

2021 Legislative Outcomes

Office of Governmental Affairs

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California Public
Utilities Commission

2021 Legislative Overview

- 146 bills tracked
- 24 bills passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor
- Took ONE formal legislative position
- Participated in EIGHT legislative committee oversight hearings
- Provided SIX formal legislative staff briefings

Legislative Engagement & Cross Agency Collaboration

- Engaged with the Senate and Assembly policy, fiscal, and budget committee consultants; Assembly Speaker's office; Senate Pro Tempore's office; and key legislative staff.
- Actively coordinated with the Department of Finance on bill fiscal analyses.
- Collaborated with 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 (Cal FIRE), 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), California Department of Conservation, and Geological Energy Management Division (Cal GEM).
- Updated the Governor's Office on key policy issues.

CPUC Formal Legislative Positions

- **SB 599 (Hueso): Public Utilities Commission: proceedings. (Version: as introduced, February 18, 2021)**
 - **CPUC Position:** SUPPORT
 - **Status:** In Assembly Rules committee (June 17, 2021)
 - **Summary:** This bill would authorize the CPUC to deliberate on Resolutions in closed session and would clarify statutory requirements relating to quiet periods and closed sessions. Specifically, the bill: 1) Authorizes the CPUC to meet in closed session to deliberate on a Proposed Decision, Order, or Resolution after providing three-day advanced notice to the public, except in an adjudicatory or quasi-legislative proceeding, and 2) Requires the CPUC to establish a quiet period during the three business days before the CPUC's scheduled vote on a Decision, during which oral or written communications shall not be permitted, except in an adjudicatory or quasi-legislative proceeding.
 - **Reason for Support:** This bill improves the ability of Commissioners to deliberate on matters before the CPUC by authorizing closed session meetings to additionally include deliberation on Resolutions. Further, the bill simplifies the current quiet period and closed session requirements by revising and recasting existing statute.

Summary – Broadband Bills

- The Legislature passed a historic \$6 billion broadband infrastructure package which combines Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds with General Fund allocations to deploy affordable, open-access broadband infrastructure statewide, with a specific focus on municipal broadband.
- Three major broadband bills –
 - **AB 14** (Aguiar-Curry): Communications: CASF: deaf and disabled telecommunications program: surcharges.
 - **SB 4** (Gonzalez): Communications: CASF.
 - **AB 41** (Wood): Broadband infrastructure deployment.
- Other bills on telecommunications issues included universal service, Lifeline, cable and video franchising, resiliency, and consumer protections.

Summary – Water and Transportation Bills

Water

- Provided technical feedback on two Assembly bills pertaining to the CPUC's oversight of water investor-owned utilities.
 - **AB 1058 (C. Garcia):** Large water corporations: bill payment options.
 - **AB 1250 (Calderon):** Water and sewer system corporations: consolidation of service.

Transportation

- Minimal legislative activity pertaining to CPUC jurisdictional authority over transportation network companies (TNCs), public transit, rail corporations, and other private transportation companies.
 - OGA engaged on various transportation related matters such as TNC passenger safety and at-grade rail crossing safety issues.

Summary – Energy Bills

- **At the beginning of this legislative year, the OGA was tracking and engaged in shaping roughly 90 energy (electricity and gas) bills.**
- **Many of these bills proposed a multitude of new policies largely focused on –**
 - Mitigating the impacts of PSPS events through deployment of distributed energy resources (DERs) to ensure reliability.
 - Creating new value streams for DERs to encourage additional deployment and subsidies for green hydrogen production and use.
 - Vegetation management practices to reduce wildfire risk and associated costs.
 - Restructuring clean energy resource procurement and mandating the procurement of specific energy resources.
 - Decarbonizing new and existing buildings throughout the state.
- **Bills that passed the Legislature and were signed by the Governor were largely aimed at –**
 - Expanding low-income energy efficiency programs.
 - Modifying mandated bioenergy procurement programs.
 - Creating complementary clean energy development plans.
 - Expanding access to existing behind-the-meter electric generation programs.

Legislative Committee Oversight, Informational, and Confirmation Hearings

Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee

- **March 3, 2021** – The Execution and Regulation of Public Power Safety Shutoffs
- **May 18, 2021** – Summer Readiness: Ensuring Reliability since the August 2020 Outages
- **June 16, 2021** – Annual Review of California Public Utilities Commission and the Public Advocates Office

Senate Transportation Committee

- **April 9, 2021** – California's Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy

Assembly California's Lithium Economy Select Committee

- **May 26, 2021** – An Introduction to Lithium and Its Opportunities

Senate Rules Committee

- **June 23, 2021** – Governor Appointee Confirmation: CPUC Commissioner Darcie Houck

Assembly Cybersecurity Select Committee

- **July 8, 2021** – State Coordination and Critical Infrastructure Protection: Local Government and Utilities Critical Infrastructure Control Systems

Senate Energy, Utilities & Communications Committee

- **August 25, 2021** - Keeping the Power On: A Focus on Electricity Reliability and the California Public Utilities Commission and the Public Advocates Office Annual Report

Formal Legislative Staff Informational Briefings

- **October 21, 2020** – Customer Energy Programs
- **November 11, 2020** – The Digital Divide
- **December 11, 2020** – Load-Serving Entity Resource Adequacy Program
- **December 16, 2020** – Energy Efficiency Policies & Programs
- **January 27, 2021** – Demand Response Policies & Programs
- **February 5, 2021** – California Telecommunications Resiliency Strategies

Fiscal & Budget Overview

- During the 2021 legislative year, the CPUC received **131 fiscal impact estimate requests for 71 bills**.
- Many conversations were held with the Department of Finance and the appropriations committees to discuss and justify our fiscal impact and policy concerns.
- The Legislature approved three Budget Bills and six Budget Trailer Bills that directly or indirectly affected the CPUC.
 - The Legislature and the Governor approved 15 new permanent positions and 18 limited-term positions for the CPUC.
 - CPUC funds were largely earmarked for broadband infrastructure accessibility and clean energy initiatives, as well as additional staff, contracts, and information technology products and services.

Thank You!

Legislative engagement is a collaborative team effort -

- OGA staff
- OGA Liaisons & Division staff
- Division Directors
- Commissioners and Advisors
- Legislative Partners & Stakeholders
- Agency Partners
- Governor's Office



California Public Utilities Commission

For Additional Information and
2021 Legislative Outcomes Report:

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