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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND  
COMMUNICATIONS**

**Senator Ben Hueso, Chair**

**2021 - 2022 Regular**

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| <b>Bill No:</b>    | SB 1213           | <b>Hearing Date:</b> | 4/18/2022 |
| <b>Author:</b>     | Hueso             |                      |           |
| <b>Version:</b>    | 3/16/2022 Amended |                      |           |
| <b>Urgency:</b>    | No                | <b>Fiscal:</b>       | Yes       |
| <b>Consultant:</b> | Nidia Bautista    |                      |           |

**SUBJECT:** Public Utilities Commission and State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: public outreach: community-based organizations

**DIGEST:** This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Energy Commission to collaborate to develop and maintain a list of community-based organizations to help ensure adequate public outreach regarding available programs.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes and vests the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with regulatory authority over public utilities. (Article XII of the California Constitution)
- 2) Establishes various committees and boards to advise the CPUC on specified topics, including, among others, the Low-Income Oversight Board, and requires the CPUC to work with community-based organizations to increase participation in programs for low-income customers, as specified. (Public Utilities Code §382.1)
- 3) Establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (California Energy Commission (CEC)) with various responsibilities with respect to developing and implementing the state's energy policies. (Public Resources Code §25200 et seq.)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the CPUC and CEC to collaborate to develop and maintain a list of community-based organizations to help ensure adequate public outreach to low-income, disadvantaged, rural, tribal, and unincorporated communities regarding available programs and incentives.
- 2) Requires the CPUC and CEC to work with existing committees, boards, and community-based organizations in developing the list.

## **Background**

*Community-based organization outreach.* Today, the CPUC and CEC each implement a wide-variety of energy-related programs and adopt critical policies that shape our energy future. While there has been continued expansion of efforts to engage with communities across the state, there continues to be a desire for increased connections with community-based organizations who can help inform, shape, support outreach to, and better reflect the diverse needs of the state. Currently, the CPUC and CEC each maintain various advisory committees and boards, largely as directed by statute. These include the Low Income Oversight Board at the CPUC, and the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Committee at both the CPUC and CEC. Additionally, some statutes direct the agencies to outreach to community-based organizations on issues including wildfire mitigation, protocols for public safety power shutoffs, low-income rate assistance, weatherization services, clean energy goals, and others.

*Need for more involvement with community-based organizations.* Given the diverse geography, demographics, and large population of our state, the CEC and CPUC continue to expand their efforts to conduct outreach to community-based organizations in order to better involve them in the agency policy and program decisions. At a recent public workshop, a CPUC and CEC hosted *En Banc* on affordability, stakeholders commented on the need to have the agencies maintain a shared list of community-based organizations.

*SB 1213.* This bill requires the CPUC and the CEC to collaborate, to develop, and maintain a list of community-based organizations to help ensure adequate public outreach regarding available programs. This bill also requires the agencies to work with existing advisory committees and boards to help develop the list.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

**SUPPORT:**

None received

**OPPOSITION:**

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the author:

SB 1213 is a simple measure to ensure the state's energy agencies – the CPUC and CEC – are actively conducting outreach to community-based organizations. The bill is a response to an explicit request by CBOs at a recent public workshop (*En Banc*) focused on affordability. Between the CEC and CPUC, there are a myriad of programs, policies, and projects related to energy that affect many communities across our state. Ensuring the agencies are maintaining a list of CBOs to conduct outreach to regarding these programs will help ensure the voices of those most affected have the opportunity to inform these important decisions.

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