

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 1, 2026

AGENDA NO. 22

REPORT: Legislative Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Legislative Committee held a hybrid meeting on Friday, April 10, 2026. The following is a summary of the meeting.

Agenda Item	Recommendation/Action
AB 1661 (Bryan): Oil and gas: low-production wells: Baldwin Hills Conservancy: Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account.	Support
AB 2175 (Garcia): Electrical corporations: definition: electrical and gas service: microgrids.	Work With Author
AB 2239 (Carrillo): Infrastructure-constrained energization areas: energization timelines: environmental review.	Work With Author
SB 1270 (Richardson) Wildfire mitigation program: financial assistance to counties.	Support

Receive and file this report and approve agenda items as specified in this letter.

V. Manuel Perez, Committee Chair
Legislative Committee

LTO:CG:PC:BK:MC:MC

Call to Order

Committee Chair V. Manuel Perez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Committee Members

Present: V. Manuel Perez, Committee Chair
Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson
Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Supervisor Janet Nguyen
Vice Mayor Brenda Olmos

Absent: Supervisor Curt Hagman

For additional details of the Legislative Committee Meeting, please refer to the [Webcast](#).

Committee Chair Perez started the Committee Meeting with General Public Comment.

Ryan Senneff and Harvey Eder, Solar Power Coalition, provided public comment. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning 5:27.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Issue RFP for Legislative Representation in Sacramento

Lisa Tanaka, Deputy Executive Officer, Legislative, Public Affairs and Media presented on the issuance of a Request for Proposal for a 2-year contract for legislative consulting services for South Coast AQMD in Sacramento beginning in 2027. The current contracts for state legislative representation expire on December 31, 2026. The total amount for all legislative contracts are not to exceed \$465,000 per year, and with the option for a 2-year extension upon Board approval.

There was no public comment.

Moved by: Lock Dawson, Seconded by Nguyen; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Lock Dawson, Nazarian, Nguyen, Olmos, Perez,

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hagman

For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 9:12.

2. Update on South Coast AQMD Sponsored Bill

Carlos Gonzalez, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, Legislative, Public Affairs and Media provided an update on South Coast AQMD sponsored bill, AB 2349 (Solache): State Air Resources Board: regional air quality incident response program. This bill would establish a statewide network of Air Quality Incident Response Centers, through collaboration between CARB and local air districts. The bill was heard in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on April 6 and passed unanimously with strong bipartisan support. Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur and Senator Susan Rubio have joined as coauthors of the bill. AB 2349 will next be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and given its fiscal components, it is anticipated that it will be placed on the suspense file. Staff will work with Appropriations Committee staff, the author, and stakeholders as the bill moves forward. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 11:13.

There was no public comment.

3. Recommended Position on State Bills

Committee Chair Perez inquired if the votes on recommended positions for state bills could be taken together. Supervisor Janet Nguyen requested the vote on AB 1661 (Bryan) be taken separately.

Matthew Ceja, Legislative Analyst, Legislative, Public Affairs and Media presented AB 1661 (Bryan): Oil and gas: low-production wells: Baldwin Hills Conservancy: Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account. This bill would require the first \$5 million in penalty monies deposited into the Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account to be distributed as direct cash assistance to families with children who have respiratory health conditions who reside within 2.5 miles of non-compliant oil wells at the Inglewood Oil Field. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 12:50.

Mr. Eder provided public comment concerning the funding included in AB 1661. Ms. Tanaka clarified AB 1661's funding comes from mitigation fees.

Staff recommended a SUPPORT position on AB 1661.

Moved by: Nazarian, Seconded by Lock Dawson, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Perez, Lock Dawson, Olmos, Nazarian

Noes: None

Abstain: Nguyen

Absent: Hagman

For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 13:19.

Philip Crabbe, Senior Public Affairs Manager, Legislative, Public Affairs and Media presented AB 2175 (Garcia) and AB 2239 (Carrillo), which are energy bills that both seek to expand opportunities for on-site energy generation and energy sharing across adjacent properties, potentially accelerating the deployment of distributed energy resources in the South Coast region. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 18:23.

Mayor Lock Dawson requested additional detail on the recommendations for the "Work with Author" positions on both bills. Mr. Gonzalez responded that this approach facilitates South Coast AQMD's participation in stakeholder discussions on both bills as they move forward in the legislative process. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 21:18.

Mr. Eder provided public comment.

Staff recommended a WORK WITH AUTHOR position on both bills.

Moved by: Lock Dawson, Seconded by Olmos, unanimously roved.
Ayes: Perez, Lock Dawson, Olmos, Nazarian, Nguyen
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Hagman

For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 18:27.

Mr. Ceja presented SB 1270 (Richardson) Wildfire mitigation program: financial assistance to counties. This bill would require the California Wildfire Mitigation Program, which provides financial assistance to counties for structure hardening and retrofitting to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, and public buildings, to expand its eligibility from the top 6 to the top 10 counties with the greatest combined risk of wildfire and social vulnerability. This change would add Riverside and Los Angeles counties to the eligibility list. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 26:37

Mr. Eder provided public comment.

Staff recommended a SUPPORT position on SB 1270.

Moved by: Lock Dawson, Seconded by Olmos, unanimously approved.
Ayes: Perez, Lock Dawson, Olmos, Nazarian, Nguyen
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Hagman

For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 26:44.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4. Update and Discussion on Federal Legislative Issues

South Coast AQMD's federal legislative consultants (Cassidy & Associates, Carmen Group, and Kadash & Associates) provided written reports on key Washington D.C. issues.

Jed Dearborn, Cassidy & Associates, provided an update on the Budget Reconciliation effort in the House of Representatives. For additional information, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 30:32.

Dal Harper, Carmen Group, reported on the President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget request to Congress. For additional information, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 32:06.

Ben Miller, Kadesh & Associates, reported the latest on the Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill. For additional information, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 33:10.

There was no public comment.

5. Update and Discussion on State Legislative Issues

South Coast AQMD's state legislative consultants (Resolute, Buckley Government Affairs, and Joe A. Gonsalves & Son) provided written reports on key Sacramento issues.

David Quintana, Resolute, reported on upcoming legislative deadlines. For additional information, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 35:29.

Ross Buckley, Buckley Government Affairs, reported that March 2026 state budget revenues exceeded projections. For additional information, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 36:18.

Paul Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son, reported on major transportation funding allocations by the California Transportation Commission. For additional information, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 37:22.

There was no public comment.

OTHER MATTERS:

6. Other Business

Committee Chair Perez inquired about an upcoming event in the Coachella Valley. Ms. Tanaka provided brief event details.

Councilmember Nazarian requested that Mr. Gonsalves provide information regarding the rail-related portion of SB 1 funding.

Mayor Lock Dawson requested a future presentation to the Committee regarding bills that CARB is working on, including SB 375, which passed in 2008.

For additional details, please refer to the Webcast beginning at 39:31.

7. Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next regular Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Attachments

1. Attendance Record
2. AB 1661 (Bryan) – Bill Analysis
3. AB 1661 (Bryan) – Bill Language
4. AB 2175 (Garcia) – Bill Analysis
5. AB 2175 (Garcia) – Bill Language
6. AB 2239 (Carillo) – Bill Analysis
7. AB 2239 (Carillo) – Bill Language
8. SB 1270 (Richardson) – Bill Analysis
9. SB 1270 (Richardson) – Bill Language
10. Update on Federal Legislative Issues – Written Reports
11. Update on State Legislative Issues – Written Reports

ATTACHMENT 1

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD – April 10, 2026

Supervisor V. Manuel PerezSouth Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Patricia Lock DawsonSouth Coast AQMD Board Member
Vice Mayor Brenda OlmosSouth Coast AQMD Board Member
Councilmember Adrin NazarianSouth Coast AQMD Board Member
Supervisor Janet NguyenSouth Coast AQMD Board Member

Ken ChawkinsBoard Consultant (Cacciotti)
Guillermo GonzalezBoard Consultant (Perez)
Tom GrossBoard Consultant (Lock Dawson)
Marisela SantanaBoard Consultant (Olmos)
Thomas MayerBoard Consultant (Nazarian)

Ross BuckleyBuckley Government Affairs, LLC
Jed DearbornCassidy & Associates
Dal HarperCarmen Group
Paul GonsalvesJoe A. Gonsalves & Son
Ben MillerKadesh & Associates
David QuintanaResolute

Todd R Campbell Public Member
Harvey Eder Public Member
Martin Gardner Public Member
Fernando Gaytan Public Member
Michele Grubbs Public Member
Chuck Hahn Public Member
Bill LaMarr Public Member
Jacqueline Moore Public Member
Ramine Ross Public Member
David Rothbart Public Member
Ryan Senneff Public Member
Patty Senecal Public Member
Louis Vidaure Public Member

Jason AspellSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Cesar AyalaSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Barbara BairdSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Cindy BustillosSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Maria CorralejoSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Matthew CejaSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Jack ChengSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Philip CrabbeSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Scott GallegosSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Carlos GonzalezSouth Coast AQMD Staff
De GroeneveldSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Alex HanSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Anissa Cessa Heard- JohnsonSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Sheri HanizavarehSouth Coast AQMD Staff

Aaron KatzensteinSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Angela Kim.....South Coast AQMD Staff
Grace LeblancSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Howard Lee.....South Coast AQMD Staff
Jocelyn LeeSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Jason LowSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Terrence MannSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Ian McMillanSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Nahal MogharabiSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Ron MoskowitzSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Ghislain MuberwaSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Wayne NastriSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Sarah Rees.....South Coast AQMD Staff
Mary ReichertSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Alberto SilvaSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Lisa TanakaSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Brian TomasovicSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Elizabeth VegaSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Mei WangSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Victor YipSouth Coast AQMD Staff

ATTACHMENT 2A

South Coast Air Quality Management District
Legislative Analysis Summary – AB 1661 (Bryan)
Version: Introduced - 1/29/2026
Analyst: EV

AB 1661 (Bryan)

Oil and gas: low-production wells: Baldwin Hills Conservancy: Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account.

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Conservation, upon legislative appropriation, to allocate the first \$5 million in penalty monies deposited into the Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account to Los Angeles County for distribution as direct cash assistance to families living within 2.5 miles of identified low-production wells whose children have respiratory health conditions.

Background: AB 2716 (Bryan), enacted in 2024, addresses environmental impacts on communities near low-producing and idle oil wells. The chaptered bill:

- Requires the Geologic Energy Management Division, by March 1, 2025, to identify all low-production wells in Los Angeles County located in oil fields adjacent to state parks or recreation areas and within the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.
- Beginning March 1, 2026, requires wells in low-production status for more than 12 months to be plugged and abandoned, and imposes an administrative penalty of \$10,000 per month for noncompliance.
- Directs all wells in Los Angeles County that are in oil fields adjacent to state parks or recreation areas and within the Baldwin Hills Conservancy to be plugged and abandoned by December 31, 2030, and imposes a \$10,000 per month penalty for failure to comply.
- Establishes the Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account and directs that penalty revenues be deposited into the account to be made available for projects benefiting communities within 2.5 miles of identified oil wells.

The bill was supported by more than 60 environmental, environmental justice, and public health organizations.

Status: 2/17/26: Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Hearing: 4/6/26 - Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Specific Provisions: AB 1661 (Bryan) would make clarifying amendments to its predecessor AB 2716 (Bryan) regarding the use and expenditure of penalty funds. Specifically, the bill would require the Department of Conservation, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to allocate the first \$5 million in penalty revenues to be deposited in the Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account. The County of Los Angeles would then distribute these funds as direct cash assistance to families living within 2.5 miles of identified low-production wells whose children have respiratory health conditions.

Additionally, after all eligible families receive assistance, and subject to appropriation by the Legislature, Los County may use funds to support community benefit projects within the same 2.5 miles area including park creation and maintenance, urban greening, affordable housing, climate mitigation and resilience, and community benefit projects with environmental co-benefits.

Impacts on South Coast AQMD’s Mission, Operations or Initiatives: The Inglewood Oil Field was one of the largest and longest-producing urban oil fields in the United States. Its proximity to homes and schools has raised longstanding concerns about air quality impacts and public health impacts on nearby communities such as Culver City, Baldwin Hills, and Inglewood.

In 2023, a settlement between Culver City and Sentinel Peak Resources was executed to establish a binding schedule to phase out oil operations and plug and abandon wells in the Culver City portion of the Inglewood Oil Field. This action settled disputes related to Culver City’s 2021 Oil Termination ordinance. Los Angeles County also adopted an ordinance in 2023, which bans new oil wells and production facilities and requires existing operations in unincorporated areas to be phased out over approximately 20 years.

AB 1661 amends existing state law to ensure eligible families living adjacent to the Inglewood Oil Field receive direct assistance from the first \$5 million of penalty fees in the Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account. It further clarifies that these eligible families must be compensated before these penalty fees are utilized for specified community benefit projects.

South Coast AQMD received complaints from community members related to the Inglewood Oil Field and participated in the Los Angeles County led Community Advisory Panel meetings to address resident concerns. AB 1661 is consistent with South Coast AQMD’s broader environmental justice and public health objectives, including alignment with the South Los Angeles Community Air Protection Program (AB 617) and Inglewood is a Consistently Nominated Community. The bill would ensure that direct assistance is provided to residents who have experienced disproportionate, localized air quality impacts.

Recommended Position: SUPPORT

SUPPORT

N/A

OPPOSITION

N/A

ATTACHMENT 2B

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1661

Introduced by Assembly Member Bryan

January 29, 2026

An act to amend Section 3206.1.5 of the Public Resources Code, relating to oil and gas.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1661, as introduced, Bryan. Oil and gas: low-production wells: Baldwin Hills Conservancy: Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account.

Existing law requires the Geologic Energy Management Division in the Department of Conservation, on or before March 1, 2025, to identify all low-production wells, as defined, that are located in the County of Los Angeles in an oil field that is adjacent to a state recreation area or state park and is located, in whole or in part, within the boundary of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, as provided. Existing law prohibits, commencing March 1, 2026, the owners of those wells from allowing those wells to be low-production wells for more than 12 months. Upon a violation of that prohibition, existing law requires the State Oil and Gas Supervisor to charge an administrative penalty of \$10,000 per month to the low-production well owner, until the low-production well is plugged and abandoned, as provided.

Existing law requires the plugging and abandoning of all wells located in the County of Los Angeles in an oil field that is adjacent to a state recreation area or state park and is located, in whole or in part, within the boundary of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy by December 31, 2030. Existing law requires the supervisor, on and after January 1, 2031, to charge the owner of a well an administrative penalty of \$10,000 per

month for a violation of that requirement, until the well is plugged and abandoned.

Existing law establishes the Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account, requires the above-described administrative penalties to be deposited into the account, and makes the funds from the account available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Department of Conservation for allocation to the County of Los Angeles for projects that benefit communities living within 2½ miles of the identified low-production wells, as provided.

This bill would require the Department of Conservation, upon appropriation by the Legislature and subject to the terms of the appropriation, to distribute the first \$5,000,000 deposited into the Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account to be allocated to the County of Los Angeles to disburse in direct cash assistance to families living within 2½ miles of the identified low production wells whose children have respiratory health conditions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 3206.1.5 of the Public Resources Code
2 is amended to read:
3 3206.1.5. (a) On or before March 1, 2025, the division shall
4 identify all low-production wells that are located in a county of
5 the first class in an oil field that is adjacent to a state recreation
6 area or state park and is located, in whole or in part, within the
7 boundary of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. The division shall
8 determine the length of time those low-production wells have
9 continuously been low-production wells. The division shall
10 consider whether and for how long a well was shut-in for
11 maintenance and subtract that from the calculation of the length
12 of time a well meets the definition of a low-production well.
13 (b) On or before March 1, 2026, the division shall notify the
14 owners of low-production wells identified in subdivision (a) of
15 the prohibition on operating a low-production well for more than
16 12 months, as described in subdivision (c).
17 (c) Commencing March 1, 2026, a well identified pursuant to
18 subdivision (a) shall not be a low-production well for more than
19 12 months.

1 (d) The supervisor shall charge an administrative penalty of ten
2 thousand dollars (\$10,000) per month to a low-production well
3 owner in violation of subdivision (c) until the low-production well
4 is plugged and abandoned pursuant to Section 3208. Penalties shall
5 be remitted annually on a schedule determined by the supervisor.
6 The low-production well site shall not be required to be remediated
7 until oil and gas operations cease.

8 (e) The division shall waive the penalty in subdivision (d) on a
9 low-production well when the owner submits a request for approval
10 of a notice of intention pursuant to Section 3203 to plug and
11 abandon the well. If work to plug and abandon the well does not
12 start before the notice of intention expires, the division shall resume
13 assessing the penalty on the well owner. A well owner who has
14 an approved notice of intention to plug and abandon a well in
15 accordance with Section 3208 shall not apply for approval of
16 another notice of intention to plug and abandon the same well in
17 a two-year period unless the supervisor determines that the well
18 poses a present danger to life, health, or natural resources.

19 (f) (1) All funds collected pursuant to this section shall be
20 deposited into the Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment
21 Account, which is hereby created in the State Treasury as a special
22 fund administered by the Department of Conservation.

23 (2) Funds from the account shall be available, upon
24 appropriation by the Legislature, to the Department of Conservation
25 for allocation to a county of the first class. ~~The~~

26 (3) *The Department of Conservation shall, upon appropriation*
27 *by the Legislature and subject to the terms of the appropriation,*
28 *distribute the first five million dollars (\$5,000,000) deposited into*
29 *the account to the county to disburse in direct cash assistance to*
30 *families living within two and one-half miles of the oil wells*
31 *identified in subdivision (a) who have children with respiratory*
32 *health conditions.*

33 (4) *The county may may, upon appropriation by the Legislature*
34 *and subject to the terms of the appropriation, contract with entities*
35 *within its jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, cities, state*
36 *conservancies, joint powers authorities, and nonprofit organizations*
37 *to use the funds for projects listed in subparagraphs (A) to (E),*
38 *inclusive, to the extent that these projects benefit communities*
39 *living within two and one-half miles of the oil wells identified in*
40 *subdivision (a). The projects listed in subparagraphs (A) to (E),*

1 *inclusive, shall not receive funding until the funds reserved*
2 *pursuant to paragraph (3) have been distributed.*

3 (A) Park creation or expansion and maintenance of new outdoor
4 amenities in park-poor neighborhoods.

5 (B) Urban greening.

6 (C) Affordable housing needed to accommodate community
7 needs.

8 (D) Climate mitigation and resilience.

9 (E) Community benefit projects with environmental cobenefits.

10 ~~(3)~~

11 (5) (A) The Legislature shall not allow the account balance to
12 exceed twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).

13 (B) Until December 31, 2030, the Legislature shall not allow
14 the account balance to exceed ten million dollars (\$10,000,000)
15 once 50 percent of all wells that meet the conditions specified in
16 subdivision (a) have been plugged and abandoned.

17 (C) Commencing January 1, 2031, the Legislature shall not
18 allow the account balance to exceed ten million dollars
19 (\$10,000,000) once 50 percent of all wells that meet the conditions
20 specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (g) have been plugged
21 and abandoned.

22 (g) (1) All wells, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 3008,
23 that are located in a county of the first class in an oil field that is
24 adjacent to a state recreation area or state park and is located, in
25 whole or in part, within the boundary of the Baldwin Hills
26 Conservancy shall be plugged and abandoned by December 31,
27 2030.

28 (2) An owner of an idle well or long-term idle well that is
29 located in a county of the first class in an oil field that is adjacent
30 to a state recreation area or state park and is located, in whole or
31 in part, within the boundary of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy
32 may adjust the terms of an idle well management plan required
33 pursuant to Section 3206, as needed, to accomplish the plugging
34 and abandonment of those covered wells by December 31, 2030.

35 (3) (A) On and after January 1, 2031, the supervisor shall charge
36 an administrative penalty of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per
37 month to a well owner in violation of paragraph (1) until the well
38 is plugged and abandoned pursuant to Section 3208.

39 (B) The supervisor shall not charge an administrative penalty
40 pursuant to subparagraph (A) for a violation by a well owner if

- 1 the supervisor has already charged an administrative penalty to
- 2 that well owner for a violation, applicable to the same well and
- 3 covering the same time period, pursuant to subdivision (d).

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ATTACHMENT 2C

South Coast Air Quality Management District
Legislative Analysis Summary – AB 2175 (Garcia)
Version: Introduced - 2/19/2026
Analyst: MC

AB 2175 (Garcia) Community Microgrids

Summary: AB 2175 clarifies the definition of an “electrical corporation” under Public Utilities Code Section 218 to ensure that microgrids and distributed energy systems serving commercial and industrial parks, business campuses, agricultural operations, and other multi-tenant non-residential properties are not unintentionally regulated as public utilities.

The bill also clarifies that sub-metered energy systems in multifamily housing and multi-meter properties across a wide variety of sectors and applications are not electrical corporations when electricity is generated and distributed primarily for on-site use.

By removing regulatory ambiguity, AB 2175 will support the deployment of local energy systems while maintaining appropriate California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) safety and interconnection oversight.

The author is also working with the Assembly Energy Committee to address issues related to California’s “over-the-fence” rule.

Background: Microgrids are interconnected energy systems that coordinate local electricity generation and loads and can operate alongside or independently from the larger grid. They often combine distributed energy resources such as solar generation and battery storage to improve reliability and reduce strain on the broader electrical system.

These systems are increasingly being deployed to serve commercial and industrial campuses, business parks, agricultural facilities, and other multi-tenant properties where electricity is generated and shared across multiple meters or buildings. Similar systems are also emerging in multifamily housing, where submetering is used to allocate energy costs among residents.

However, outdated statutory language has created uncertainty about whether these localized systems could be classified as “electrical corporations” under Public Utilities Code Section 218, which would subject them to regulatory requirements intended for large utilities.

This bill is designed to modify the “over-the-fence” rule. In California, the “over-the-fence” rule generally limits the ability of a private generator to sell electricity directly to neighboring properties. Under existing law, electricity generated on-site can typically only be used by the generator itself or, in limited cases, sold to a small number of adjacent properties under strict conditions. If electricity is transmitted beyond those limited allowances, the provider may be considered an “electrical corporation” and subject CPUC regulatory requirements.

Given the potential for significant policy changes through forthcoming amendments, we recommend engaging with the author and committee staff early to ensure South Coast AQMD is part of the conversation and can help shape any proposed changes. This will be important to assess potential impacts on air quality, electrification efforts, and distributed energy resources.

Status: 3/09/2026 Rereferred to Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy.

Specific Provisions: Under current law, systems that distribute electricity across property lines, serve multiple meters, or use submetering may risk classification as electrical corporations. This creates barriers for:

- Commercial and industrial campus microgrids and multi-building developments.
- Agricultural and multi-meter facilities.
- Multifamily housing developments using submetering.

As a result, projects face regulatory uncertainty, delays, and higher costs, slowing deployment of distributed energy systems that could improve reliability and lower energy costs.

The author is also working with the Assembly Energy Committee on California’s “over-the-fence” rule, which limits the ability of private generators to sell or transfer electricity directly to neighboring properties without being regulated as a public utility.

This issue is being addressed in Assemblymember Carrillo’s AB 2239, indicating broader legislative interest in revisiting these restrictions. Given the likelihood of substantive amendments and overlapping policy efforts, it will be important to engage with both authors and committee staff to ensure South Coast AQMD is part of the conversation as the bills evolve.

Pending official bill language from author on AB 2175.

Impacts on South Coast AQMD’s Mission, Operations or Initiatives: AB 2175 is expected to be amended to address California’s “over-the-fence” rule, which limits the ability of private generators to sell or transfer electricity directly to neighboring properties without being regulated as a public utility. South Coast AQMD will advocate for the bill to expand opportunities for on-site generation and energy sharing across adjacent properties, potentially accelerating the deployment of distributed energy resources in the South Coast region.

Staff will continue to monitor both AB 2175 and AB 2239 (Carillo) closely as they move through the legislative process and will report back to the Committee with updates and recommendations as necessary.

Recommended Position: WORK WITH AUTHOR

SUPPORT

N/A

OPPOSITION

N/A

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2175

Introduced by Assembly Member Garcia

February 19, 2026

An act to amend Section 8360 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to electricity.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2175, as introduced, Garcia. Electricity: electrical transmission and distribution systems.

Existing law establishes the policy of the state to modernize the state's electrical transmission and distribution system to maintain safe, reliable, efficient, and secure electrical service, with infrastructure that can meet future growth in demand and achieve certain objectives, including the deployment and integration of cost-effective advanced electricity storage and peak-shaving technologies, as specified. Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with certain entities, to determine the requirements for a smart grid deployment plan consistent with that policy and federal law, as specified.

This bill would repeal from those policy objectives the deployment and integration of cost-effective advanced electricity storage and peak-shaving technologies.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 8360 of the Public Utilities Code is
- 2 amended to read:

1 8360. It is the policy of the state to modernize the state's
2 electrical transmission and distribution system to maintain safe,
3 reliable, efficient, and secure electrical service, with infrastructure
4 that can meet future growth in demand and achieve all of the
5 following, which together characterize a smart grid:

6 (a) Increased use of cost-effective digital information and control
7 technology to improve reliability, security, and efficiency of the
8 ~~electric~~ *electrical* grid.

9 (b) Dynamic optimization of grid operations and resources,
10 including appropriate consideration for asset management and
11 utilization of related grid operations and resources, with
12 cost-effective full cyber security.

13 (c) Deployment and integration of cost-effective distributed
14 resources and generation, including renewable resources.

15 (d) Development and incorporation of cost-effective demand
16 response, demand-side resources, and energy-efficient resources.

17 (e) Deployment of cost-effective smart technologies, including
18 real time, automated, interactive technologies that optimize the
19 physical operation of appliances and consumer devices for
20 metering, communications concerning grid operations and status,
21 and distribution automation.

22 (f) Integration of cost-effective smart appliances and consumer
23 devices.

24 ~~(g) Deployment and integration of cost-effective advanced~~
25 ~~electricity storage and peak-shaving technologies, including plug-in~~
26 ~~electric and hybrid electric vehicles, and thermal-storage~~
27 ~~air-conditioning.~~

28 ~~(h)~~

29 (g) Provide consumers with timely information and control
30 options.

31 ~~(i)~~

32 (h) Develop standards for communication and interoperability
33 of appliances and equipment connected to the ~~electric~~ *electrical*
34 grid, including the infrastructure serving the grid.

35 ~~(j)~~

36 (i) Identification and lowering of unreasonable or unnecessary
37 barriers to adoption of smart grid technologies, practices, and
38 services.

ATTACHMENT 2E

South Coast Air Quality Management District
Legislative Analysis Summary – AB 2239 (Carillo)
Version: As introduced – 4/1/2026
Analyst: MC/PC

AB 2239 (Carillo)

Infrastructure – constrained energization areas: energization timelines: environmental review

Summary: Assembly Bill 2239 aims to accelerate timely energization in areas with infrastructure constraints.

Background: Certain areas within California face unique challenges in expanding electric infrastructure to meet energization timelines. While electrical corporations have an obligation to serve, cities and developers often face timelines of three to four years for energization. Despite significant generation capacity, local projects experience multiyear delays due to constrained substations, limited distribution circuits, transformer shortages, interconnection delays, and lengthy transmission upgrade timelines.

Existing law vests the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) with regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations and existing law requires the PUC to establish reasonable average and maximum target energization time periods, as defined, and a procedure for customers to report energization delays to the PUC, as provided. Additionally, the PUC requires that an electrical corporation take remedial actions necessary to achieve the PUC's targets.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a Lead Agency to prepare and certify an environmental impact report on a proposed project that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a Lead Agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment.

This bill would exempt from the requirements of CEQA, the approval of an electrical generation or energy storage project located within an infrastructure-constrained energization area if specific conditions are met, as provided.

Status: 3/9/26: Referred to the Committee on Utilities and Energy & Natural Resources

Specific Provisions: AB 2239 defines infrastructure constrained energization areas and strengthens electrification accountability by amending California Public Utilities Code Section 934 to establish clearer energization timelines, require transparency and reporting when deadlines are missed, and allow local jurisdictions to provide input.

The bill also creates an over-the-fence electrification pathway in constrained areas by allowing permitting of adjacent generation to serve nearby parcels when utilities cannot energize within a reasonable timeframe, while maintaining oversight and safety standards from the California Public Utilities Commission.

In addition, it prioritizes infrastructure constrained growth areas by encouraging coordinated siting and infrastructure planning in regions and promotes coordination with CAISO to prioritize transmission upgrades where economic growth and reliability needs are demonstrated.

Impacts on South Coast AQMD’s Mission, Operations or Initiatives: Under this bill, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) requires each electrical corporation to meet energization timelines or targets – and will penalize electric companies who fail to meet these timelines or targets. The bill provides instruction for electrical corporations to meet these goals that could result in penalties for those who do not meet the requirements. However, the bill changes current permitting laws, including CEQA exemptions, by expediting review and prioritizations projects in newly designed infrastructure-constrained energization areas. CEQA is critical because it provides public disclosure on projects to inform communities and stakeholders such as South Coast AQMD.

South Coast AQMD supports legislation efforts to promote energy efficiency, demand reduction, and reliable, cost effective and clean energy in the South Coast region, especially in disproportionately impacted environmental justice communities. Additionally, South Coast AQMD supports the production and development of renewable and alternative energy, energy storage, and microgrids to reduce emissions from transportation and other sources, such as back-up generators. However, the agency also prioritizes zero-emission infrastructure, equipment, and vehicles to: 1) protect public health; 2) facilitate attainment of clean air standards; and/or 3) support a healthy economy and promote job retention/creation within the South Coast region.

This is one of two bills – AB 2239 (Carillo) and AB 2175 (Garcia) – that address similar issues. The Assembly Energy Committee is currently working with both authors and is expected to hold hearings on these issues. Staff will continue to engage with Assemblymembers Carillo and Garcia as well as the Committee and will report back with updates and recommendations.

Recommended Position: WORK WITH AUTHOR

SUPPORT

N/A

OPPOSITION

N/A

ATTACHMENT 2F

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025—26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2239

Introduced by Assembly Member Carrillo

February 19, 2026

An act to add Section 21080.74 to the Public Resources Code, and to add Sections 348.5, 367.8, and 934.5 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to electricity.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2239, as introduced, Carrillo. Infrastructure-constrained energization areas: energization timelines: environmental review.

Existing law vests the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) with regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. Existing law requires the PUC to establish reasonable average and maximum target energization time periods, as defined, and a procedure for customers to report energization delays to the PUC, as provided. Existing law requires the PUC to require an electrical corporation to take remedial actions necessary to achieve the PUC's targets.

This bill would require the PUC to require each electrical corporation to meet energization timelines or targets established pursuant to the above-described provisions or by PUC order. The bill would require the PUC to impose a penalty if an electrical corporation fails to meet an energization timeline or target approved or required by the PUC, as provided.

This bill would require the PUC to designate an infrastructure-constrained energization area based on objective criteria, including limited distribution or transmission infrastructure relative to available electrical capacity or projected load growth, inland or desert

geography, and extended energization timelines. The bill would require the PUC to adopt rules authorizing over-the-fence transactions within infrastructure-constrained energization areas when an electrical corporation cannot reasonably meet energization targets and other specific conditions are met, as specified. The bill would require the PUC, in coordination with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) and local jurisdictions, to establish procedures to facilitate expedited development of electrical generation and energy storage facilities in infrastructure-constrained energization areas, as specified. The bill would require the PUC, in coordination with the Energy Commission, the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, and local jurisdictions, to establish procedures to facilitate expedited permitting, siting, and construction of electrical infrastructure owned or operated by an electrical corporation within infrastructure-constrained energization areas, as specified. The bill would require the PUC and the Energy Commission to coordinate with, and advocate before, the Independent System Operator (ISO) for expedited review and prioritization of projects in infrastructure-constrained energization areas, as specified.

Existing law establishes the ISO as a nonprofit, public benefit corporation to ensure efficient use and reliable operation of the transmission grid and to manage the transmission grid and related energy markets, as specified.

This bill would require the ISO to consider regional economic development needs, infrastructure constraints, and statewide policy objectives when conducting transmission planning and interconnection processes. The bill would require the ISO seek to streamline review and approval processes for projects located within infrastructure-constrained energization areas, as specified, and would require the ISO to annually report to the PUC and the Legislature on transmission and interconnection constraints affecting infrastructure-constrained energization areas.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would

avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment.

This bill would exempt from the requirements of CEQA the approval of an electrical generation or energy storage project located within an infrastructure-constrained energization area if specific conditions are met, as provided. The bill would require the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation to develop guidelines for the implementation of these provisions. Because a lead agency would be required to determine whether a project would qualify for this exemption, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Under existing law, a violation of the Public Utilities Act or any order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the PUC is a crime.

Because certain of the above-described provisions would be part of the act and a violation of a PUC action implementing the above-described provisions would be a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for specified reasons.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) Timely energization of customers is essential to achieving
4 California’s goals related to economic development, housing
5 production, industrial growth, public health, reliability, and the
6 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

7 (2) Certain regions of California possess substantial existing or
8 planned electrical generation capacity, renewable energy potential,
9 or available land suitable for economic and housing development
10 but lack sufficient transmission or distribution infrastructure to
11 deliver electrical service in a timely manner.

12 (3) These resource-rich but infrastructure-constrained regions
13 include inland, desert, rural, and geographically isolated areas

1 experiencing rapid growth in logistics, manufacturing, data
2 infrastructure, housing, and clean energy development.

3 (4) Delays in energization in these regions result in lost
4 economic opportunity, delayed housing production, increased
5 project costs, and reduced statewide economic competitiveness.

6 (5) Permitting complexity, multiagency review processes, and
7 infrastructure planning timelines can delay electrical infrastructure
8 necessary to support energization and economic development.

9 (6) Existing law does not sufficiently incentivize electrical
10 corporations to meet energization timelines established or approved
11 by the Public Utilities Commission, nor does it sufficiently provide
12 tools to accelerate infrastructure deployment in
13 infrastructure-constrained areas.

14 (7) Local governments bear primary responsibility for land use
15 planning, permitting, housing development, and economic
16 development and therefore should have a meaningful role in
17 establishing and evaluating energization timelines affecting their
18 jurisdictions.

19 (8) When an electrical corporation cannot meet required
20 energization timelines despite expedited infrastructure development
21 efforts, alternative energization pathways, including customer-side
22 or third-party infrastructure and over-the-fence transactions, may
23 be necessary to ensure timely access to electrical service while
24 maintaining safety and reliability standards.

25 (9) Transmission and interconnection delays in
26 infrastructure-constrained regions constrain economic growth,
27 housing production, and clean energy deployment, and coordinated
28 prioritization among state entities is necessary to advance statewide
29 policy goals.

30 (10) Development of firm, dispatchable, renewable, and
31 low-emission generation resources, including geothermal energy,
32 hydrogen-based generation, advanced nuclear technologies, energy
33 storage, and renewable generation, may improve reliability and
34 support energization in infrastructure-constrained regions.

35 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that electrical corporations
36 remain the primary providers of electrical service and that state
37 policy should prioritize enabling electrical corporations to provide
38 timely service through expedited planning, permitting, and
39 infrastructure development.

1 SEC. 2. Section 21080.74 is added to the Public Resources
2 Code, to read:

3 21080.74. (a) This division does not apply to the approval of
4 an electrical generation or energy storage project located within
5 an infrastructure-constrained energization area if all of the
6 following conditions are met:

7 (1) The project has a generating capacity of not more than 100
8 megawatts.

9 (2) The project is located on industrially zoned, commercial, or
10 previously disturbed land.

11 (3) The project does not result in significant impacts to sensitive
12 biological resources, cultural resources, or protected habitat, as
13 determined by the lead agency.

14 (4) The project is not located within a state park, wilderness
15 area, or unit of the national park system.

16 (5) The project consists of renewable generation, energy storage,
17 hydrogen production or generation, geothermal facilities, or
18 advanced nuclear generation meeting applicable licensing
19 requirements.

20 (b) A lead agency may require reasonable mitigation measures
21 to address site-specific impacts.

22 (c) The Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation shall develop
23 guidelines for the implementation of this section.

24 (d) For purposes of this section, “infrastructure-constrained
25 energization area” means an area designated by the Public Utilities
26 Commission pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 367.8 of the
27 Public Utilities Code.

28 SEC. 3. Section 348.5 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to
29 read:

30 348.5. (a) The Independent System Operator shall, consistent
31 with federal law and its federally approved tariff, consider regional
32 economic development needs, infrastructure constraints, and
33 statewide policy objectives when conducting transmission planning
34 and interconnection processes.

35 (b) The Independent System Operator shall seek to streamline
36 review and approval processes for projects located within
37 infrastructure-constrained energization areas, including prioritizing
38 studies and identifying transmission upgrades that reduce
39 energization delays.

1 (c) The Independent System Operator shall annually report to
 2 the commission and the Legislature, consistent with Section 9795
 3 of the Government Code, on transmission and interconnection
 4 constraints affecting infrastructure-constrained energization areas.
 5 (d) This section does not modify the federal jurisdiction or
 6 operational independence of the Independent System Operator.
 7 (e) For purposes of this section, “infrastructure-constrained
 8 energization area” means an area designated by the commission
 9 pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 367.8.
 10 SEC. 4. Section 367.8 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to
 11 read:
 12 367.8. (a) The commission shall designate an
 13 infrastructure-constrained energization area based on objective
 14 criteria, including, but not limited to, limited distribution or
 15 transmission infrastructure relative to available electrical capacity
 16 or projected load growth, inland or desert geography, and extended
 17 energization timelines.
 18 (b) (1) The commission shall adopt rules authorizing
 19 over-the-fence transactions within infrastructure-constrained
 20 energization areas designated pursuant to subdivision (a) when an
 21 electrical corporation cannot reasonably meet the energization
 22 targets established pursuant to Section 934, or a commission order,
 23 and all of the following conditions are met:
 24 (A) The receiving parcels are contiguous or directly adjacent
 25 to the generating parcel.
 26 (B) The aggregate load served does not exceed 10 megawatts.
 27 (C) The arrangement complies with applicable safety, reliability,
 28 and interconnection standards.
 29 (D) Electrical corporation distribution facilities are not used for
 30 retail delivery, except as authorized for safety or reliability.
 31 (2) An entity providing electrical service pursuant to this section
 32 shall not, solely by reason of the over-the-fence transaction
 33 authorized under this section, be deemed an electrical corporation
 34 or a public utility.
 35 (3) This section does not require utility ownership or ratebasing
 36 of an alternative facility.
 37 (4) For purposes of this subdivision, “over-the-fence transaction”
 38 means the provision of electrical service from a generating facility
 39 or electrical infrastructure located on one parcel to one or more

1 immediately adjacent parcels without the use of an electrical
2 corporation's distribution system.

3 (c) (1) The commission, in coordination with the Energy
4 Commission and local jurisdictions, shall establish procedures to
5 facilitate expedited development of electrical generation and energy
6 storage facilities in infrastructure-constrained energization areas
7 designated pursuant to subdivision (a).

8 (2) Projects eligible for expedited development pursuant to
9 paragraph (1) may include, but are not limited to, all of the
10 following:

11 (A) Renewable electrical generation, including solar
12 photovoltaic, wind, and geothermal generation.

13 (B) Energy storage systems.

14 (C) Hydrogen production facilities and hydrogen-fueled
15 generation.

16 (D) Advanced nuclear technologies, including small modular
17 reactors, consistent with applicable federal and state law.

18 (E) Firm, dispatchable, or low-emission generation technologies
19 that support reliability and energization.

20 (3) The commission and the Energy Commission shall prioritize
21 projects that reduce energization delays, use previously disturbed
22 or industrially zoned land, reduce reliance on long-distance
23 transmission upgrades, and enable energization of adjacent parcels
24 or industrial clusters.

25 (4) This subdivision does not alter existing greenhouse gas
26 reduction requirements or safety standards.

27 (d) (1) The commission, in coordination with the Energy
28 Commission, the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, and
29 local jurisdictions, shall establish procedures to facilitate expedited
30 permitting, siting, and construction of electrical infrastructure
31 owned or operated by an electrical corporation within
32 infrastructure-constrained energization areas designated pursuant
33 to subdivision (a).

34 (2) Infrastructure eligible for expedited permitting, siting, and
35 construction pursuant to this subdivision includes distribution
36 facilities, substations, transmission upgrades, switching facilities,
37 and interconnection infrastructure necessary to provide timely
38 energization.

39 (3) The commission shall, to the extent permitted by law,
40 establish expedited review timelines, encourage concurrent

1 permitting and environmental review, coordinate multiagency
2 approvals, and prioritize cost recovery proceedings for
3 infrastructure that reduces energization delays.

4 (4) A local jurisdiction may designate priority energization
5 projects eligible for coordinated permitting pursuant to this
6 subdivision.

7 (5) This section does not exempt a project from environmental
8 or safety requirements, but an agency shall prioritize timely review
9 consistent with statewide energization and economic development
10 goals.

11 (e) The commission and the Energy Commission shall
12 coordinate with, and advocate before, the Independent System
13 Operator for expedited review and prioritization of projects in
14 infrastructure-constrained energization areas designated pursuant
15 to subdivision (a).

16 SEC. 5. Section 934.5 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to
17 read:

18 934.5. (a) The commission shall require each electrical
19 corporation to meet energization timelines or targets established
20 pursuant to this article or by commission order.

21 (b) If an electrical corporation fails to meet an energization
22 timeline or target approved or required by the commission, the
23 commission shall impose a penalty, as determined by the
24 commission, unless the electrical corporation demonstrates good
25 cause, as determined by the commission.

26 (c) In determining a penalty pursuant to subdivision (b), the
27 commission shall consider all relevant factors, including, but not
28 limited to, all of the following:

- 29 (1) Economic harm resulting from delayed energization.
- 30 (2) Housing production impacts.
- 31 (3) Employment and economic development impacts.
- 32 (4) Infrastructure planning failures.
- 33 (5) The electrical corporation's prior compliance history.
- 34 (6) Whether the project is located in an
35 infrastructure-constrained energization area.

36 (d) The commission shall provide a local jurisdiction with an
37 opportunity to submit comments, information, or recommended
38 timelines for an energization project affecting its jurisdiction.

1 (e) For purposes of this section, “infrastructure-constrained
2 energization area” means an area designated by the commission
3 pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 367.8.

4 SEC. 6. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
5 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
6 a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service
7 charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or
8 level of service mandated by this act or because costs that may be
9 incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred
10 because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a
11 crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction,
12 within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or
13 changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6
14 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

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ATTACHMENT 2G

South Coast Air Quality Management District
Legislative Analysis Summary – SB 1270 (Richardson)
Version: As Introduced – 2/20/26
Analyst: PC

SB 1270 (Richardson)

Wildfire mitigation program: financial assistance to counties.

Summary: This bill would require a joint powers authority to provide financial assistance through the California Wildfire Mitigation Financial Assistance Program (Program) to the 10 counties with the greatest combined risk of wildfire and social vulnerability based on the Program’s eligibility criteria.

Background: Current law, contingent upon a Legislative appropriation, requires the Office of Emergency Services to enter a joint powers agreement with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop and administer the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP). CWMP is intended to, among other purposes, encourage cost-effective structure hardening and retrofitting to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, and public buildings. The law also requires the joint powers authority (JPA) to establish eligibility criteria for property owners, community organizations, and local governments seeking financial assistance under the program. Under the existing program, six (6) counties have received financial assistance including: Lake, Siskiyou, Tuolumne, Shasta, El Dorado, and San Diego.

Status: 3/4/26: Referred to Senate Emergency Management Committee and Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

Specific Provisions: SB 1270 would build upon CWMP by requiring the JPA to provide financial assistance to the 10 counties with the greatest combined risk of wildfire and social vulnerability based on the program’s eligibility criteria. Specifically, the bill would add Riverside, Calaveras, Los Angeles and Tehama counties to the list receiving financial assistance from the wildfire mitigation program.

Impacts on South Coast AQMD’s Mission, Operations or Initiatives: SB 1270 highlights the growing severity of California’s wildfire crisis. Most recently, the Eaton and Palisades urban wildfire alone destroyed or damaged more than 18,000 structures. Wildfire smoke poses a significant public health risk. Additionally, urban wildfires raise concerns about air toxics as smoke and ash from buildings may contain asbestos, metals, and other hazardous pollutants.

This bill would direct funding to the South Coast region through CWMP. These investments would support efforts to protect communities and reduce harmful emissions from wildfires that affect public health, including our first responders.

By strengthening wildfire mitigation efforts, SB 1270 would help reduce harmful air pollution and improve public health outcomes within the South Coast region. It also aligns with South Coast AQMD’s sponsored bill AB 2349 (Solache) which would enhance the state and local air districts air incident response for disasters such as wildfires. Structure hardening and retrofitting to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, and public buildings would reduce risk of urban wildfires thereby reducing emissions and impacts on public health.

Recommended Position: SUPPORT

South Coast Air Quality Management District
Legislative Analysis Summary – SB 1270 (Richardson)
Version: As Introduced – 2/20/26
Analyst: PC

SUPPORT

N/A

OPPOSITION

N/A

SENATE BILL

No. 1270

Introduced by Senator Richardson

February 20, 2026

An act to amend Section 8654.8 of the Government Code, relating to fire safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1270, as introduced, Richardson. Wildfire mitigation program: financial assistance to counties.

Existing law, contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature, requires the Office of Emergency Services to enter into a joint powers agreement with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop and administer a comprehensive wildfire mitigation program to, among other things, encourage cost-effective structure hardening and retrofitting to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, and public buildings. Existing law requires the joint powers authority to develop eligibility criteria for property owners, community organizations, and local governments who may receive financial assistance under the program.

This bill would require the joint powers authority to provide financial assistance to the 10 counties with the greatest combined risk of wildfire and social vulnerability based on the above-described eligibility criteria, as provided.

This bill would make related findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) In 2017, over 1.3 million acres burned due to high-severity
4 wildfires and over 10,000 structures were destroyed. In 2018, over
5 1.8 million acres burned and over 22,700 structures were destroyed.
6 In the first month of 2025, major wildfires burned more than 50,000
7 acres.

8 (b) The Eaton and Palisades fires alone destroyed or damaged
9 more than 18,000 structures, including homes passed down from
10 generation to generation, small businesses that began with a thought
11 and became a visible reality, and places of worship across Los
12 Angeles County that served as meeting places for those seeking a
13 connection to their faith and a message of hope for even better
14 days.

15 (c) These events cover a span of the past decade. From Santa
16 Rosa to Paradise to Altadena, Californians across the state have
17 felt the emotional and financial devastation caused by the impact
18 of these wind-driven fires.

19 (d) Existing law requires the Office of Emergency Services to
20 enter into a joint powers agreement with the Department of Forestry
21 and Fire Protection to administer a comprehensive wildfire
22 mitigation and assistance program to, among other things,
23 encourage cost-effective structure hardening and retrofitting to
24 create fire-resistant homes, businesses, and public buildings.

25 (e) The California Wildfire Mitigation Financial Assistance
26 Program (CWMFAP) developed a criteria and scoring methodology
27 to prioritize financial assistance to areas and communities based
28 upon criteria that include, but are not limited to, all of the
29 following:

- 30 (1) Area and community vulnerability to wildfire.
- 31 (2) The impact of future climate risk factors on area and
32 community wildfire vulnerability assessments.
- 33 (3) Factors that lead some populations to experience a greater
34 risk to wildfire, adverse health outcomes, or an inhibited ability
35 to respond to a wildfire, including socioeconomic characteristics
36 of the areas or communities that would be protected by financial
37 assistance.

1 (f) The CWMFAP is only accepting applications for financial
2 assistance in specific areas within the following communities:

- 3 (1) Kelseyville Riviera in Lake County.
- 4 (2) Mount Shasta in Siskiyou County.
- 5 (3) Ponderosa Hills, Mira Monte, and Sunrise Subdivisions in
6 Tuolumne County.
- 7 (4) Whitmore, Lakehead, and Oak Run in Shasta County.
- 8 (5) Weber Creek in El Dorado County.
- 9 (6) Dulzura, Campo, Potrero in San Diego County.

10 (g) Based on the current criteria and scoring methodology to
11 prioritize financial assistance developed by the CWMFAP, this
12 bill proposes to provide home hardening assistance to the top ten
13 counties, which are all of the following:

- 14 (1) Lake County.
- 15 (2) Siskiyou County.
- 16 (3) Tuolumne County.
- 17 (4) Shasta County.
- 18 (5) El Dorado County.
- 19 (6) San Diego County.
- 20 (7) Riverside County.
- 21 (8) Calaveras County.
- 22 (9) Los Angeles County.
- 23 (10) Tehama County.

24 SEC. 2. Section 8654.8 of the Government Code is amended
25 to read:

26 8654.8. (a) The joint powers authority shall develop eligibility
27 criteria for property owners, community organizations, and local
28 governments who may receive financial assistance under the
29 wildfire mitigation program in accordance with this article.

30 *(b) The joint powers authority shall provide financial assistance*
31 *under the wildfire mitigation program to the ten counties with the*
32 *greatest combined risk of wildfire and social vulnerability based*
33 *on the eligibility criteria developed pursuant to subdivision (a),*
34 *which, as of January 29, 2025, are the Counties of Lake, Siskiyou,*
35 *Tuolumne, Shasta, El Dorado, San Diego, Riverside, Calaveras,*
36 *Los Angeles, and Tehama.*

37 ~~(b)~~

38 (c) The joint powers authority may also establish financial
39 assistance limits and matching funding or other recipient
40 contribution requirements, as necessary, to ensure the viability and

- 1 efficient operation of the wildfire mitigation program and to
- 2 maximize the program's impact on reducing wildfire risk in
- 3 California.

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ATTACHMENT 3A



To: South Coast Air Quality Management District
From: Cassidy & Associates
Date: March 19, 2026
Re: March Report

HOUSE/SENATE

Congress

The House and Senate are in session this week. As conflict in the Middle East continues, lawmakers have reportedly begun talks with the White House and the Pentagon regarding a supplemental funding bill for the Iran war, which could take the form of a reconciliation bill due to Democratic opposition to the war. Lawmakers are still faced with negotiating Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Homeland Security funding, which lapsed about a month ago. On Tuesday, the Senate will begin a floor process for the SAVE America Act, which is expected to last several days before the bill will likely fail to pass. Meanwhile, several House Republicans have said they won't allow passage of any legislation until there is progress on the SAVE America Act.

EPA

On March 13, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed amendments to the 2024 National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants governing ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions from commercial sterilization facilities, arguing that the prior rule exceeded statutory authority and threatened the domestic medical device supply chain. The proposal would roll back certain requirements from the 2024 rule, such as additional residual risk standards, continuous emissions monitoring mandates, and some enclosure and ventilation requirements, while maintaining core emission controls under the Clean Air Act. Read more [here](#).

On March 9, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the selection of new members to the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). The committee advises the EPA Administrator on the technical bases for EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards. CASAC members serve a two-year term from 2026 through 2028. The new Chair is Dr. Louis Anthony (Tony) Cox, Jr. Of Cox Associates, LLC and the new members are Dr. Brian Joondeph, Colorado Retina Associates, PC; Dr. Fotios-Christos Kafantaris, Indiana Department of Environmental Management; Ms. Katherine Kistler, Nucor Corporation; Dr. Sabine Lange, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Dr. Sidney Marlborough, Orion Engineered Carbons LLC; and Dr. Stanley Young, CGStat. Read more [here](#).

On February 23, the EPA finalized a rule adding sodium perfluorohexanesulfonate (PFHxS-Na) to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). Under this rule, businesses in covered industries must begin tracking and reporting any use or release of PFHxS-Na, a well-studied PFAS chemical. The first reporting period began January 1, 2026, and the first reports will be due to the PA by July 1, 2027. PFHxS-Na is the latest PFAS chemical added to the TRI under a process established by Congress in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which directs the EPA to automatically include new PFAS chemicals in the inventory each year. Read more [here](#).

On February 20, the EPA updated guidance on Regional Haze State Implementation Plans (SIPs). The update clarifies that states should consider grid reliability impacts when analyzing the energy and nonair environmental impacts factor as part of the second planning period for Regional Haze SIPs. The clarification aims to ensure that states do not force power plant closures in order to make progress on their SIPs. Although states have always been required to consider energy impacts, effects on grid reliability were not considered. Read more [here](#).

Cassidy and Associates support in March:

- Provided guidance for the FY 27 appropriations process;
- Updated AQMD staff on surface transportation reauthorization;
- Continued conversations on permitting reform efforts in Congress and the Administration;
- Worked with SCAQMD staff to strategize on EPA outreach; and
- Participated in weekly strategy sessions with SCAQMD staff.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE DATES

February 13, 2026 (expired): Deadline to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

September 30, 2025 (expired): The Farm Bill, an omnibus package of legislation that supports US agriculture and food industries, expired in 2023. The bill is reauthorized on a five-year cycle.

September 30, 2026: Deadline to fund the federal government for Fiscal Year 2027.

December 31, 2026: National Defense Authorization Act, which authorizes and funds Department of Defense (DoD) programs and sets the DoD's policy agenda each year.

ATTACHMENT 3B



Carmen Group
I N C O R P O R A T E D

To: South Coast AQMD Legislative Committee
From: Carmen Group
Date: March 18, 2026
Re: Federal Update – Executive Branch

Congress: Following President Trump’s State of the Union address on February 24th, Congress has been largely consumed by broad political dynamics heading into the midterm elections in November. This includes the shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security which is currently on day 27.

In March, House Republicans gathered in Florida for their annual retreat, where the central question was whether to pursue a second budget reconciliation package ahead of the November elections. Prospects for a second reconciliation bill remain unclear, with Speaker Johnson offering no specific policies or timelines and various Committee Chairmen have already expressed skepticism that a reconciliation bill can pass in 2026 with the margins in the House. Meanwhile, the Senate is working to pass a voter ID and election reform law, the SAVE America Act, which President Trump has indicated is his top legislative priority.

The President is expected to release his FY 27 budget outlining his administration’s priority for the year in the coming weeks.

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Inspector General Reports Grants Management Workforce Shortfall: In March, the EPA Office of Inspector General released a [report](#) finding that EPA lacks sufficient staff to adequately manage its portfolio of grants following significant workforce reductions. The IG found that employees are now managing more grants per person than the agency’s own recommended benchmarks, and that EPA has not developed a workforce planning document to address the gap. EPA’s response indicated it would reduce the grants workload rather than expand personnel – an approach the IG did not accept as responsive to the core finding.

EPA Proposes Revisions to Risk Management Program Rule: In late February, EPA [published](#) the Common Sense Approach to Chemical Accident Prevention rule. This rule revises EPA’s Risk Management Program (RMP) regulations by rolling back several provisions of the 2024 Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention (SCCAP) rule. The proposed revisions affect stationary sources subject to chemical accident prevention requirements under Clean Air Act and are framed as a deregulatory action consistent with Executive Order 14192. Public comment on information collection provisions close April 10,

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2026. While the RMP rule primarily governs stationary industrial sources, revisions to chemical accident prevention and emergency response coordination requirements can have localized air quality and community health implications.

Department of Transportation

FTA Announced More than \$100 Million in Funding for 2026 FIFA World Cup Host Cities: This funding originates from appropriations provided by Congress in FY 26 and is being administered by the FTA to help transit agencies manage the significant ridership expected during the World Cup. For the region, LA Metro will receive roughly \$9.6 million to support transit service for the matches scheduled at SoFi Stadium this summer. Metro has indicated these funds will be used to expand rail and bus operations during the event, including additional service, operators and dispatch staff, customer service personnel, and other operational support needed to move large numbers of visitors safely and efficiently. In addition, a majority of the California congressional delegation also sent a [letter](#) to President Trump requesting that his FY 27 budget request to Congress includes an additional \$2 billion for mobility initiatives for the 2028 Olympics.

FTA Announces FY 2026 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program Project Selections: In late February, FTA announced the award of approximately \$388 million for 34 projects under the FY 2026 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program. The awards support projects in 19 states and Puerto Rico, selected from a pool of 479 eligible applications requesting approximately \$6.8 billion in federal funds. Eligible activities include buying and rehabilitating buses and vans, as well as building and rehabilitating bus-related facilities. Six California transit agencies received awards totaling approximately \$82.2 million. Of specific relevance: the Antelope Valley Transit Authority was awarded \$16.64 million to construct an operations and maintenance facility; City of Santa Ana was awarded \$3.4 million to rehabilitate and replace bus infrastructure; the Foothill Transit was awarded \$20.8 million to construct a mobility hub; and the Orange County Transportation Authority was awarded \$960,000 to purchase safety and security equipment for bus facilities.

Outreach: In March, Carmen Group continued to participate in weekly calls with SCAQMD staff and monitored congressional and administrative activities on permitting reform and transportation reauthorization through discussions with committee and agency staff.

ATTACHMENT 3C

KADESH & ASSOCIATES

South Coast AQMD Report for the March 2026
Legislative Meeting covering February 2026
Kadesh & Associates

The lapse in appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security continues. TSA employees have missed at least one paycheck, and the airlines have started weighing in with legislators about airport wait times. The White House and Senate Democrats have exchanged counterproposals, and Democrats in both the Senate and House have proposed votes on funding bills covering TSA, FEMA, and other DHS agencies (excluding ICE and Border Patrol), but there has been no measurable progress in bringing an agreed-to FY26 bill to the floor.

The President's FY27 budget request has not yet been submitted to Congress. Preliminary FY27 budget information is now expected to be released on the last day of March, with a more detailed budget request coming in the middle of April. That preliminary information, often called a "skinny" budget, will be enough for the Appropriations subcommittees to get started on their work. House Appropriations Chair Cole has announced an ambitious schedule for moving FY27 bills through his committee, starting April 17 and wrapping by June 10, to allow the bills to move to the House floor in the summer. This is likely to be derailed, especially if rumors of an FY26 supplemental pick up momentum. Defense funding for operations in Iran would be the cornerstone of any such legislation, but every state has unfunded priorities (such as California wildfire relief), and it is unclear how a supplemental would move forward. Some in the House have suggested using the reconciliation process as a vehicle for the supplemental request, potentially without Democratic votes.

In other legislative matters, House T&I Committee Chair Graves has resumed his optimism for a surface transportation reauthorization bill first part of April. His bill is not yet released, but will not be as expansive as the prior reauthorization, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Separately, Senate Democrats have returned to the negotiating table on permitting. However, rising gas prices and energy market disruptions as a result of conflict in Iran are likely to continue to make these topics difficult for Congress to resolve.

This month, the Senate is focused on the SAVE Act to impose stricter requirements on voting. The Senate is beginning an open amendment process, as a result of the theory (proposed by Sen. Mike Lee of Utah and endorsed by President Trump) that forcing opponents of the bill to hold the floor and carry out a "talking filibuster" will ultimately lead to a simple majority vote. This gives every Senator the opportunity to propose amendments; we will likely see votes on amendments relating to Iran, gas prices, transgender issues, and other topics.

Kadesh & Associates Activity Summary-

-Worked with South Coast AQMD and the congressional delegation on FY26 and FY27 appropriations and other legislative developments.

Contacts: Contacts included staff and Members throughout the CA delegation, Senate offices, and members of key committees.

South Coast Air Quality Management District Legislative and Regulatory Update – March 2026

❖ Important Upcoming Dates

March 26, 2026 –	Spring Recess Begins Upon Adjournment
April 6, 2026 –	Legislature Reconvenes from Spring Recess
April 24, 2026 –	Last day for policy committees to hear fiscal bills

❖ RESOLUTE Actions on Behalf of South Coast AQMD. RESOLUTE partners David Quintana, and Alfredo Arredondo continued their representation of SCAQMD before the State’s Legislative and Executive branches. Selected highlights of our recent advocacy include:

- Provided ongoing updates as the legislature reconvened.
- Followed up on bills for the 2026 legislative session, including for SCAQMD sponsored legislation.

❖ AB 907 (Chen). Assemblymember Philip Chen has introduced AB 907, sponsored legislation for South Coast AQMD dealing with the inequity of pay for AQMD board members appointed to serve on the CA Air Resources Board.

The bill has been referred to Senate Environmental Quality Committee. The bill has been made into a 2-year bill.

❖ Final Bills Amended. On February 20th, the last day for bills to be introduced, there were many spot bills still left to be amended with full language. Throughout March, many spot bills were finally amended with full language. As the committee process continues, we expect more bills to be amended and we will continue to keep SCAQMD staff apprised of developments relevant to the district.

ATTACHMENT 4B

South Coast AQMD, Legislative Committee Report
Buckley Government Affairs LLC
April 10, 2026

Legislative Session Update

February 20th marked the deadline for the Legislature to introduce new bills for the current legislative session. As anticipated, hundreds of measures were introduced in the days leading up to the deadline. In total, 1,260 bills were introduced in the Assembly and 581 in the Senate. Approximately one-third of these measures were “spot bills,” which serve as placeholders for more substantive proposals that may be amended in.

Overall, the total number of bills introduced this year declined significantly due to the bill introduction limits adopted by the Legislature. More than 500 fewer bills were introduced compared to last year, making this the lowest number of bill introductions in the past twenty years.

Under legislative rules, newly introduced bills must remain in print for 30 days before they can be acted upon, allowing time for public review. As a result, the early part of March has largely been devoted to oversight and informational hearings. However, the schedule for policy committee hearings is expected to increase significantly toward the end of March and continue throughout April as committees begin hearing bills.

Budget Update

Preliminary data from California’s tax agencies shows that February 2026 General Fund income tax revenues totaled \$5.9 billion, which was \$42 million below the Governor’s January budget forecast for the month. Despite the slight monthly shortfall, year-to-date revenues remain well above projections. Through the 2025–26 fiscal year to date, General Fund income tax collections are \$6.1 billion (5.6%) above the January budget forecast. Corporation tax revenues are running 9.3% ahead of projections, while personal income tax (PIT) revenues are 4.8% above forecast. Overall, current revenue trends suggest the state may collect significantly more revenue than projected in the Governor’s January budget for both the 2025–26 and 2026–27 fiscal years.

However, a significant portion of any additional revenue would likely be directed toward school funding and reserve deposits under constitutional requirements.

Additionally, The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) noted that significant stock market downturns have historically had a substantial impact on California's tax collections. According to the LAO, state income tax growth typically lags stock market turning points by six to twelve months. Prior to past downturns, tax revenues have generally grown at a strong pace, often fueled by the same stock market gains that preceded the decline. Once markets fall, revenue growth tends to slow, then stall, and eventually turn negative. At this point, we have not seen the stock market downturn, but it remains something the state is closely watching.

ATTACHMENT 4C



Joe A. Gonsalves & Son

Anthony D. Gonsalves

Jason A. Gonsalves

Paul A. Gonsalves

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TO: South Coast AQMD
FROM: Anthony, Jason & Paul Gonsalves
SUBJECT: Legislative Update – March 2026
DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

The beginning of March is typically slow in Sacramento, as all new bills had to be introduced by February 20th and all bills must be in print for 30 days before they are eligible to be heard in Committee. Given the constitutional requirements for bills to be heard, Legislative Policy Committees will start in the second half of March. The Legislature adjourns for Spring Recess on March 26, 2026 and will return on April 6, 2026.

In March, the California Legislature largely transitioned from the bill-introduction phase into the policy development and committee review stage, which is where the real shaping of legislation begins. Lawmakers spent the month vetting proposals, negotiating with stakeholders, and proposing amendments to their bills.

Legislators continued advancing California's broader climate and energy agenda, with the Senate Budget Committee holding a hearing on Cap-and-Invest. This hearing was focused on the Legislature's priorities and was the official kick-off to negotiations with the Governor on how to allocate Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) monies.

Overall, March 2026 was less about final legislative outcomes and more about refining priorities and testing political viability. The Legislature used this period to signal which policy areas will move forward later in the year, with clear emphasis on affordability, climate transition, and infrastructure, while beginning the detailed work that will shape final negotiations heading into the spring and summer.

The following will provide you with updates of interest to the District:

SENATE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #2 HEARING: CAP-AND-INVEST

On March 5, 2026 the Senate Budget Subcommittee #2 held a hearing where they focused in part on the implementation of California's evolving "Cap-and-Invest" program, reflecting the Legislature's growing role in shaping the future of the state's carbon market. The conversation reflected a broader shift away from viewing cap-and-

trade solely as a market mechanism and more toward treating cap-and-invest as a major state funding source for climate programs. Lawmakers emphasized the need to maintain the program's core purpose while improving transparency and ensuring that revenue collection and reinvestment are clearly aligned with statutory goals.

A central focus of the hearing was the use of Cap-and-Invest revenues, particularly those deposited into the GGRF. Legislators raised concerns about whether expenditures are sufficiently tied to measurable emissions reductions and whether funds are being directed toward their intended purposes. In this context, there was notable discussion around CAL FIRE funding, with several legislators expressing concern about proposals to rely on GGRF dollars to support wildfire prevention and response activities. While acknowledging the climate-related connection between wildfires and emissions, lawmakers signaled that there is resistance to using GGRF as a backfill for core state responsibilities, like firefighting. The sentiment expressed was that CAL FIRE should be funded through the General Fund, and that diverting Cap-and-Invest revenues to cover these costs risks diluting the program's focus on direct greenhouse gas reduction and climate investments.

Affordability and economic impacts were also key themes. Legislators discussed the effect of the program on fuel prices, energy costs, and broader cost-of-living pressures, highlighting the need to balance climate ambition with economic realities. Concerns were raised about impacts on consumers, particularly low-income households, as well as on businesses operating in competitive markets. This reflects an ongoing legislative effort to ensure that climate policies are implemented in a way that does not disproportionately burden vulnerable communities or key sectors of the economy.

Finally, the hearing underscored questions about the role of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in designing and implementing the Cap-and-Invest program. While CARB retains primary regulatory authority, legislators indicated a desire for stronger oversight and clearer alignment with legislative intent, particularly given the scale of funding involved.

SENATE JOINT INFORMATIONAL HEARING: "HOW AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS HAVE MADE USE OF CAP-AND-INVEST FUNDS"

On March 17, 2026, the California Senate Agriculture Committee and the Senate Environmental Quality Committee held a joint informational hearing focused on evaluating how agricultural programs have used revenues from the state's Cap-and-Invest program. Lawmakers, state agencies, researchers, and agricultural stakeholders discussed how GGRF funds have been allocated to climate-smart agriculture initiatives such as Healthy Soils, water efficiency (SWEEP), methane reduction, and farmland conservation. While these programs were widely viewed as effective in reducing emissions and improving resilience, a central concern raised throughout the hearing was that funding for agriculture has been inconsistent and unpredictable, often fluctuating year to year and making long-term planning difficult for farmers and program administrators.

Stakeholders emphasized that, despite agriculture's role as both a contributor to and solution for climate change, the sector has not received consistent or recent funding allocations from Cap-and-Invest revenues. This perceived gap between policy intent and actual budget outcomes led to calls for more stable, dedicated funding streams.

Stakeholder groups, including agricultural organizations, advocated for significant new investments across multiple programs, arguing that reliable funding would accelerate emissions reductions, support farm viability, and enhance environmental co-benefits such as improved soil health and water conservation. At the same time, recent legislative changes extending the Cap-and-Invest program through 2045 were noted as an opportunity to create more structured, multi-year funding plans that could better include agriculture, though specific funding commitments remain unresolved.

Overall, the hearing highlighted a growing consensus that agriculture should play a larger, more clearly supported role in California's climate strategy. Policymakers acknowledged the need to balance ambitious emissions reduction goals with the economic realities faced by farmers, particularly as broader changes to the Cap-and-Invest program may increase costs across the supply chain.

GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

On March 10, 2026, David Silva, of Buellton, was appointed to the California Air Resources Board. Silva has been Mayor of the City of Buellton since 2024 and Senior Director of Development for Annual Giving Programs at the University of California, Santa Barbara since 2024. He was a City Councilmember for the City of Buellton from 2022 to 2024. Silva held multiple roles at the University of California, Santa Barbara from 2015 to 2017, including Director for Development for Annual Giving Programs, Director of Development for Digital Fundraising and Annual Giving, Assistant Director of Development for Digital Fundraising, and Director of Business Development. He held multiple roles at Hilton Worldwide from 2013 to 2014, including Sales Manager and Guest Services Manager. Silva is on the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. This position requires Senate confirmation.

2026 LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

Apr. 24 - Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees' fiscal bills introduced in their house.

May 1 - Last day for policy committees to hear and report to the Floor non-fiscal bills introduced in their house.

May 8 - Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 1.

May 15 - Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house. Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 1.

May 26 – 29 - Floor Session only. No committees, other than conference or Rules committees, may meet for any purpose.

May 29 - Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house

June 1 - Committee meetings may resume.

June 15 - Budget Bill must be passed by midnight.

June 25 - Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 3 General Election ballot.

July 2 - Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills. Summer Recess begins upon adjournment of session, provided Budget Bill has passed.

Aug. 3 - Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess.

Aug. 14 - Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the Floor.

Aug. 17 – 31 - Floor Session only. No committee, other than conference and Rules committees, may meet for any purpose.

Aug. 21 - Last day to amend on the Floor.

Aug. 31 - Last day for each house to pass bills. Final recess begins upon adjournment.