the Broadband Public Housing Account to existing publicly supported housing developments that have not yet received a grant from the account and do not have access to free broadband internet service onsite. The bill would change the time period for applicants to apply for and encumber specified allocated moneys described above from June 30, 2023, to September 30, 2024.

*Status: Signed, Chapter 45, July 10, 2023*

### **SB 123 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review): Energy**

- Section 6 – Self-Generation Incentive Program

Amends Pub. Util. Code Section 379.10 to require the CPUC to allocate all of the funds appropriated by the Legislature to eligible low-income residential customers who install either behind-the-meter solar

photovoltaic systems paired with energy storage systems or energy storage systems This amendment supersedes the original 70/30 split with low-income and market-rate customers

*Status: Signed, Chapter 52, July 10, 2023*

**SB 124 (Committee on Budget And Fiscal Review): Energy**

- Sections 8 and 11 – Diablo Canyon

Section 8 – Amends Pub. Util. Code Section 712 to require the CPUC to convene an independent peer review panel until August 26, 2030 to conduct an independent review of enhanced seismic studies and surveys of the Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2 powerplant.

Section 11 – Adds Pub. Util. Code Section 913.20 to require the CPUC, in coordination with the Energy Commission, the Independent System Operator, and the Department of Water Resources, to submit a report to the Legislature each year on the status of new resource additions and revisions to the state’s electric demand forecast, and the impact of these updates on the need for keeping the Diablo Canyon powerplant online.

*Status: Signed, Chapter 53, July 10, 2023*

# Appendix: 2023 New Legislative Responsibilities

Division	Bill	Author	Subject	Code	Notable Dates
Energy Division	AB 50	Wood	Public utilities: timely service: customer energization.	Adds Public Utilities Code Section 933.5	Effective 1/1/2024
<p>Requires –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPUC to determine the criteria for customers to receive timely electricity service when requesting new service connections or upgraded service, known as energization.</li> <li>• Electric IOUs that fail to meet specified energization benchmarks to submit a report to the CPUC.</li> <li>• Electric IOUs to engage local agencies on capacity and energization issues.</li> <li>• Electric IOUs to evaluate and update its existing distribution planning process.</li> <li>• CPUC to annually collect specified information from large IOUs until the CPUC establishes new reporting requirements on this subject.</li> </ul>					
Energy Division	AB 529	Gabriel	Adaptive reuse	Amends Gov. Code Section 65589.9, and to adds Health and Safety Code Section 17921.9	Effective 1/1/2024
<p>Requires, by December 31, 2024, the Department of Housing and Community Development to convene a working group, including, but not limited to, the California Building Standards Commission, CEC, State Fire Marshal, CPUC, local government representatives, and stakeholders, to identify challenges to, and opportunities that help support, the creation and promotion of adaptive reuse residential projects statewide while not reducing minimum health and safety standards, including identifying and recommending amendments to state building standards. Each entity is to provide input relative to its area of expertise and oversight. The HCD must report its findings to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2025. The bill would require, if the report identifies and recommends amendments to building standards, that the HCD and the other state agencies in the working group research, develop, and consider proposing adaptive reuse building standards for adoption by the California Building Standards Commission.</p>					
Energy Division	AB 585	Rivas	Climate change: infrastructure and clean energy projects: assessments.	Adds Section 12096.3.7 to Government Code, and	Effective 1/1/2024

Division	Bill	Author	Subject	Code	Notable Dates
				Section 38592.1 to Health and Safety Code	
<p>Requests the CCST every 3 years, to assess the infrastructure project types, scale, and pace necessary to achieve the state’s energy, climate change, and air quality goals. The bill requires GO-Biz, in consultation with CEC, CPUC, and CARB, to prepare an assessment of the barriers, challenges, and impediments limiting the deployment and development of clean energy projects. The bill requires GO-Biz to submit this assessment to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2026. The bill requires the assessment to be considered and incorporated into the work carried out by the Infrastructure Strike Team convened by the Governor.</p>					
Energy Division	AB 678	Alvarez	Biomethane procurement targets or goals: core transport agents.	Amends Public Utilities Code Section 651	Effective 1/1/2024
<p>Requires the CPUC to consider adopting biomethane procurement targets for core transport agents (CTAs), which are third party, non-investor-owned utility natural gas providers. The bill requires the CPUC to initially allocate each CTA their proportionate share of the existing biomethane procurement targets established by CPUC for gas investor-owned utilities (IOUs). It also allows the gas IOUs to procure biomethane on behalf of CTAs, pursuant to an agreement between the IOU and CTA.</p>					
Energy Division	AB 1373	Garcia	Energy.	Amends Section 10295.6 of the Public Contract Code, Amends Sections 25795 and 25992.10 of, and Adds Section 25302.6 to, the Public Resources Code, Amends Sections 365.1, 380, 454.51, 454.52, and 9620 of, and Adds Sections 913.21 and 1001.1 to Public Utilities Code, and Amends	Effective 10/7/23

Division	Bill	Author	Subject	Code	Notable Dates
				Section 80720 and Adds Sections 80713 and 80714 and Division 29.5 to Water Code	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorizes the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to act as a centralized procurement entity for energy resource procurement until January 1, 2035.</li> <li>• Requires the CPUC and CEC to assess capacity payments for electric load serving entities (LSEs) that are deficient in their reliability obligations.</li> <li>• Provides the CPUC with additional enforcement and penalty authority over the LSEs' integrated resource plans (IRP) and establishes a rebuttable presumption regarding the need for a proposed transmission project in favor of a CAISO governing board-approved need evaluation.</li> </ul>					
Energy Division	SB 49	Becker	Renewable energy: Department of Transportation: evaluation.	Adds Section 91.9 to Streets and Highways Code	Effective 1/1/2024
<p>Requires the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with the CEC and CPUC, to evaluate the issues and policies impeding the development of land within Caltrans-owned rights-of-way (ROW) for renewable energy generation facilities, energy storage facilities, and electrical transmission and distribution facilities. The bill requires the evaluation to consider Caltrans owning or leasing facilities, granting easements, or entering into joint-use agreements with public utilities or other entities.</p>					
Energy Division	SB 319	McGuire	Electricity: transmission planning and permitting.	Adds Section 25308, Add and Repeal Section 25308.5 to Public Resources Code, and Add Section 913.12 to Public Utilities Code	Effective 1/1/2024
<p>Requires the CEC, CPUC and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to update their December 2022 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding Transmission and Resource Planning and Implementation. This bill additionally requires these entities to jointly develop an electrical transmission infrastructure development guidebook by July 1, 2025. Finally, this bill requires the CPUC, in consultation with California balancing authorities, to submit a biennial report to the Legislature on electrical transmission project applications.</p>					

Division	Bill	Author	Subject	Code	Notable Dates
Energy Division	SB 355	Eggman	Multifamily Affordable Housing Solar Roofs Program.	Amends Public Utilities Code Section 2870	Effective 1/1/2024
<p>Extends the sunset date for the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program from December 2030 to December 2032, expands the eligibility criteria that determines whether a multifamily residential building is eligible for the program, and authorizes the CPUC to allow advance loans to eligible applicants.</p>					
Energy Division	SB 410	Becker	Powering Up Californians Act	Adds Article 14.5 to Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Division 1 of, and Repeals Sections 937 and 938 of Public Utilities Code	Effective 1/1/2024
<p>Requires the CPUC to establish by September 30, 2024, energization time periods for electric IOUs to connect new customers to the electrical grid and upgrade the service of existing customers. This bill also requires reporting by IOUs and authorizes specified annual cost-recovery, subject to a cap set by the CPUC. Finally, this bill requires the CPUC to authorize a ratemaking mechanism that the IOU can use for energization projects that exceed the costs projected in their authorized spending for energization.</p>					
Energy Division	AB 102	Ting	Budget Act of 2023	Amends the Budget Act of 2023	Effective 7/10/2023
<p>Requires the CPUC to utilize \$33 million to support disadvantaged community renewable generation and storage-backed renewable generation programs.</p>					
Energy Division	SB 123	Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Energy	Amends Section 11553.5 of the Government Code, to amend Section 379.10 of the Public Utilities Code	Effective 7/10/2023
<p>Requires, in administering the self-generation incentive program (SGIP), the CPUC is to allocate all of the funds appropriated by the Legislature to eligible low-income residential customers who install either behind-the-meter</p>					



Division	Bill	Author	Subject	Code	Notable Dates
solar photovoltaic systems paired with energy storage systems or energy storage systems. Prior to SB 123, there was a 70/30 split with low income and market-rate customers.					
Energy Division	SB 124	Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review	Energy	Amends Sections 63048.93 and 63048.95 of the Government Code, to amend Sections 25355.5, 25371.3, 25373, and 25792 of the Public Resources Code, to amend Sections 454.53, 712, 712.1, and 712.8 of, and to add Section 913.20 to, the Public Utilities Code, and to amend Sections 80400, 80710, and 80720 of, and to add Sections 12935.5 and 80700.5 to, the Water Code, relating to energy	Effective 7/10/2023
<p>Amends Chapter 239, Statutes of 2022 (SB 846) Diablo Canyon powerplant: extension of operations and requires –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Independent Peer Review Panel to continue until August 26, 2030.</li> <li>• The Independent Safety Committee for Diablo Canyon to continue until the Diablo Canyon powerplant has ceased operations.</li> <li>• The CPUC, in coordination with the CEC, ISO, and DWR, to submit a report to the Legislature each year on the status of new resource additions and revisions to the state’s electric demand forecast, and the impact of these updates on the need for keeping the powerplant online.</li> </ul>					

Division	Bill	Author	Subject	Code	Notable Dates
Rail Safety Division	SB 506	Laird	Public Utilities Commission: railroads: colored pavements marking project.	Amends Public Utilities Code Section	Effective 1/1/2024
<p>Requires the CPUC to develop and implement a pilot or limited demonstration and research project to test the efficacy of pavement markings painted in color at one or more at-grade highway-railroad crossings, to the extent permissible under federal law or regulation, by January 1, 2026. The bill requires the CPUC to report its findings to the Legislature within one year of completing a project.</p>					
Communications Division	AB 286	Wood	Broadband infrastructure: mapping.	Amends Section 281.6 of Public Utilities Code	Effective 1/1/2024
<p>Requires the CPUC to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the public feedback feature on its California Interactive Broadband Map to include five new features plus a feature for users to submit a verified speed test at their location.</li> <li>• Publicly release the self-reported data received after obtaining consent from the individuals providing that data.</li> <li>• Update the map to identify for each address, each broadband service provider and the maximum speed of broadband services offered by each provider.</li> </ul>					
Communications Division	AB 102	Ting	Budget Act of 2023	Amends the Budget Act of 2023	Effective 7/10/2023
<p>Requires the CPUC to submit a biannual report until 2026 to the relevant budget and policy subcommittees of the Legislature, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and the Legislative Analyst’s Office that includes updated last-mile broadband information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All projects awarded funding from the CASF Federal Funding Account (FFA) and California projects receiving funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program.</li> <li>• The amount of federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund funding encumbered and expended for last-mile broadband projects.</li> <li>• The amount of federal BEAD program funding encumbered and expended from the federal IIJA BEAD program.</li> <li>• The amount of General Fund encumbered and expended from CASF’s FFA or any other account of subaccount that is created to receive funding from the federal IIJA BEAD program</li> </ul>					
Communications Division	AB 127	Committee on Budget	State government	Amends Section 281 of the Public Utilities	Effective 7/10/2023

Division	Bill	Author	Subject	Code	Notable Dates
				Code, relating to state government	
Related to the California Advanced Services Fund Public Housing Grants, requires the CPUC to prioritize grants to public housing developments that have not received a grant and do not have access to free broadband on site.					
Communications Division	SB 825	Limón	Local government: public broadband services.	Amends Section 53167 of the Government Code, relating to local government	Effective 1/1/2024
Expands the definition of “local agency” in Government Code Section 53167(e) to include metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and regional transportation planning authorities (RTPAs) to allow MPOs and RTPAs to qualify for technical assistance grant funding from the Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) Program.					
Water Division	AB 604	Lee	Mobilehome parks: water utility charges.	Amends Section 798.40 of the Civil Code, and amends Section 2705.5 of the Public Utilities Code.	Effective 1/1/2024
Requires, in administering the self-generation incentive program (SGIP), the CPUC is to allocate all of the funds appropriated by the Legislature to eligible low-income residential customers who install either behind-the-meter solar photovoltaic systems paired with energy storage systems or energy storage systems. Prior to SB 123, there was a 70/30 split with low income and market-rate customers.					
Executive, Administrative Law Judge, Energy & Legal Divisions	AB 1068	Valencia	Public Utilities Commission: ex parte communications.	Amends Public Utilities Code Sections 1701.3 and 1701.9	Effective 1/1/2024
Revises and recasts provisions relating to ex parte requirements for CPUC proceedings. Removes certain prohibitions on written ex parte communication in ratesetting or catastrophic wildfire proceedings to allow an interested person to submit a written ex parte communication during the three business days before the CPUCs scheduled vote on a proposed decision (PD) if the CPUC modifies the PD during that time.					

Division	Bill	Author	Subject	Code	Notable Dates
Transportation	SB 757	Archuleta	Railroads: contract crew transportation vehicles.	Adds Public Utilities Code Section 5384.3	Effective 1/1/2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defines the term “contract crew transportation vehicle” as a motor vehicle primarily used by third parties under contract with a railroad corporation to transport railroad crews.</li> <li>• Prohibits the operation of a contract crew transportation vehicle without a valid permit, as determined by the CPUC.</li> <li>• Specifies insurance requirements for operating a contract crew transportation vehicle.</li> <li>• Would specify insurance requirements for operating a contract crew transportation vehicle.</li> </ul>					
All	SB 101	Skinner	Budget Act of 2023	An Act Making Appropriations for the Support of the Government of the State of California	Effective 6/27/2023
<p>Specific to the CPUC, appropriates the resources proposed in the following 2023-24 CPUC Budget Change Proposals, Spring Finance Letters, and Legislative Budget Change Proposals -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Permanent Staffing to Support Wildfire, Enforcement, and Reform Statutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grants ongoing budget authority for 29 positions to permanent in Legal, Administrative Law Judge, Energy, and Executive Divisions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Support for Communication Regulatory Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grants position authority for 8 staff in Communications Division</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>CalSPEED Testing Continuation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 3 new positions and funding for contract, equipment, software, and licenses in Communications Division</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Electric Transmission Rates Advocacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 5 new permanent positions in Legal and Energy Divisions, and \$1.5 million 3-year consultant funding</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Federal Courts of Appeal Litigation Contract</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds \$650,000 per year for two years to Legal Division for extension of litigation contract</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Server Room and Telecommunications Closets Upgrade at SF Headquarters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds \$365,000 per year ongoing for necessary preventative maintenance of IT infrastructure in San Francisco headquarters</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Water Compliance and Enforcement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 2 new 3-year staff in Water Division</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Strengthen CPUC Administrative Functions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 2 new permanent CEAs to Administrative Services and Legal Divisions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					

Division	Bill	Author	Subject	Code	Notable Dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Net energy metering (AB 2143, 2022)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 2 new permanent positions, 1 2-year staff, and \$750,000 for contracts in Energy Division</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Public Utilities Commission: customer renewable energy subscription programs and the community renewable energy program (AB 2316, 2022)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 5 new positions to Energy, Administrative Law Judge, and Legal Divisions and \$500,000 in contracts</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Transportation electrification: electrical distribution grid upgrades (AB 2700, 2022)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds \$300,000 ongoing for software and data storage in Energy Division</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Electricity: expedited utility distribution infrastructure undergrounding program (SB 884, 2022)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 6 permanent positions to Safety Policy, ALJ, Energy, and Legal Divisions; 1 new 3-year staff to ITS Division; and \$900,000 over two years for consultant funding</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Corrections: communication (SB 1008, 2022)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 3 new positions in Communications and Administrative Law Judge Divisions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Electricity Planning and Procurement (SB 887, SB 1020, SB 1158, SB 1174, 2022)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 8 new positions in Energy, Administrative Law Judge, and Legal Divisions; \$1.4 million for consultant services; and \$88,000 for licenses, training, and equipment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Low-income utility customer assistance programs: concurrent application process (SB 1208)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 5 new positions in Energy Division, and \$500,000 for consultant for Information Technology Services Division</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Electricity: storage facilities: standards and records (SB 1383)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 5 new positions in Safety Enforcement and Administrative Law Judge Divisions and 2 3-year staff in Legal Division; \$500,000 for contracts; and \$85,000 for equipment and training</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Water Corporations (SB 1469)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adds 4 new positions in Water, Administrative Law Judge, and Legal Divisions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Diablo Canyon Clean-Up (SB 124)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approves \$2,223 for 8 limited-term staff, and servers, hardware, training, and licenses.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Digital Divide Grant Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approves \$ 1 million in 2023-24 and \$200,000 ongoing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>California LifeLine – State Operations and Local Assistance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approves \$389.5 million for local assistance and \$29.9 million for state operations for the California LifeLine Program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					