

# **California State Legislature**

Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities  
and Communications

## **2011-2012 Legislative Bill Summary**

Senator Alex Padilla, Chairman

Chief Consultant  
Kellie Smith

Principal Consultant  
Jacqueline Kinney

Committee Assistant  
Melanie Cain

## INTRODUCTION

This publication is a comprehensive collection of summaries for bills that the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communication considered during the 2011-2012 legislative session. This report also contains summaries for legislation that the consultants for the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communication deem worthy of the committee's attention, yet were not assigned to the committee. This report does not reflect bills not considered in the Senate. Each bill summary includes the final status of the bill in italics. For your convenience, bills that the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law are listed along with their chapter numbers. In general, chaptered legislation will go into effect on January 1, 2013. Bills that contain an urgency clause (not noted in this document) took effect immediately upon the governor's signature.

The committee uses the following abbreviations throughout this summary:

ARRA = American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
CARE = California Alternate Rates for Energy Program  
CAISO = California Independent System Operator  
CARB = California Air Resources Board  
CAEATFA = California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority  
CEC = California Energy Commission  
CCA = Community Choice Aggregation  
CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act  
CPUC = California Public Utilities Commission  
CSI = California Solar Initiative  
ECAA = Energy Conservation Assistance Account  
EPIC = Electric Program Investment Charge  
FiT = Feed-in-Tariff  
IOU = Investor-Owned Utilities  
MW = Megawatts  
NEM = Net Energy Metering  
POU = Publicly-Owned Electric Utilities  
PGC = Public Goods Charge  
PIER = Public Interest Energy Research  
RPS = Renewables Portfolio Standard  
SGIP = Self Generation Incentive Program

The Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communication staff remains at your disposal to answer any questions regarding the content of this publication.

Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communication  
State Capitol, Room 5046  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4107  
Website: <http://seuc.senate.ca.gov/>

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## Informational Hearings

February 1, 2011	Overview and Status of RPS
February 4, 2011	Informational Hearing in Los Angeles: Telephone Service Outages and Infrastructure Needs
March 1, 2011	PIER Part 2
March 29, 2011	Public Goods Charge and the Renewable Resources Trust Fund
April 14, 2011	After Japan: Nuclear Power Plant Safety in California
May 17, 2011	Energy Efficiency: Is California's Top Energy Efficiency Strategy Working?
June 7, 2011	Energy Efficiency: Is California's Top Energy Efficiency Strategy Working?-Part 2
August 1, 2011	Allocation and Administration of ARRA funding by CEC and Department of Community Services and Development
August 16, 2011	California Public Utilities Commission Annual Overview
August 31, 2011	Joint Informational Hearing - Clean Energy Jobs and Investment Act
October 19, 2011	Joint Informational Hearing - Advanced Transportation and Alternative Sources Manufacturing Sales and Use Tax Exclusion Program
October 31, 2011	Allocation and Administration of ARRA Funding by CEC and Department of Community Services and Development
December 15, 2011	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power: Clean Energy Programs and Progress
March 20, 2012	Apps, Internet Services, and the 21st Century Global Telecommunications Network
March 21, 2012	The Role of Advanced Manufacturing in California's Future Economy
August 7, 2012	California Public Utilities Commission Annual Update

## California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority

### **SB 771 (Kehoe) – California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority.**

This bill specifies that landfill and digester gas turbines, engines, and microturbines may be considered renewable energy eligible for financial assistance under the CAEATFA Act. *Signed into law. Chapter 598, Statutes of 2011.*

### **SB 1128 (Padilla) – Energy: alternative energy financing.**

This bill expands, until July 1, 2016, the sales and use tax exemption under the CAEATFA program to include “advanced manufacturing,” and makes technical clarifying changes to other provisions related to the program, including updating the definition of advanced transportation technologies and alternative energy sources. *Signed into law. Chapter 677, Statutes of 2012.*

### **AB 796 (Blumenfield) – Financial assistance: Clean Energy Economy and Jobs Incentive Program.**

This bill requires the CAEATFA to establish the Clean Energy Economy and Jobs Incentive Program to provide financial assistance to eligible California-based entities for the manufacturing of eligible technologies until January 1, 2018. *Vetoed.*

### **ABx1 14 (Skinner, Bradford, Chesbro, V. Manuel Pérez) – Energy: energy upgrade financing.**

This bill authorizes the CAEATFA to provide financial support to lenders to facilitate projects for energy and water conservation and renewable energy. The fund source is \$50 million originally appropriated in SB 77 (Pavley), Chapter 15, Statutes of 2010. *Signed into law. Chapter 9, Statutes of 2011-12 First Extraordinary Session.*

## California Energy Commission

### **AB 2227 (Bradford) – Local publicly owned electric utilities: State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: reporting.**

This bill recasts and revises the reporting requirements of the POUs to the CEC for energy efficiency, the RPS, the CSI, and other programs which are intended to result in a streamlining and consolidation of reporting requirements. *Signed into law. Chapter 606, Statutes of 2012.*

## Direct Access & Community Choice Aggregation

### **SB 383 (Wolk) – Community-Based Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program.**

This bill allows a customer of an IOU to purchase electricity directly from an independent producer of renewable generation under specified conditions. *This bill was later amended to address an issue outside of the committee’s jurisdiction.*

**SB 790 (Leno) – Electricity: community choice aggregation.**

This bill revises and expands the definition of CCAs, requires the CPUC to initiate a code of conduct rulemaking, and allow CCAs to receive public purpose funds to administer energy efficiency programs. *Signed into law. Chapter 599, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 843 (Wolk) – Energy: electrical corporations: City of Davis PVUSA solar facility: Community-Based Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program.**

This bill allows a customer of an IOU to purchase electricity directly from an independent producer of renewable generation under specified conditions. *Failed passage in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.*

**AB 976 (Hall) – Public contracts: consulting services: community choice aggregators.**

This bill prohibits an individual or business that has been contracted with a local government to advise it on the formation of a CCA from bidding on subsequent contracts that were influenced by their previous contract. *Vetoed.*

## Distributed Generation

**SB 58 (Runner) – Antelope Valley Fairgrounds EE and PV Synergy Demonstration Project.**

This bill extends the sunset date on the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds EE and PV Synergy Demonstration Project until January 1, 2018. *Held in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 370 (Blakeslee) – Energy: net energy metering.**

This bill permits agricultural electricity customers who have installed solar or wind generation systems to aggregate and apply the electricity use of adjacent properties to the NEM tariff. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**SB 372 (Blakeslee) – Distributed generation.**

This bill requires all large IOUs and POUs to identify and designate zones within their service territory that are optimal for deployment of distributed generation. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 489 (Wolk) – Electricity: net energy metering.**

This bill expands the generation resources eligible for the NEM tariff to include all renewable electrical generation facilities. *Signed into law. Chapter 593, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 585 (Kehoe) – Energy: solar energy systems: funding.**

This bill authorizes an additional \$200 million for the CSI program to be collected from ratepayers in the territories of the three largest IOUs. *Signed into law. Chapter 312, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 682 (Calderon) – Energy: clean distributed generation units: oil and gas extraction.**

This bill directs the CPUC to establish a FiT for the purchase of electricity generated by fuel cells or microturbines that use waste or stranded gas associated with oil and gas extraction or a

microturbine that runs off of any fuel source. *This bill was later amended to address an issue outside of the committee's jurisdiction.*

**SB 1122 (Rubio) – Energy: renewable bioenergy projects.**

This bill expands the Renewable Market Adjusting Tariff (FiT program) to require that 250 MWs of generation be dedicated to developing bioenergy projects. *Signed into law. Chapter 612, Statutes of 2012.*

**SB 1332 (Negrete McLeod) – Renewable energy resources: electric utilities.**

This bill requires that POUs adopt previously mandated FiT programs by July 1, 2013. *Signed into law. Chapter 616, Statutes of 2012.*

**SB 1537 (Kehoe) – Energy: rates: net energy metering.**

This bill prohibits the CPUC from adopting any new demand charge, standby charge, customer charge, minimum monthly charge, interconnection charge, or other fixed charge that applies only to customers on the NEM tariff until January 1, 2014. *Vetoed.*

**AB 512 (Gordon) – Local government renewable energy self-generation program.**

This bill expands the size of facilities eligible under the Renewable Energy Self-Generation Bill Credit Transfer Program from 1 MW to 5 MW. *Signed into law. Chapter 478, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 864 (Huffman) – Electricity: self-generation incentive program.**

This bill expands the size of eligible facilities under the SGIP to 10 MW but incentives would be paid for up to 5 MW. Incentives for technologies greater than 3 MW in size would be based on a declining schedule. *Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee without a hearing.*

**AB 1150 (V. Manuel Pérez) – Self-generation incentive program.**

This bill extends funding for the SGIP through December 31, 2014 and authorizes \$83 million each year to fund eligible technologies. *Signed into law. Chapter 310, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 1302 (Williams) – Distributed generation.**

This bill requires IOUs to designate areas within their service territories as optimal for deployment of distributed generation. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**AB 1990 (Fong) – Renewable energy resources: renewable feed-in tariff set aside for most impacted and disadvantaged communities.**

This bill expands the Renewable Market Adjusting Tariff (FiT program) to require that 125 MWs of generation is dedicated to developing 500 kilowatt facilities in economically disadvantaged communities. Specified POUs are also required to allocate an additional 65 MWs to developing those facilities in their territories. *Held at the Senate desk.*

**AB 2075 (Fong) – Net energy metering: fuel cell electrical generating facilities.**

This bill increases the capacity of fuel cell electrical generating facilities eligible for the fuel cell NEM tariff from 1 MW to 3 MWs. *Failed passage in the Senate Energy, Utilities and*

Communications Committee. (See also AB 2075 as amended March 29, 2012 in “Power Plant Siting.”)

**AB 2165 (Hill) – Net energy metering: eligible fuel cell customer-generators.**

This bill increases the statewide program cap on fuel cell NEM to 500 MW of capacity in IOU territories and extends the program sunset to January 1, 2015. *Signed into law. Chapter 603, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2249 (Buchanan) – Solar Water Heating and Efficiency Act of 2007.**

This bill expands eligibility for incentives under the CSI thermal program to include multifamily residential, governmental, educational, and nonprofit solar pool heating systems. *Signed into law. Chapter 607, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2514 (Bradford) – Net energy metering.**

This bill requires the CPUC to complete a study on the full costs and benefits of the NEM tariff program by October 1, 2013. *Signed into law. Chapter 609, Statutes of 2012.*

## Energy Efficiency

**SB 343 (De León) – Energy: efficiency.**

This bill requires the CPUC, in consultation with the CEC and CAEATFA, to determine appropriate energy efficiency financing measures, programs, and funding sources for the residential, commercial and public building sectors in order to achieve state energy efficiency goals. *Held in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 454 (Pavley) – Energy efficiency standards.**

This bill authorizes the CEC to adopt an administrative enforcement process, including civil penalties, for violations of its appliance efficiency standards and requires utility energy efficiency rebates to be provided only if work complies with applicable permitting and contractor licensing requirements. *Signed into law. Chapter 591, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 564 (Evans) – Energy efficiency.**

This bill requires the CEC to ensure that local and regional interests, multifamily dwellings, and energy service industry capabilities are incorporated into utility energy efficiency programs and to encourage participation from local governments, community-based organizations, and energy efficiency service providers in program design, revision, and implementation, where appropriate. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 679 (Pavley) – Energy: energy conservation projects: financial assistance: local governments and public institutions.**

This bill appropriates \$25 million to the Energy Conservation Assistance Account (ECAA) administered by the CEC to provide loans to local agencies and nonprofit institutions for energy efficiency projects. *Signed into law. Chapter 597, Statutes of 2011.*



**SB 1130 (De León) – Energy: energy assessment: nonresidential buildings: financing.**

This bill requires the CEC to establish a program to provide financial assistance through revenue bonds for owners of nonresidential buildings to implement energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy generation. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**SB 1268 (Pavley) – Energy: energy conservation assistance.**

This bill extends the ECAA program administered by the CEC to provide loans to local agencies and nonprofit institutions for energy efficiency projects and conforms the interest rate for loans for a related program. *Signed into law. Chapter 615, Statutes of 2012.*

**SBx1 29 (Steinberg, Pavley) – Energy: energy efficiency programs.**

This bill requires the CPUC to fund mechanisms to finance comprehensive energy efficiency retrofits of specified building sectors. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**AB 904 (Skinner) – Energy efficiency.**

This bill requires the CPUC to evaluate reasonable alternatives for financing residential energy efficiency retrofits, including efficiency-improvements of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, and to consult and coordinate with the CEC for this purpose. *This bill was later amended to address an issue outside of the committee's jurisdiction.*

**AB 1124 (Skinner) – Landlord and tenant.**

This bill provides that statutory multifamily habitability requirements shall not be interpreted to prohibit a tenant or owner of rental properties from qualifying for heating and hot water system repair or replacement under a utility energy efficiency program. *Signed into law. Chapter 600, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 1186 (Skinner) – School Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act: grants.**

This bill requires the CEC, with funds to be appropriated by the Legislature from revenues from the sale of emissions credits from the CARB cap and trade program, to award grants to K-12 schools for energy efficiency projects through the existing Bright Schools program. *Vetoed.*

**AB 1392 (Bradford, Williams) – Energy.**

This bill authorizes the CEC to transfer an additional \$50 million of 2009 ARRA funds to the Department of General Services for the Energy Efficient State Property Revolving Loan Program in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 fiscal years to help finance energy efficiency retrofits in state buildings and avoid reversion of funds to the federal government. *Signed into law. Chapter 488, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 1850 (Charles Calderon) – Energy: appliance efficiency.**

This bill provides that CEC battery charger labeling regulations do not become effective and prohibits the enforcement of those regulations if, no later than January 31, 2013, the United States Department of Energy issues a decision adopting a federal labeling requirement for battery chargers that becomes effective no later than July 1, 2013. *Held at the Senate desk.*

**AB 2408 (Skinner) – CEC: Energy efficiency.**

This bill repeals the requirement that activities undertaken by the CEC to develop a comprehensive program to achieve greater energy savings in existing residential and nonresidential buildings, formally known as the Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Program for Existing Buildings (AB 758 Program), be funded by the ARRA. *This bill was later amended to address an issue outside of the committee’s jurisdiction.*

**AB 2409 (Allen) – Energy efficiency.**

This bill requires the CEC to review emerging technology financing models used in other states to finance energy efficiency technology deployments and services that maximize private sector investment in California and authorizes the CEC to establish and consult with an investment advisory group, consisting of private and public investors, for this purpose. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

## **Gas Pipeline Safety**

**SB 44 (Corbett) – Public utilities: gas pipeline emergency response standards.**

This bill requires the CPUC to set emergency response standards for commission-regulated gas pipeline and distribution systems and requires that access to pipeline maps be made accessible to the State Fire Marshal and the local fire marshal. *Signed into law. Chapter 520, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 216 (Yee) – Public utilities: intrastate natural gas pipeline safety.**

This bill requires automatic shut off or remote controlled valves on intrastate natural gas transmission lines located in “high consequence areas” or that traverse active seismic earthquake fault lines if the CPUC determines the valves are necessary for the protection of the public, unless prohibited by federal law. *Signed into law. Chapter 521, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 705 (Leno) – Natural gas: service and safety.**

This bill requires natural gas utilities regulated by the CPUC to develop service and safety plans. *Signed into law. Chapter 522, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 879 (Padilla) – Natural gas pipelines: safety.**

This bill requires gas corporations to establish and maintain a one-way balancing account for the recovery expenses for the inspection, maintenance, or repair of natural gas transmission pipelines authorized in any ratemaking proceeding and increases the penalties for violations of statute, commission rules, orders, or other directives from \$20,000 to \$50,000. *Signed into law. Chapter 523, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 1350 (Leno) – Public utilities: fines and penalties.**

This bill allows the CPUC to use fines or penalties levied against a gas corporation to offset the cost of gas safety investments and expenses instead of depositing the fines in the General Fund as required by existing law. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**AB 56 (Hill) – Gas corporations: rate recovery and expenditure: intrastate pipeline safety.**

This bill implements numerous safety-related measures regarding the operation of natural gas pipeline facilities regulated by the CPUC. *Signed into law. Chapter 519, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 478 (Hill) – Gas Corporations: fines and penalties.**

This bill authorizes CPUC to use fines or penalties levied against a gas corporation to offset the cost of gas safety investments and expenses instead of depositing the fines in the General Fund as required by existing law. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**AB 578 (Hill) – Public utilities: natural gas pipelines: safety.**

This bill requires the CPUC to formally respond to certain safety recommendations concerning gas pipeline safety made by the federal National Transportation Safety Board and federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. *Signed into law. Chapter 462, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 1456 (Hill) – Gas corporations: safety performance metrics: rate incentive program.**

This bill requires the CPUC to perform an analysis of benchmark data and adopt safety performance metrics for pipeline safety and permits the CPUC to implement a rate incentive program related to safety that contains penalties using safety performance metrics. *Signed into law. Chapter 469, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 1694 (Fuentes) – Gas pipeline safety inspections.**

This bill requires the CPUC to inspect mobilehome parks and propane suppliers at least once every seven years utilizing a risk-based assessment schedule. *Signed into law. Chapter 112, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2559 (Buchanan) – Local government: pipeline projects: approval.**

This bill provides the state's gas utilities with expedited ministerial permitting for pipeline inspection, remediation, removal and replacement work undertaken pursuant to pipeline integrity management. *Signed into law. Chapter 486, Statutes of 2012.*

## **Miscellaneous CPUC Programs & Requirements**

**SB 481 (Wright) – Electrical restructuring: information practices.**

This bill requires the CPUC to compile and regularly update specific consumer information regarding electrical service every six months. *This bill was later amended to address an issue outside of the committee's jurisdiction.*

**SB 981 (Yee) – Public Utilities Commission: commissioners: executive employees.**

This bill restricts the hiring of former employees of public utilities by the CPUC and the appointment of commissioners previously employed by a public utility to the CPUC. Former commissioners and CPUC employees are limited in their ability to represent public utilities before the CPUC. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**SB 1000 (Yee) – Public Utilities Commission: records.**

This bill requires CPUC investigation orders, recommendations, and accident reports to be made publicly available pursuant to the California Public Records Act. *Failed passage in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.*

**SB 1165 (Wright) – Public Utilities Commission: intervenor compensation.**

This bill expands the intervenor compensation program at the CPUC to allow school districts, county offices of education, and community college districts to receive compensation for contributions to CPUC decisions. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**SB 1403 (Yee) – Public Utilities Commission.**

This bill shifts management responsibilities for the executive director, the attorney, and other staff of the commission, except for the Division of Ratepayer Advocates, from the CPUC president to the full commission and also requires the commission to assign cases by majority vote of the full commission. *This bill was later amended to address an issue outside of the committee's jurisdiction.*

**SB 1533 (Padilla) – Energy crisis litigation.**

This bill authorizes the Attorney General, until January 1, 2016, to succeed the Electricity Oversight Board in any litigation or settlement to obtain electricity ratepayer relief as a result of the 2000-02 energy crisis. *Signed into law. Chapter 226, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 861 (Hill) – Public Utilities Act: remedies for violation: gas and electrical corporation executive officer compensation incentives.**

This bill directs the CPUC to determine whether earnings-based incentives paid to executives should be paid for through rates or by shareholders and increases the maximum fines for offenses by the officers, agents and employees of public utilities, and individuals not related to a utility, who fail to comply with a utility law or CPUC requirement. *Signed into law. Chapter 464, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 1055 (Hill) – Public Utilities Commission: solicitation of contributions from regulated persons or corporations.**

This bill prohibits a commissioner or employee of the CPUC from knowingly soliciting charitable, political, or other contributions from any person or corporation subject to regulation by the CPUC, or from any person that represents any entity subject to CPUC regulation. *Vetoed.*

**AB 1390 (Committee on Utilities and Commerce) – Energy crisis litigation.**

This bill requires the Attorney General, until January 1, 2013, to succeed the Electricity Oversight Board in any litigation or settlement to obtain electricity ratepayer relief as a result of the 2000-02 energy crisis. *Signed into law. Chapter 179, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 1541 (Dickinson) – Public Utilities Commission: public records.**

This would revise exemption and disclosure provisions under the Public Records Act related to information filed with the CPUC by public utilities and other businesses regulated by the CPUC. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**AB 1650 (Portantino) – Public utilities: emergency and disaster preparedness.**

This bill requires the CPUC to establish standards for utility disaster and emergency preparedness plans. *Signed into law. Chapter 472, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2584 (Bradford) – Electrical corporations: investigations.**

This bill requires electric corporations to fully cooperate with the CPUC in its investigations. *Signed into law. Chapter 262, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2696 (Committee on Utilities and Commerce) – Energy.**

This bill modifies incorrect Public Utilities Code references to code sections that were moved or repealed as a result of other enacted statutes. This bill renumbers several sections of the Public Utilities Code and revises grammar and cross-references to other code sections. *Held at the Senate Desk.*

## Other Businesses Regulated by the CPUC

**AB 45 (Hill) – Charter-party carriers of passengers: alcoholic beverages: open containers.**

This bill revises procedures that charter-party carriers (limousines and busses for hire) are required to follow in connection consumption of alcoholic beverages when a carrier has passengers under 21 years of age and makes a driver or carrier who violates these requirements subject to civil penalties imposed by the CPUC. *Signed into law. Chapter 461, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 631 (Ma) – Public utilities: electric vehicle charging stations.**

This bill exempts from the definition of a public utility a facility that supplies electricity to the public only for use to charge light duty plug-in electric vehicles. *Signed into law. Chapter 480, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 838 (Hill) – Charter-party carriers of passengers: reports.**

This bill provides that a charter party carrier waybill or trip report may be kept, and provided to a public safety official upon request, in either electronic or hardcopy format. *Signed into law. Chapter 341, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 1524 (Allen) – Commercial air carriers: hot air balloons.**

This bill strikes all sunset clauses thereby permanently exempting commercial balloon operators from regulation by the CPUC and maintaining local oversight and mandatory insurance requirements. *Signed into law. Chapter 108, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2118 (Butler) – Household goods carriers.**

This bill increases the authority of the CPUC to regulate moving companies (household goods carriers). *Signed into law. Chapter 544, Statutes of 2012.*

## Power Plant Siting

### **SB 440 (Vargas) – Public resources: power facility and site certification: geothermal powerplants.**

This bill would authorize a county, that has in effect an equivalent certification program approved by the commission, to site a geothermal powerplant of up to 100 MWs under its program. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

### **AB 644 (Blumenfeld) – Energy: renewable energy facility: siting.**

This bill requires the CEC to establish criteria for identifying closed disposal sites, brownfields, and degraded agricultural lands that have high potential for use as sites for renewable generation facilities, and prepare a list of lands that meet these criteria. *This bill was later amended to address an issue outside of the committee's jurisdiction.*

### **AB 982 (Skinner) – Energy: land exchange for renewable energy-related projects.**

This bill requires the State Lands Commission to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to facilitate land exchanges consolidating school land parcels into contiguous holdings that are suitable for renewable energy-related projects. *Signed into law. Chapter 485, Statutes of 2011.*

### **AB 1073 (Fuentes) – Energy: solar thermal powerplants: conversion to solar photovoltaic technology.**

This bill specifies that the CEC may retain jurisdiction over the siting of specific solar thermal powerplants that seek to convert to solar photovoltaic technology, even if the siting of that powerplant has been challenged in court, so long as that challenge has been dismissed by the California Supreme Court. *Signed into law. Chapter 14, Statutes of 2012.*

### **AB 2075 (Fong) – California Energy Commission, siting jurisdiction**

As amended in March, 2012, this bill clarifies current law which restricts the CEC from accepting applications to site non-thermal powerplants and prohibits the CEC from accepting siting permits for thermal generation projects sized less than 50 MW. (See also AB 2075 as amended August 6, 2012 in “Distributed Generation.”) *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

### **AB 2161 (Achadjian) – Energy: renewable energy resources.**

This bill adds San Luis Obispo to the list of counties which are eligible for grants from the CEC for the development or revision of rules and policies including general plan elements, zoning ordinances, and natural community conservation plans, that facilitate the development of renewable energy resources and associated transmission facilities. *Signed into law. Chapter 250, Statutes of 2012.*

## Public Goods Charge/Research

### **SB 35 (Padilla) – California Energy Research and Technology Act of 2011.**

This bill repeals the PIER and Renewable Energy programs, and establishes the California Energy Research and Technology Program for the purpose of funding energy-related research, development, and demonstration. See also SB 870 (Padilla). *Held in Assembly Natural Resources Committee in this form. This bill was later amended to address an issue outside of the committee's jurisdiction.*

### **SB 37 (Simitian) – Energy: State Energy Resources Conservation and Development**

#### **Commission: natural gas.**

This bill requires the CEC to conduct a needs assessment for liquefied natural gas terminals and to revise that assessment when new terminal facilities are proposed. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

### **SB 410 (Wright) – Energy: Public Interest Research, Development, and Demonstration Program.**

This bill extends the sunset of the PIER Program to 2022. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

### **SB 870 (Padilla, Steinberg) – Energy: Clean Energy Innovation Program: natural gas surcharge.**

This bill establishes the California Energy Innovation Program for the purpose of funding energy-related research, development, and demonstration, contingent on reauthorization of PGC funding for RD&D. *Held at the Assembly desk.*

### **SB 1496 (Simitian) – Energy: State Energy Resources Conservation and Development**

#### **Commission: natural gas.**

This bill requires the CEC to conduct, update and publish specified assessments of liquefied natural gas and requires specific analysis to be included in an environmental impact report for an onshore or offshore LNG terminal in California. *Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

### **SBx1 28 (Padilla, Steinberg) – Clean Energy Jobs and Investment Act.**

This bill would repeal the PIER program, establishes the Clean Energy Jobs and Investment Act, and extends authorization for the collection of the PGC through January 1, 2020. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

### **AB 306 (Gatto) – Energy: piezoelectric transducers: study.**

This bill requires, until January 1, 2015, the CEC to conduct research on generating electricity using piezoelectric technology under roadways and railways and establish pilot projects employing this technology. *Vetoed.*

### **AB 723 (Bradford) – Energy: public goods charge.**

This bill extends the authorization for the collection of the PGC through January 1, 2020, transfers all funds collected under orders of the CPUC for the EPIC to the CEC, and allocates

funds remaining in the Renewable Resources Trust Fund. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**AB 724 (Bradford) – Clean Energy Jobs and Investment Act.**

This bill extends the authorization for the collection of the PGC through January 1, 2020 for specified purposes and requires the CPUC to develop and authorize fund mechanisms to finance comprehensive energy efficiency programs for residential, commercial, industrial, and public building sectors. *Failed passage on the Senate Floor.*

**AB 1303 (Williams) – Energy programs.**

This bill extends the authorization for the collection of the PGC through January 1, 2020 for specified purposes. *This bill was later amended to address an issue outside of the committee’s jurisdiction.*

**AB 2339 (Williams) – Energy: geothermal technologies.**

This bill requires the CEC to evaluate and recommend policies and implementation strategies related to overcoming barriers to the deployment and use of geothermal heat pumps and geothermal ground loop technologies and to include those evaluations and recommendations in the Integrated Energy Policy report. *Signed into law. Chapter 608, Statutes of 2012.*

## **Rates & Procurement**

**SB 142 (Rubio) – Electrical rates.**

This bill eliminates the caps on electric rates for customers enrolled in the CARE program in effect through 2018 and requires the CPUC to adjust electric rates to implement, by January 1, 2015, tiered residential electricity rates pursuant to specified ratepayer fairness and equity principles. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 672 (Fuller) – Electricity: rates: interregional parity.**

This bill expands the direct access cap for all customers to the average provided by each IOU through January 1, 2012 and eliminates the cap on direct access for all nonresidential, not-for-profit end-use customers. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 998 (De León) – Energy efficiency, renewable energy, and distributed generation on-bill repayment programs.**

This bill requires large IOUs to establish on-bill repayment programs for eligible energy efficiency, renewable energy, and distributed generation investments and disconnect a customer’s service for non-payment of the loan. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**SB 1207 (Fuller) – California Alternate Rates for Energy program.**

This bill authorizes IOUs to take specified actions for those CARE customers whose electricity usage exceeds 400% or 600% of baseline usage. *Signed into law. Chapter 613, Statutes of 2012.*



**SB 1364 (Huff) – Water corporations.**

This bill subjects water corporations with more than 2,000 service connections to the same audit powers of the CPUC as electrical, gas, and telephone corporations, and requires those water corporations to include more specific information in its notices to ratepayers regarding potential rate increases. *Signed into law. Chapter 224, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 1755 (Perea) – Electricity: rates.**

This bill permits the CPUC to approved fixed charges for residential customers beyond the statutory caps on rate increases for tier 1 and 2 customers to cover the fixed costs of electric service if commission finds the charges are just and reasonable and will provide rate relief to upper tier customers. *Held at the Senate desk.*

**AB 1830 (V. Manuel Pérez) – Water service: mobilehome parks.**

This bill requires the CPUC to order a mobilehome park that has charged an unjust or unreasonable rate for water service, to reimburse current and former tenants affected by the rate. *Signed into law. Chapter 539, Statutes of 2012.*

## **Regulatory Agencies/Administration**

**SB 669 (Rubio) – Greenhouse gas reduction: carbon sequestration.**

This bill designates the CEC as the lead agency responsible for carbon capture and storage projects under CEQA and requires the CEC to coordinate the development of performance standards and other operational measures for carbon capture and storage sites. Up to 600 MWs of generating capacity would also be guaranteed electric rate recovery. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 1409 (Pavley) – Office of Planning and Research: energy security.**

This bill enhances the duties of the Office of Planning and Research to include serving as a liaison between the state and the U.S. Department of Defense on energy and environmental policy. *Signed into law. Chapter 617, Statutes of 2012.*

**SBx1 1 (Steinberg) – Partnership academies: Clean Technology and Renewable Energy Job Training, Career Technical Education, and Dropout Prevention Program.**

This bill establishes the Clean Technology and Renewable Energy Job Training, Career Technical Education, and Dropout Prevention Program for the purpose of creating California Partnership Academies that focus on clean technology and renewable energy businesses. *Signed into law. Chapter 2, Statutes of 2011-12 First Extraordinary Session.*

## **Renewables**

**SB 23 (Simitian) – Energy: renewable energy resources.**

This bill makes a number of technical and substantive changes to the RPS program as adopted in SBx1 2 (Simitian). *Held at the Senate desk.*

**SB 297 (Cannella) – Renewable energy resources: hydroelectric generation.**

This bill revises the definition of an eligible renewable energy resource to include a hydroelectric generation facility of any size. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 836 (Padilla) – Renewable energy resources: cost reporting.**

This bill requires the CPUC to release the costs of all contracts, in aggregate form, submitted by IOUs and approved by the commission to meet the RPS. *Signed into law. Chapter 600, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 854 (Blakeslee) – Renewable energy resources.**

The bill requires several reports by electric utilities and state agencies regarding implementation progress of, and program changes needed to, achieve the RPS requirements. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 971 (Cannella) – Renewable energy resources.**

This bill excludes generation from hydroelectric facilities that are not eligible renewable resources under the RPS program, from the calculation of total retail sales which would result in a “net retail sales” factor to serve as the denominator in calculating compliance. *Failed passage in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee.*

**SB 1312 (Blakeslee) – Electrical corporations: procurement plans.**

This bill modifies the long term procurement plan requirements for IOUs to more specifically align procurement planning with the loading order. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 1493 (Cannella) – Renewable energy resources: local publicly owned electric utilities.**

This bill makes technical and nonsubstantive changes to the small scale FiT requirements for IOUs and POUs. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**SBx1 2 (Simitian, Kehoe, Steinberg) – Energy: renewable energy resources.**

This bill requires IOUs, POUs, and energy service providers to increase purchases of renewable energy such that at least 33 percent of retail sales are procured from renewable energy resources by December 31, 2020 and makes related program changes. *Signed into law. Chapter 1, Statutes of 2011-12 First Extraordinary Session.*

**AB 1255 (V. Manuel Pérez, Achadjian) – Energy: renewable energy resources.**

This bill broadens eligibility for local government planning grants to also include counties that enter into a memorandum of understanding with the CEC agreeing to participate in the development of a natural community conservation plan. *Signed into law. Chapter 601, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 1391 (Bradford) – Energy Commission: penalties.**

This bill transfers fining authority for the failure of a POU to meet the requirements of the RPS program from the CARB to the CEC. *Failed passage on the Senate Floor.*

**AB 1900 (Gatto, Chesbro, Roger Hernández) – Renewable energy resources: biomethane.**

This bill requires the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to determine the maximum concentration of constituents of concern in landfill gas and requires the CPUC to develop testing protocols for landfill gas that is injected into natural gas pipelines. *Signed into law. Chapter 602, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2187 (Bradford) – Renewable energy resources.**

This bill allows an electrical service provider to count the generation from any and all contracts entered into through January 13, 2011 as eligible procurement for any of the three compliance periods and for any of the three product categories or bucket requirements under the RPS program. *Signed into law. Chapter 604, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2196 (Chesbro, Gatto) – Renewable energy resources.**

This bill clarifies RPS eligibility for landfill gas used in natural gas facilities. *Signed into law. Chapter 605, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2390 (Chesbro) – Electricity: biomass: incentive programs.**

This bill requires the CEC to dedicate \$20 million of its annual receipts from the EPIC to establish an incentive program to compensate producers and collectors of biomass materials associated with forest fuel reduction and fire prevention activities that are delivered to eligible biomass facilities for use as a fuel source. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

## **Telecommunications & Broadband**

**SB 3 (Padilla) – Telecommunications: universal service.**

This bill extends the sunset date to January 1, 2015, for state programs administered by the CPUC that support universal access to telephone service in high-cost areas and requires providers of Voice over Internet Protocol service to collect and remit surcharges for all the CPUC universal service programs. *Signed into law. Chapter 695, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 102 (Correa) – Telecommunications: customer privacy.**

This bill prohibits the commercial sale of a mobile telephony service device (cell phone) that incorporates “geotagging” location tracking technology unless the seller discloses the device’s location tracking capability and the purchaser consents in writing to that capability being activated or operational. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 379 (Fuller) – Telecommunications: universal service: regulation.**

This bill requires the CPUC, when determining rates and high-cost support for small rural telephone companies, to include reasonable investments necessary to provide high quality voice service and broadband-capable facilities, and requires those companies, upon request from the CPUC, to disclose revenues from unregulated Internet access services. *Signed into law. Chapter 729, Statutes of 2012.*

**SB 674 (Padilla) – Telecommunications: master-metering: data security.**

This bill repeals the California High Speed Internet Access Act of 1999, clarifies that contracts between utilities and third parties to facilitate a customer's access to consumption data require a customer's prior consent for the third party use and release of a customer's data for a secondary commercial purpose, and excludes from the definition of rebate an incentive received from the CSI for a solar thermal or photovoltaic system that serves only a mobilehome park. *Signed into law. Chapter 255, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 905 (Wolk) – Telecommunications: universal service.**

This bill modifies existing statutes and CPUC rules that prohibit "cramming," which occurs when an unauthorized charge appears on a telephone subscriber's bill. The bill requires enhanced customer education to avoid cramming, increased monitoring and reporting of customer complaints, and more CPUC investigation and penalties. *Failed passage in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee.*

**SB 1160 (Padilla) – Communications: service interruptions.**

This bill requires a government entity to obtain a court order prior to an intentional interruption of communication service for the purpose of protecting public safety or preventing illegal activity, with an exception for exigent circumstances, and preempts any local agency policy authorizing service interruption based on a lesser standard. *Vetoed.*

**SB 1161 (Padilla) – Communications: Voice over Internet Protocol and Internet Protocol enabled communications service.**

This bill prohibits the CPUC, and other state and local agencies, from regulating Voice over Internet Protocol and other Internet Protocol-enabled services accessible with a broadband connection except as expressly required or delegated by federal law or authorized by state statute. *Signed into law. Chapter 733, Statutes of 2012.*

**SCR 6 (Lowenthal) – Affordable housing: in-home Internet service accessibility.**

This resolution encourages state and local multifamily housing lending agencies to align their policies on the provision of free Internet access with those of the Tax Credit Allocation Committee in order to promote broadband facilities in affordable housing. *Signed into law. Chapter 72, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 136 (Beall) – Telecommunications: universal service: speech disabilities.**

This bill requires the CPUC to expand its deaf and disabled telecommunications program to include assistance to individuals with speech disabilities and adopt rules for that purpose by January 1, 2014. *Signed into law. Chapter 404, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 770 (Torres) – Emergency telephone systems.**

This bill requires the Public Safety Communications Office in the California Technology Agency to develop standards for training local 911 emergency service dispatchers and adds two new members to the state 911 Advisory Board. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**AB 841 (Buchanan) – Telecommunications: universal service: Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).**

This bill authorizes the CPUC to require interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol service providers to collect from customers of intrastate service surcharges that fund state universal service programs administered by the CPUC. *Signed into law. Chapter 685, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 1050 (Ma) – Telecommunications: prepaid mobile telephony services: state surcharge.**

This bill would establish a point-of-sale method to collect from users of prepaid mobile telephone services the same surcharges and fees that customers of post-paid service are charged in monthly bills, including fees to support the state 911 system and universal service programs administered by the CPUC. *Held in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee without a hearing.*

**AB 1386 (Bradford) – Women, minority, and disabled veteran business enterprise procurement.**

This bill encourages cable television corporations and direct broadcast satellite providers to voluntarily adopt a plan for increasing women, minority, and disabled veteran business enterprise procurement. *Signed into law. Chapter 443, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 2281 (Torres) – Emergencies: State 911 Advisory Board.**

This bill adds two new members selected by the Legislature to the state 911 Advisory Board and clarifies the board's duty to conduct a public hearing on any conflict between a local public agency and the state Public Safety Communications Office regarding reimbursement of costs for local 911 emergency telephone systems. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**AB 2459 (Torres) – Local emergency telephone systems: appropriate use.**

This bill requires the state Public Safety Communications Office in the California Technology Agency to develop and implement a public education campaign to instruct the public on appropriate and inappropriate uses of the 911 emergency telephone system. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

## **Transmission & Distribution**

**SJR 13 (Vargas) – Public utilities: cross-border transmission lines.**

This resolution calls upon the United States Department of Energy to reject an application for a cross-border Presidential permit authorizing Energía Sierra Juárez U.S. Transmission LLC to construct, operate, and maintain electric transmission facilities at the U.S.-Mexico border. *Signed into law. Chapter 96, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 1027 (Buchanan) – Local publicly owned electric utilities: utility poles and support structures.**

This bill requires POUs to make appropriate space and capacity on and in their utility poles and support structures available for use by communication service providers. *Signed into law. Chapter 580, Statutes of 2011.*

**AB 1214 (Skinner) – Electrical transmission.**

This bill requires the CPUC and the CAISO to coordinate the planning and approval of transmission facilities serving renewable generation that will be built in order to meet the state's RPS goals. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

**AB 2516 (Bradford) – Independent System Operator.**

This bill requires the CAISO to conduct internal operations in a manner that minimizes cost impacts on ratepayers and to communicate with all balancing area authorities in the state in a manner that supports electrical reliability. *Signed into law. Chapter 127, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2590 (Blumenfeld) – Distributed generation: interconnection.**

This bill requires IOUs to post any reports required by a revision to the CPUC's Rule 21 on its Internet Web site if that revision is adopted after January 1, 2012. *Held in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee without a hearing.*

## **Related Bills Not Referred to SEUC**

**SB 226 (Simitian, Vargas) – Environmental quality.**

Among the provisions of this bill is an exemption and limits to environmental review under CEQA for specified projects and provides that the CEC's certification process will be applicable to owners of specified proposed solar thermal powerplants who are proposing to convert the facility to photovoltaic technology. *Signed into law. Chapter 469, Statutes of 2011.*

**SB 1018 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) – Public resources.**

Among the provisions of this budget trailer bill are provisions that authorize the CEC to receive administrative funds for the EPIC (Section 97), modification of the Renewables Resources Trust Fund (Sections 98 – 105), allocation of cap and trade revenues received by IOUs (Section 110), and authorization to utilize EPIC funds for the CSI program (Section 111). *Signed into law. Chapter 39, Statutes of 2012.*

**SB 1222 (Leno) – Solar energy: permits.**

This bill limits the fees that cities and counties charge for permits related to the installation of rooftop solar energy systems. *Signed into law. Chapter 614, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 1131 (Lara) – Telecommunications: location of mobile telephony service facilities on state-owned real property: reporting requirements.**

This bill requires the Department of General Services to maximize opportunities for placement of wireless telecommunications facilities on state property and to report by January 31, 2012, on the number of lease agreements entered into by the state with wireless service providers and the amount of revenue generated from those leases. *Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

**AB 1801 (Campos) – Land use: fees.**

This bill prohibits cities and counties from using the valuation method to calculate their fees for solar energy systems, such as charging fees based on the value of the system, property, materials, labor, or any other factor not directly associated with the cost to review and inspect the installation of the solar energy system. *Signed into law. Chapter 538, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB 2564 (Ma) -- Environmental quality: pipelines: project applicants.**

This bill expands the application of an existing CEQA exemption for natural gas pipeline projects less than one mile in length through January 1, 2018. *Signed into law. Chapter 487, Statutes of 2012.*

**AB x1 13 (V. Manuel Pérez, Bradford, Skinner) – Energy: renewable resources: endangered species: environmental impact reports.**

This bill applies existing permitting requirements for solar projects to wind and geothermal projects, and requires the CEC to provide grants to local governments for renewable energy planning efforts. *Signed into law. Chapter 10, Statutes of 2011-12 First Extraordinary Session.*

**AB x1 15 (Hill) – Property tax: newly constructed: exclusion: active solar energy system.**

This bill revises the definition of active solar energy systems and declares legislative intent to extend the current exclusion from property tax reassessment for purchases of new active solar energy systems to active solar energy systems that are sold in sale-leaseback arrangements. *Signed into law. Chapter 11, Statutes of 2011.*