



July 3, 2023

TO: Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

SUBJECT: SB 619 (PADILLA): STATE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: CERTIFICATION OF FACILITIES: ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION PROJECTS SUPPORT - AS AMENDED JUNE 21, 2023 SCHEDULED FOR HEARING – JULY 10, 2023

The California Chamber of Commerce and the organizations listed strongly **SUPPORT SB 619 (Padilla)**, which builds upon the state’s permit streamlining efforts for electrical transmission facility projects delivering clean energy to ensure we are better equipped to meet future energy demand.

According to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), the state will need to make a sevenfold increase in annual resource requirements that were called for as part of the 2021-22 Transmission Plan¹. This can be attributed to the fact that decarbonization of California’s grid is going to require a much higher degree of electrification. Added electrification is going to require more streamlined processes for large scale electrical infrastructure projects, such as those proposed in **SB 619** that are capable of ensuring grid reliability while legacy gas fired generation is retired.

SB 619 Builds on Previous Efforts to Accelerate Grid Electrification

¹ Page 11, Day 2 Presentation, September 27-28, 2021 Stakeholder Meeting, <http://www.caiso.com/InitiativeDocuments/Day2Presentation-2022-2023TransmissionPlanningProcessSep27-28-2021.pdf>

SB 619 provides for an opt-in pathway for environmental review at the California Energy Commission (CEC) of electrical infrastructure projects that are above 138 kv. By passing AB 205 the Legislature has deemed it appropriate for the CEC to serve as the lead on environmental review for certain clean energy projects and to make a determination within a specified timeframe; 270 days. **SB 619** simply extends that authority to transmission and sub-transmission, which are going to be a necessity for all of the anticipated additional resource requirements and serve as an equally important part of the equation for electrification. **SB 619** ensures that load serving entities have the appropriate tools in place to meet our future energy needs. Moreover, it will foster economic growth, create job opportunities, and position California as a leader in clean energy innovation.

SB 619 Appropriately Balances Environmental Protections with Future Energy Demand

SB 619 does not diminish any environmental protections, nor does it interfere with the authorities granted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). To be clear, **SB 619** simply allows for an entity to elect to participate in an environmental review process at the CEC that provides more certainty on timelines, and safeguards environmental protections by prohibiting the CPUC from issuing a decision until after the CEC has issued a decision on the certification of a facility. Larger transmission projects will still be required to take the necessary steps to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, or any other required permits from the CPUC before construction can begin. **SB 619** will ensure a reliable supply of electricity for a growing economy and our residents and businesses by striking the appropriate balance between environmental protection and allowing load serving entities to save on project costs and delays which ultimately benefits ratepayers. **SB 619** is a pragmatic and modest approach to address the state's ever-growing demand for clean energy in California.

For these reasons, we strongly support **SB 619** and respectfully ask for your "AYE" vote.

Sincerely,



Brady Van Engelen
Policy Advocate, California Chamber of Commerce
On behalf of

Bay Area Council, Alex Torres
Building Owners and Managers Association, Matthew Hargrove
California Apartment Association, Debra Carlton
California Association of Winegrape Growers, Michael Miiller
California Chamber of Commerce, Brady Van Engelen
California Building Industry Association, P. Anthony Thomas
California Business Roundtable, Brooke Armour
California Business Properties Association, Matthew Hargrove
California Retailers Association, Ryan Allain
California Trucking Association, Nick Chiappe
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, Bret Schanzenbach
Can Manufacturers Institute, Greg Hurner
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, Zeb Welborn
Danville Area Chamber of Commerce, Judy B. Lloyd
Fremont Chamber of Commerce, Cindy Bonior
Gateway Chambers Alliance, Caren Spilsbury
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber, Brandon Marley
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce, Mark Creffield
Independent Energy Producers Association, Jan Smutney-Jones
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce, Kim Joseph Cousins
Liberty Utilities, Faviola Ochoa
Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce, Sherri Souza

Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce, Dave Benson
Modesto Chamber of Commerce, Trish Christensen
Murrieta Wildomar Chamber, Patrick Ellis
NAIOP of California, Matthew Hargrove
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, Caren Spilsbury
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce, Scoot Ashton
Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Brandon Ebeck
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce, Alisa Williams
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Marilyn Lyon
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber, Diann Rogers
San Leandro Chamber of Commerce, Emily Griego
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, Dustin Hoiseth
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, Glenn Morris
The Chamber Newport Beach, Steve Rosansky
The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, Donna Duperron
The Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, Bob Linscheid
Vista Chamber of Commerce, Rachel Beld
Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce, Kristen Perry

cc: Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor
Dan Reeves, Office of Senator Steve Padilla
Lawrence Lingbloom, Assembly Natural Resources
Casey Dunn, Assembly Republican Caucus