

California Petroleum Market Advisory Committee

The California Petroleum Market Advisory Committee is established to provide expert advice and insight to the California Energy Commission on fuels market instabilities and issues.

Scope of Responsibility:

The Warren-Alquist Act directs the Energy Commission to conduct assessments and forecasts of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery and distribution, demand, and prices for several sectors including transportation fuels. The Energy Commission conducts these assessments and forecasts to support development of energy policies that conserve resources, protect the environment, ensure energy reliability, enhance the state's economy, and protect public health and safety.

The Energy Commission would like to better understand the factors and conditions related to petroleum price fluctuations and their impacts, and policy options that may affect petroleum markets. The Energy Commission is therefore convening the California Petroleum Market Advisory Committee to obtain expert knowledge on the following:

- 1) Existing and emerging petroleum market trends and factors that lead to price fluctuations, including local, regional, and global events and changes in State and Federal policies that may affect prices for petroleum-based fuels.
- 2) Impacts of significant and/or sudden price movements in petroleum fuels markets to market participants, California consumers, participants in interdependent energy markets, and vulnerable California economic sectors.
- 3) Other petroleum fuels market issues the Committee and/or the Energy Commission determines to be important.

Committee Process:

Committee Membership and Chair

The Committee will be comprised of experts in petroleum fuels markets, consumer protection, and petroleum industry practices. The Committee is appointed by the Energy Commission to work together to develop insights that will assist the Commission. Committee members serve at the pleasure of the Energy Commission.

The Chairman of the Energy Commission will appoint a Committee Chair to act as the primary spokesperson for the Committee before the Energy Commission. Members of the Committee will serve a term of three years and may be reappointed by the Chairman of the Energy Commission. The Committee Chair will be responsible for the orderly conduct of Committee meetings ensuring the timely and thorough discussion of meeting agenda items.

Members of the Committee will not receive compensation for their service on the Committee, and all travel, food, and related costs of participation will be borne by the Committee member.

Committee Role and Responsibilities

Once convened, the Committee will meet to establish its internal rules for process and procedure, under the guidance of the Energy Commission. The Committee Chair will direct the priorities of the Committee based on the needs and interests of the Energy Commission.

Information provided by the Committee members shall be advisory only and limited to input on the petroleum fuels market analysis. Members of the Committee shall not serve in the capacity of staff of the Energy Commission and shall have no authority to negotiate or otherwise act on behalf of the Energy Commission. Official communication between the Committee members and Energy Commissioners shall be conducted in compliance with existing laws governing interactions between government bodies.

The Committee will formulate a record of discussion through documentation of what is shared at Committee meetings. This record is a public document that can be used to help educate staff and Commissioners on relevant topics. The Committee may also, at the request of either the Committee Chair or the Energy Commission Chair, draft and submit written or verbal statements to the Energy Commission.

Committee members are not “consultants” under the Political Reform Act and are not subject to the Act’s restrictions or the requirement to file an annual economic interest statement.

Meetings

The Committee may meet quarterly or on an as-needed basis as requested by the Energy Commission. Meetings will be public and Energy Commission staff will ensure that they are conducted according to the appropriate public meeting rules and regulations. Energy Commissioners, members of the California Legislature, and Commissioners and Executives from other state agencies may attend these meetings.

Energy Commission Roles and Responsibilities

Energy Commission staff will work closely with the Committee Chair to set meeting agendas, identify critical issues for Committee consideration, and coordinate public input. Energy Commission staff will provide proper notice of and an agenda for all Committee meetings and conference calls, provide Committee members with necessary materials, and ensure that the public has an opportunity to participate in Committee meetings. Any person present at a Committee meeting, conference call, workshop, or hearing shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to make oral comments.

Energy Commission staff will also provide technical and logistical support to the Committee in setting up meetings and conference calls and in information gathering and analysis on particular issues under consideration of the Committee. Staff will provide ongoing updates to the Energy Commission on Committee activities at public meetings. Committee members may appear before the Commission at public meetings at the request of the Commission.