

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM**

Meeting Date: August 2, 2022
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Climate Action Committee / Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director
Subject: Letter of Support for SB833
Recommendation : Authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of support
Funding: Currently Budgeted: _____ Yes _____ No X N/A
Net General Fund Cost: \$

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable) _____ (verified by Administrative Services Department)

INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE:

This item is for City Council to Discuss and Consider Authorizing the Mayor to prepare and send a Letter of Support for SB833.

DISCUSSION:

At it's July 27th, 2022 meeting, the Climate Action Committee (CAC) voted to recommend the City Council consider a letter of support, and unanimously voted to recommend the Council consider supporting this bill. Senate Bill 833 (Senator Dodd), the Community Energy Resilience Act of 2022, calls for the creation of a technical assistance and grant program administered by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to help local governments develop clean energy resilience plans, leveraging the substantial related investments that have already been made by the CEC.

SB 833 also enables local governments to collaborate with utilities in planning community-scale energy infrastructure such as solar panels and battery storage so that communities are deciding what facilities remain energized during a crisis.

The bill is aimed to help California reduce its reliance on carbon-emitting generators during disaster-driven power outages by empowering local governments to more strategically plan for the use of clean-emission, distributed energy resources, with a priority on lower income communities.

GOALS:

This action supports the following City Council Goals:

Goal 5 - Provide Open and Responsive Municipal Government Leadership, including
Goal 5.1.4 Enhance the use of the City of Sebastopol Committees, Commissions and Boards.

and General Plan Actions:

Goal COS 9: Promote Conservation of Energy and Other Natural Resources

Policy COS 9-7: Promote efforts and programs, including increased access to clean technologies such as electric vehicles and charging stations, to encourage residents, businesses, and local organizations to use clean energy sources to supplant dirty technologies.

Goal CIR 5: Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in Order to Reduce Congestion and Help Achieve Regional Efforts to Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Policy CIR 5-3: Support the establishment and expansion of a regional network of electric vehicle charging stations and encourage the expanded use of electric vehicles.

and Climate Action Framework Goals:

BE3. Expand the installation of solar panels and other renewable energy sources, both locally and in partnership with other entities in Sonoma County, to further decarbonize Sebastopol's electricity supply.

BE6. Ensure energy sources are reliable during extreme weather conditions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, staff anticipates receiving public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report. Such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of the agenda item.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to schedule meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of support

Attachments:

Letter of Support

Legislative Language



Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments



March 9, 2022

Senator Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
1021 Street, Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 833 (Dodd)—SUPPORT As Amended, March 7, 2022

Dear Chair Hueso:

We are writing to express our support for SB 833, the Community Energy Resilience Act.

Threats to the electricity grid are increasing in frequency, severity and impact, making it a policy imperative for the state to invest in clean, local energy resilience. Power outages have cost the California economy billions, and in response, homeowners, businesses, and utilities have reflexively invested in fossil fuel generators. Distributed clean energy is a better way to provide local energy resilience.

SB 833 directs the California Energy Commission to implement a technical assistance and grant program that supports local communities in creating community energy resilience plans. Upon receiving grant funds, local communities would partner with civic organizations, utilities, businesses and other stakeholders to identify areas critical for maintaining community health and well-being and develop plans to help ensure that these facilities can operate continuously via local clean energy resources. Energy resilience is an inherently local issue, with approval for siting of new distributed energy projects necessarily jurisdictional to local governments, most of which are currently ill-equipped to integrate energy resilience into local planning. Local political consensus as reflected in energy resilience plans will accelerate use of federal, state, and private funds to develop local energy resilience infrastructure.

SB 833 prioritizes allocation of community energy resilience planning funds to vulnerable communities. This prioritization is essential as vulnerable communities suffer disproportionately from air pollution and high rates of respiratory disease, problems which are being exacerbated by installation of new diesel generation.

With the enactment of SB 833, California will take an important step towards creating a more decentralized electricity system which is clean, affordable, reliable, equitable and safe. For these reasons, we urge you to vote “Aye” on SB 833. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellie Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center

Tanya Peacock
Senior Director, Government Affairs and Policy
Bloom Energy

Daniel Barad
Campaign Representative
Sierra Club California

Rick Brown, PhD
Chair of the Board
TerraVerde Energy

Brad Heavner
Policy Director
California Solar & Storage Association

Mark Rose
Sierra Nevada Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association

Tanya Barham
Founder and CEO
Community Energy Labs

Dave Atherton
President
Electric Auto Association
San Joaquin Valley

Melissa Romero
Legislative Affairs Manager
California Environmental Voters

Allie Detrio
Senior Advisor
Microgrid Resources Coalition

Craig Lewis
Executive Director
Clean Coalition

Laura Deehan
State Director
Environment California

Kate Ringess
Managing Director
SmartBlock Communities

Barbara Sattler, RN, DrPH, FAAN
California Alliance of Nurses for Healthy
Environments

Dillon Delvo
Executive Director
Little Manila Rising

Nayamin Martinez
Executive Director
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Michael Chiacos
Director of Energy and Climate Programs
Community Environmental Council

Kristin Cushman
CEO
EcoShift Consulting

Eric Veium, CEM, CEP
Chair
SLO Climate Coalition

Bill Magavern
Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air

Richard Schorske
Executive Director
ZNE Alliance

Roger Dickinson
Policy Director
CivicWell

Ralph E. Dennis
Legislative Analyst
Bay Area Action 350

Alex Morris
VP of Policy and Operations
California Energy Storage Alliance

Gopal Shanker
President
Récolte Energy

Jason Barbose
Senior Manager, Western States
Union of Concerned Scientists

Craig Perkins
President & Executive Director
The Energy Coalition

Julia Levin
Executive Director
Bioenergy Association of California

Lillian Mirviss
Director, Government Affairs
Center for Sustainable Energy

Robert M. Gould, MD
President
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social
Responsibility

Jennifer K. Berg
Board Chair
Local Government Sustainable Energy
Coalition

Doug Linney
Executive Director
ZEV 2030

Julia Hatton
President and CEO
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

Mike Lemyre
Senior Vice President
Head of Commercial PACE
Ygrene Energy Fund

Jeff Morris
Senior Director State Government
Relations
Schneider Electric

Erika Morgan
Operations Director
CA Alliance for Community Energy

Steve Campbell
Senior Manager, Policy and
Business Development
Grid Alternatives

Russell Hancock
President and CEO
Joint Venture Silicon Valley

Alex Jackson
Senior Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council

Brian Stewart
Founder
Electrify Now

Diane Bailey
Executive Director
Menlo Spark

Ryan Craig
Co-Lead, Clean Energy Resilience
Team
Resilient Palisades

Marie Chen
Climate Reality Leader
The Climate Reality Project, San Diego
Chapter

Ruth Merino
Chair
San Jose Community Energy Advocates

Debbie Mytels
Chair
Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action

Beth Chopp
Legislative Committee Co-Chair
San Diego 350

Jennifer Tanner
Leader
Indivisible CA Green Team

Adriene Couter
Steering Committee
Indivisible Ventura

Ruth Richardson
Co-Founder
Rooted in Resistance (Indivisible)

Mala Wingard
Admin
Normal Heights Indivisible

Rebecca Elliott
Admin
Indivisible San Jose

CC: Members, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
Senator Bill Dodd

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 30, 2022

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 21, 2022

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 7, 2022

SENATE BILL

No. 833

Introduced by Senators Dodd and Stern

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Calderon and Valladares)

January 4, 2022

An act to add Division 16.7 (commencing with Section 26450) to the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 833, as amended, Dodd. Community Energy Resilience Act of 2022.

Existing law establishes within the Natural Resources Agency the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission. Existing law assigns the commission various duties, including applying for and accepting grants, contributions, and appropriations, and awarding grants consistent with the goals and objectives of a program or activity the commission is authorized to implement or administer.

This bill, the Community Energy Resilience Act of 2022, would require the commission to develop and implement a grant program *to award grants through a noncompetitive process* for local governments to develop community energy resilience plans that help achieve energy resilience objectives and state clean energy and air quality goals. The bill would require a plan to, among other things, identify critical facilities, facilities where the construction of microgrids or other distributed energy sources could meet local resilience needs, and potential funding sources for implementing projects in the plan, include

a process for the expedited permit review of distributed energy resources by the local government, and demonstrate consistency with the city, county, or city and county general plan and other local government planning documents, as specified. As a condition of receiving grant funding, the bill would require a local government to submit its plan to the commission within 6 months of adopting the plan. *The bill would require grant funds to be encumbered within 2 years, and liquidated within 4 years, of the date of an award.*

The bill would require the commission to maintain a publicly available and searchable database of all local governments receiving a grant, annually submit a program summary to the Legislature, and post the summary on its internet website. The bill also would require the commission to develop and maintain on its internet website a publicly available community energy resilience planning toolkit, a directory of prequalified consultants, and a resilience valuation index, as defined, to assist local governments in community energy resilience planning. The bill would require the commission to periodically update the index.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no.Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) This act shall be known, and may be cited,
- 2 as the Community Energy Resilience Act of 2022.
- 3 (b) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- 4 (1) Development of community energy resilience plans will
- 5 help ensure continuous electricity service during electrical outages,
- 6 which in recent years have imposed enormous costs on California
- 7 communities.
- 8 (2) Developing reliable and resilient electrical systems for
- 9 critical facilities is a paramount public safety priority and is
- 10 necessary to protect the health and well-being of California
- 11 residents and businesses.
- 12 (3) Local governments typically lack the resources or expertise
- 13 needed for community energy resilience planning sufficient to
- 14 increase the usage of distributed clean energy resources.
- 15 (4) Local governments are best able to identify, working in
- 16 collaboration with community-based organizations, which facilities
- 17 are most important to local residents and necessary to maintain
- 18 public health and safety, and can most effectively integrate the

1 permitting and development of distributed energy resources capable
2 of providing electricity to these facilities during electrical outages.

3 (5) With proper engineering and planning, local governments
4 are capable of accelerating the deployment of resilient clean backup
5 electrical systems by taking advantage of state, federal, and other
6 funding sources.

7 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature to direct the State Energy
8 Resources Conservation and Development Commission to develop
9 procedures necessary for implementation of a new program to
10 provide technical guidance and financial assistance for local
11 governments to develop community energy resilience plans.

12 SEC. 2. Division 16.7 (commencing with Section 26450) is
13 added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

14

15 DIVISION 16.7. COMMUNITY ENERGY RESILIENCE
16 PLANNING

17

18 26450. For purposes of this division, the following definitions
19 apply:

20 (a) “Commission” means the State Energy Resources
21 Conservation and Development Commission.

22 (b) “Community energy resilience” means the capability of a
23 local community, local government, tribal authority, or other
24 municipality to provide and maintain stable electricity supply to
25 identified critical facilities under changing conditions, including,
26 but not limited to, outages of utility grid service.

27 (c) “Community energy resilience plan” means a planning
28 document prepared by a local government pursuant to this division
29 that sets forth a strategy for ~~meeting local electrical loads~~ *achieving*
30 *community energy resilience* with local clean distributed energy
31 resources. Unless the context requires otherwise, “plan” means a
32 community energy resilience plan.

33 (d) “Electrical corporation” has the same meaning as defined
34 in Section 218 of the Public Utilities Code.

35 (e) “Local government” means a city, county, city and county,
36 or California Native American tribe, as defined in Section 21073.

37 (f) “Local publicly owned electric utility” has the same meaning
38 as defined in Section 224.3 of the Public Utilities Code.

39 (g) “Resilience Valuation Index” means a standardized,
40 data-driven tool that assists local governments in conducting

1 cost-benefit analyses of community energy resilience investments,
2 such as distributed energy resources or microgrids. Unless the
3 context requires otherwise, “index” means the Resilience Valuation
4 Index.

5 26451. (a) Pursuant to this division, the commission shall
6 develop and implement a grant program to award grants to local
7 governments *through a noncompetitive process* for the
8 development of community energy resilience plans that help
9 achieve local energy resilience objectives and state clean energy
10 and air quality goals.

11 (b) In developing the guidelines and application process for the
12 grant program, the commission shall do all of the following:

13 (1) Prioritize applications from low-income communities that
14 are most likely to experience power outages, disadvantaged
15 communities that are most likely to experience power outages, or
16 low-income and disadvantaged communities that are most likely
17 to experience power outages first, followed by communities that
18 are most likely to experience power outages.

19 (2) Make the application process as simple as possible.

20 (3) Conduct a minimum of two public meetings to receive and
21 consider public comment before approving the guidelines and
22 application process.

23 (c) *Grant funds awarded pursuant to this division shall be*
24 *encumbered within two years, and liquidated within four years,*
25 *of the date of the award.*

26 ~~(e)~~

27 (d) For local governments located within the service territory
28 of a local publicly owned electric utility, only the local publicly
29 owned electric utility shall be eligible to apply for grant funding
30 on behalf of the local government.

31 ~~(f)~~

32 (e) Grant funds awarded pursuant to this division may be used
33 for plan development, including, but not limited to, all of the
34 following activities:

35 (1) Hiring outside consultants or technical assistance providers
36 to help with coordinating and drafting the plan.

37 (2) Identifying and coordinating with appropriate local
38 government staff to draft the plan. A local government may hire
39 a resilience manager to manage the plan development process.

1 (3) Convening and facilitating one or more community
2 workshops enlisting local stakeholders, including, but not limited
3 to, labor representatives, representatives from community-based
4 organizations, community members, representatives from related
5 technology vendors, local government staff in departments relating
6 to emergency services, planning, and public works, disability rights
7 advocates, and representatives from special districts, load-serving
8 entities, school districts, environmental justice communities,
9 communities of color, local tribes, and other marginalized groups,
10 to ensure that a diversity of perspectives and input is incorporated
11 into the plan.

12 ~~(e)~~

13 ~~(f)~~ (1) A plan for which a local government is awarded a grant
14 shall do all of the following:

15 (A) Identify critical facilities, including publicly available and
16 accessible facilities that can serve as community resilience hubs
17 to accommodate and provide basic services, including water,
18 restrooms, basic first aid, disaster information, and access to
19 electricity to charge telephones and medical equipment, to people
20 who have lost power to their homes.

21 (B) Identify facilities where the construction of microgrids or
22 other distributed energy resources could meet local resilience
23 needs.

24 (C) Identify critical facilities that are in greatest need of backup
25 energy generation and potential backup energy systems that may
26 meet the needs of those facilities.

27 (D) Identify potential funding sources for implementation of
28 projects included in the plan.

29 (E) Include a model ordinance template that may be adopted
30 by a local government to establish a process for the expedited
31 permit review of distributed energy resources by the local
32 government.

33 (F) Demonstrate consistency with the city, county, or city and
34 county general plan and other local government planning
35 documents.

36 (2) The plan shall be developed in collaboration with the relevant
37 electrical corporation or local publicly owned electric utility
38 operational and technical subject matter experts.

39 ~~(f)~~

1 (g) Subject to any restrictions or limitations placed by outside
2 funding programs, grants awarded to a local government pursuant
3 to this division do not affect the local government's eligibility to
4 receive other incentives available from federal, state, or other local
5 governments, electrical corporations, local publicly owned electric
6 utilities, or any other source, or to leverage the grant funding
7 awarded pursuant to this division with any other incentive.

8 ~~(g)~~

9 (h) As a condition of being awarded a grant pursuant to this
10 division, a local government shall submit its plan to the commission
11 within six months of adopting its plan.

12 ~~(h)~~

13 (i) The commission shall maintain a publicly available and
14 searchable database of all local governments awarded a grant
15 pursuant to this division. The database shall include relevant
16 metrics to be determined by the commission, including the grant
17 award amount and the community served.

18 ~~(i)~~

19 (j) (1) The commission shall prepare an annual summary of
20 statewide program expenditures.

21 (2) Pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code, the
22 commission shall annually submit the summary to the Legislature
23 and post the summary on its internet website.

24 26452. (a) The commission shall develop and maintain, on its
25 internet website, a community energy resilience planning toolkit
26 to support local governments' development of community energy
27 resilience plans. The toolkit shall include detailed information on
28 typical planning steps, including, but not limited to, community
29 asset mapping, stakeholder identification, community engagement,
30 and technical and economic feasibility.

31 (b) The commission shall develop and maintain, on its internet
32 website, a directory of prequalified consultants with energy
33 resilience planning expertise who may assist grant recipients in
34 plan development.

35 (c) (1) The commission shall develop and maintain a publicly
36 available Resilience Valuation Index to assist local governments
37 in community energy resilience planning and support data-driven
38 investment decisions.

- 1 (2) The index shall identify entities and populations within
2 communities that are vulnerable to power outages or other climate
3 disruptions, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
4 (A) Critical facilities, including, but not limited to, the types of
5 facilities described in Public Utilities Commission Decision
6 19-05-042, Decision Adopting De-Energization Guidelines, and
7 other related decisions.
8 (B) Public agencies.
9 (C) Small businesses.
10 (D) Commercial and industrial facilities.
11 (E) Education and childcare facilities.
12 (F) Food production and distribution facilities.
13 (G) Access and functional needs populations.
14 (H) Medically vulnerable populations.
15 (I) Disadvantaged or low-income populations.
16 (J) Rural or remote populations.
17 (K) Other communities or populations that the commission
18 determines may be severely impacted by the loss of continuous
19 electrical service.
20 (3) (A) The index shall catalog and quantify a range of potential
21 resiliency values for each identified constituency or population.
22 (B) The index shall use publicly available information on the
23 value of lost load, socioeconomic analyses, and other power outage
24 resources, from reputable academic institutions, including from
25 the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory’s Interruption Cost
26 Estimate Calculator.
27 (4) The commission shall post, and periodically update, the
28 index on its internet website.

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August 2, 2022

Senator Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
1021 Street, Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 833 (Dodd)—SUPPORT As Amended, March 7, 2022

Dear: Chair Hueso:

We are writing to express our support for SB 833, the Community Energy Resilience Act. Threats to the electricity grid are increasing in frequency, severity and impact, making it a policy imperative for the state to invest in clean, local energy resilience. Power outages have cost the California economy billions, and in response, homeowners, businesses, and utilities have reflexively invested in fossil fuel generators. Distributed clean energy is a better way to provide local energy resilience.

SB 833 directs the California Energy Commission to implement a technical assistance and grant program that supports local communities in creating community energy resilience plans. Upon receiving grant funds, local communities would partner with civic organizations, utilities, businesses and other stakeholders to identify areas critical for maintaining community health and well-being and develop plans to help ensure that these facilities can operate continuously via local clean energy resources. Energy resilience is an inherently local issue, with approval for siting of new distributed energy projects necessarily jurisdictional to local governments, most of which are currently ill-equipped to integrate energy resilience into local planning. Local political consensus as reflected in energy resilience plans will accelerate use of federal, state, and private funds to develop local energy resilience infrastructure.

SB 833 prioritizes allocation of community energy resilience planning funds to vulnerable communities. This prioritization is essential as vulnerable communities suffer disproportionately from air pollution and high rates of respiratory disease, problems which are being exacerbated by installation of new diesel generation. With the enactment of SB 833, California will take an important step towards creating a more decentralized electricity system which is clean, affordable, reliable, equitable and

safe. For these reasons, we urge you to vote "Aye" on SB 833. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Slayter
Mayor