

Support for California SB99; the Community Energy Resilience Act of 2021

The Sebastopol Climate Committee recommends that the Sebastopol City Council send a letter of support for SB99 introduced by Senator Dodd.

SB99 supports a number of opportunities that the City of Sebastopol can hopefully take advantage of to help our town address the impacts of climate change, while at the same time prioritizing the needs of low-income and disadvantaged communities.

The bill extends beyond the simple reliability of service specified in existing statute. It fosters local efforts to address clean energy resiliency during service failures. As such the bill directs agencies to enact enabling regulations, directs the California Energy Commission [CEC] to provide grant funding, and tasks Investor Owned Utilities with the responsibility of providing assistance to municipalities, community choice aggregators, and regional energy collaboratives.

This legislation is one of the first to identify that providing electrical service may require more participants than the public utilities in order to guarantee resilience of the larger system.

Key detail points SB99 includes:

- Identifying the CEC as the lead agency providing guidance and grants to local governments to provide local energy resilience plans
- Requiring grant applicants to submit comprehensive community energy resilience plans that address:
 - Prioritization for low-income and disadvantaged communities
 - Priority for each critical facility likely to be impacted by an electrical grid deenergization
 - Plans to expedite local permit review processes
 - Identify facilities most likely to experience loss of electrical service based on siting or public utility plans
 - How additional funding will be sourced to implement the plan
- Support for efforts that address state renewable energy goals
- Funding for costs associated with coordination and receiving input from public utilities on technical subjects related to design and operation