Item 5: Update on the 2025-2026 Legislative Session

November 18, 2026 Business Meeting

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Office of Governmental and International Affairs (OGIA)

Overview

- Brief rundown of bills that will impact the CEC
- CEC tracked and/or analyzed almost 150 bills in 2026
- Covering 9 bills today



Source: CEC

AB 1301 (Petrie-Norris)

Energy Omnibus

- **Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA)**
  - Revolving loan program provides funds to schools, local governments and tribes for energy efficiency, EV charging, and other infrastructure updates
  - Extends the end date for the ECAA program from 2028 to 2038

- **Equitable Building Decarbonization Program**
  - Consolidates two yearly reports into one yearly report

AB 1577 (Bauer-Kahan)

Data center reporting

- Owners of certain large data centers must share information with CEC
  - Energy use
  - Onsite generation
  - Other facility characteristics

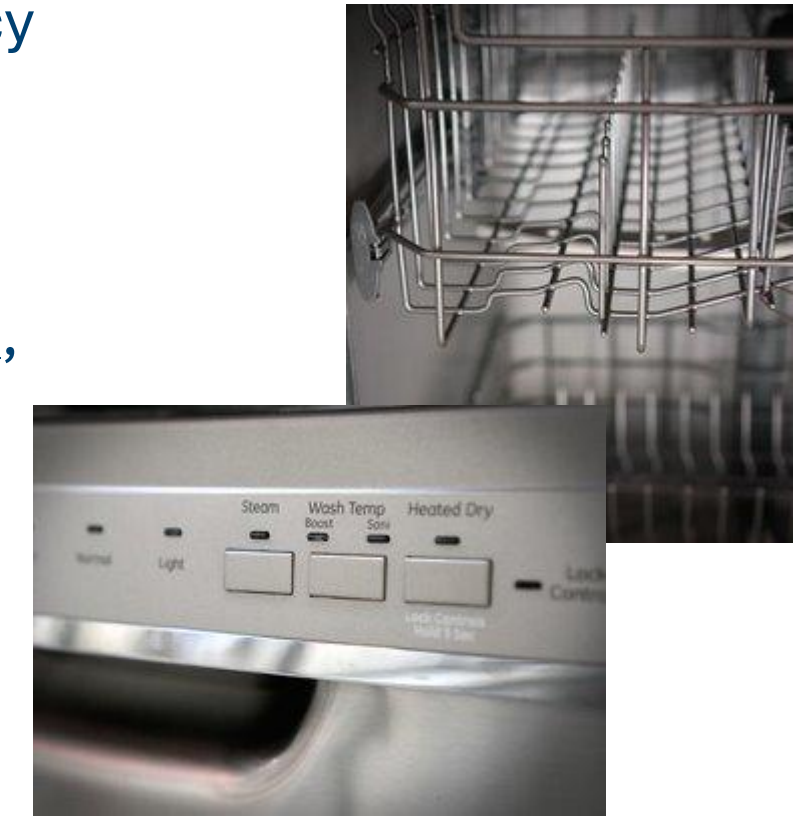
- Assessment of the data will be included in the Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) beginning in 2029

- Significant reporting exemptions will limit the CEC's visibility for certain facility types
  - e.g., publicly funded research facilities, publicly owned facilities, utility facilities, including telecommunications, etc.

AB 2458 (Bennett)

Appliance standards and cost-effective measures

- CEC can expand the scope of the Appliance Efficiency Regulations - existing regulations cover new appliances that are sold in the state
- CEC can now include new appliances that are rented, imported, distributed, or leased within California
- Approximately 70,000 commercial dishwashers rented or leased
  - Potential to save almost $200 million per year
- Ongoing work on commercial appliances can be updated to expand scope



Source: CEC

AB 2647 (Calderon)

Energy: Nuclear Powerplants: Assessment

- CEC must complete an assessment of:
  - Potential role of "advanced" nuclear technologies, and
  - Potential for new, in-state nuclear powerplants

- Due January 1, 2028



SB 222 (Wiener)

Residential heat pump water heater or heat pump HVAC systems

- Streamlines local permitting of heat pump water and HVAC systems (for existing buildings)

- Prohibits the CEC from providing funds to a city or county unless they provide **self-certification** of compliance with the requirements of this bill:
  - efficient inspections
  - single permits
  - limited local standards
  - no permits for plug-ins
  - instant online automated permitting
  - limited permit fees



Source: CEC

SB 887 (Padilla)

Data centers: environmental review and environmental leadership development projects

- Data center developments will not be approved using a categorical exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Creates a pathway for data centers that meet ambitious standards to qualify as an Environmental Leadership Development Project (ELDP)
- ELDP standards will be created by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) in consultation with the CEC

SB 913 (Becker)

Resource adequacy: aggregated distributed energy resources (DERs)



Source: CEC

- Requires the CPUC, in coordination with the CEC and CAISO, to make it simpler for aggregated DERs to qualify as Resource Adequacy capacity
- Impacts Demand Side Grid Support (DSGS) Option 3 Storage Virtual Power Plant (VPP) resources

SB 925 (McNerney)

Fusion Energy: Strategic Plan

- CEC must develop a strategic plan to advance fusion energy generation in the state
  - Due December 31, 2029

- Makes fusion component manufacturing facilities eligible for the Opt-In program



SB 969 (Reyes)

Weights and measures (W&M): electric vehicle fueling systems

- The State oversees the accuracy of electric vehicle (EV) chargers
- Requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to update the existing "Weights & Measures" regulatory scheme to:
  - Streamline testing requirements to support more rapid deployment
  - Avoid EV chargers being taken out of service unless necessary
- CEC will (1) provide consultation to CDFA on the regulatory update and (2) receive statewide charging and inspection data from CDFA biennially



Source: CEC

SB 1350 (McNerney)

Energy: renewable electrical generation facilities

- Expands California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) program to include electricity generated from turbines fueled with hydrogen produced from renewable resources
- Adds another resource to decarbonize our electric sector and another pathway for zero-carbon hydrogen production
- Urgency Clause: current law, as of June 29, 2026
- STEP staff are implementing now, in coordination with Commissioner Gallardo

Thank you

OGIA Leg Team: Courtney Ransom, Gretchen Espinosa, John Massengill, Kelan Lowney, and Mitul Patel

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