

Date of Hearing: April 23, 2025

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair

AB 1016 (Jeff Gonzalez) – As Amended March 25, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Power facility and site certifications: thermal powerplants: geothermal resources

**SUMMARY:** Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to exempt certain geothermal thermal power plants from state certification requirements, as specified, and for the power plants granted this exemption, this bill designates the local land use agency as the lead agency for environmental review under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the CEC to exempt, until January 1, 2030, thermal powerplants that generate electricity using geothermal resources from the certification requirement, if they meet specified criteria, including having a generating capacity of up to 150 megawatts, or undergoing modifications that do not add capacity in excess of 150 megawatts.
- 2) Designates the local governmental agency with land use and related jurisdiction over the area of the proposed site and related facility as the lead agency pursuant to CEQA for any geothermal electricity generation project that the commission exempts from the certification requirement.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes and vests the CEC's various responsibilities with respect to developing and implementing the state's energy policies. (Public Resources Code §§ 25200- 25231)
- 2) Defines a "thermal power plant" as any stationary or floating electrical generating facility with a generating capacity of 50 MW or more using any source of thermal energy, including any facilities related to the power plant. Exempts from the definition facilities related to a geothermal development or production facility, as well as wind, hydroelectric, or solar photovoltaic facilities. (Public Resources Code § 25120)
- 3) Authorizes the CEC with exclusive jurisdiction to certify all thermal power plants and facilities in the state, regardless of whether a facility is a new site or a change or addition to an existing facility. Provides that the certificate issued by the CEC for a power facility serves in lieu of any permit, certificate, or similar authorization required by any local, regional, state, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law. (Public Resources Code § 25500)
- 4) Designates the CEC as the lead review agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for projects subject to the CEC's power plant siting review authority. Requires any other public agency making a decision related to the CEQA review of a power plant that is subject to the CEC's authority to use the CEC's certification review as the environmental impact report (EIR) for that decision. (Public Resources Code § 25519)

- 5) Permits the CEC to exempt from certification thermal power plants with a generating capacity of up to 100 megawatts, as well as modifications to existing facilities that do not increase capacity by more than 100 megawatts, provided the commission determines that the project will not have a substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources. (Public Resources Code § 25541)
- 6) Establishes an “opt-in” framework for specified clean energy projects to seek consolidated permitting at the CEC by June 30, 2029, if they adhere to specified labor standards, including the use of skilled and trained workforce, and provide community benefits, as specified. Existing law specifies that this consolidated permitting process shall not supersede the authorities of the Lands Commission to require leases and receive lease revenues, if applicable, or the authority of the California Coastal Commission, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the State Water Resources Control Board, or the applicable regional water quality control boards. Existing law specifies that the following types of facilities are eligible for this consolidated permitting:
  - a) A solar or terrestrial wind facility with a generating capacity of 50 MW or more and associated facilities.
  - b) An energy storage system capable of storing 200 MW or more of energy, as specified.
  - c) A stationary thermal electrical generating power plant, with a generating capacity of 50 MW or more that does not use or rely on fossil or nuclear fuels.
  - d) Certain renewable energy component manufacturing facilities and transmission lines to certain renewable energy facilities. (Public Resources Code § 25545)
- 7) Requires, pursuant to CEQA, lead agencies with the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a proposed project to prepare a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report (EIR) for this action, unless the project is exempt from CEQA (CEQA includes various statutory exemptions, as well as categorical exemptions in the CEQA guidelines). (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.)
- 8) Establishes a framework for providing certain infrastructure projects with expedited judicial review of appeals and litigation related to the CEQA, subject to specified conditions. Existing law limits eligibility for these streamlining provisions to certain energy, transportation, water, and semiconductor projects. Existing law explicitly excludes projects that use hydrogen as a fuel from the list of eligible projects. (Public Resources Code § 21189.80)
- 9) Authorizes the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) in the Department of Conservation (DOC) to delegate lead agency authority under CEQA for geothermal exploratory projects. (Public Resources Code § 3715.5)
- 10) Provides an expedited judicial review by the California Supreme Court of decisions by the CEC on applications for certification of a power plant or transmission facility. (Public Resources Code § 25531)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown. This bill is keyed fiscal and will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for its review.

**CUSTOMER COST IMPACTS:** Uncertain. This measure seeks to modify the regulatory requirements for specific geothermal projects in California. While the legislation does not directly address customer costs, its implementation could ultimately impact ratepayer costs.

## **BACKGROUND:**

*Geothermal Energy* – Geothermal is a form of renewable energy defined as heat energy from the earth. Geothermal resources are reservoirs of hot water that are naturally occurring or are manufactured to operate at varying temperatures and depths below the earth’s surface. Wells, ranging from a few feet to several miles deep, can be drilled into underground reservoirs to tap steam and hot water that can be brought to the surface for use in electricity generation, direct heating, and industrial processes.<sup>1</sup> The United States is the world’s largest producer of geothermal electricity and California has the highest geothermal capacity of all states.<sup>2</sup> “The Geysers” geothermal steam field, located within Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties, contains 349 out of California’s 563 high-temperature geothermal wells within the state. Imperial County (including the Salton Sea) houses 194 of these wells, and the remaining 20 are located in Lassen, Modoc, and Mono Counties.<sup>3</sup> California has installed 2,627 MW of geothermal nameplate capacity—accounting for 72% of the total geothermal plant capacity in the United States.<sup>4</sup>

*Geothermal Procurement Orders.* Geothermal energy can supply power even when intermittent resources – such as solar and wind – are offline (such as at night or on cloudy days), and therefore support California in its transition to a 100% clean electricity by 2045 and maintain system reliability. Recognizing the need, California has authorized procurement orders for geothermal energy through various channels:

- I) Integrated Resource Plan (IRP): The IRP is California’s procurement strategy used by California’s electric providers and the CPUC to ensure the state’s electricity system remains reliable, cost-effective, and aligned with clean energy goals.<sup>5</sup> In February 2024, the CPUC adopted the 2023 Preferred System Plan which estimated that at least 2 GW of geothermal energy is needed to meet the GHG reduction target of 25 million metric tons (MMT) by 2035.<sup>6</sup>
- II) In June 2021, the CPUC issued a major procurement order – Decision 21-06-035, also known as the Mid-Term Reliability (MTR) requiring utilities to procure 11,597 MW of RPS- eligible resources between 2023 and 2026.<sup>7</sup> Of this quantity, about

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<sup>1</sup> Pg. 16; SB 423 Report “Emerging Renewable and Firm Zero-Carbon Resources”; December 2024

<sup>2</sup> Pg. ii; “California Energy Commission, California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), “Assessing California’s Population of Low-Temperature Geothermal Wells for Plugging and Abandonment” September 2023

<sup>3</sup> Pg. E-2; “SB 423 Emerging Renewable and Firm Zero-Carbon Resources”; December 2024

<sup>4</sup> Robins, Jody C., Amanda Kolker, Francisco Flores-Espino, Will Pettitt, Brian Schmidt, Koenraad Beckers, Hannah Pauling et al. 2021. U.S. Geothermal Power Production and District Heating Market Report. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/78291.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Integrated Resource Plan, <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/irp/>

<sup>6</sup> Pg. 68; CPUC ; Decision 24-02-047; February 15, 2024

<sup>7</sup> Page 25, CPUC; Decision 21-06-035; June 24, 2021

1,000 MW of zero-carbon resources such as geothermal energy was ordered<sup>8</sup> with an additional 4,000 MW of net qualifying capacity (NQC) ordered in early 2023<sup>9</sup> following an updated load forecast by the CEC.

- III) In 2023, the legislature adopted AB 1373 (Chapter 367, Statutes of 2023) which authorized the CPUC through a central procurement mechanism to work with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to procure long lead-time clean energy resources —such as offshore wind, geothermal, and long-duration storage. This procurement was intended to support the development of long lead time resources necessary to ensure grid reliability while advancing the state’s 100% clean energy goals.<sup>10</sup> The total solicitation cap includes up to 10.6 GW of long lead-time clean energy resources, with 1 GW specifically allocated for geothermal energy.<sup>11</sup>

These procurement orders reflect California’s progress and growing intention to expand geothermal energy generation. However, geothermal energy struggles to scale in-state primarily due to its high capital costs and extended permitting timelines. Many geothermal developers opt to construct projects outside of California and contract with California’s LSEs to meet the above procurement obligations. Fervo Energy, a company focused on harnessing heat energy through enhanced geothermal systems, is currently developing a 400 MW geothermal plant in Cape Station, Utah, and has already secured two power purchase agreements (PPAs) totaling 320 MW with Southern California Edison (SCE). As discussed above, the procurement orders require LSEs to procure a specified amount of geothermal energy as part of their long-term resource planning obligations. These existing procurement orders suggest that the limitation to in-state geothermal development is not for want of procurement direction.

*Application for Certification (AFC)* – Enacted in 1974, the Warren-Alquist Act, established the CEC as the state’s primary energy policy and planning agency.<sup>12</sup> One of its key provisions is to grant the CEC the exclusive authority to license and certify thermal power plants with a generating capacity of 50 megawatts or more.<sup>13</sup> This approval process, known as the Application for Certification (AFC), a certified regulatory program under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), ensures that proposed power plants meet environmental, public health, and safety standards while aligning with California’s broader energy and environmental policies. The AFC process involves rigorous evaluation, including environmental impact assessments, public participation, and coordination with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure responsible energy development. The thermal plants covered by the act include:

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<sup>8</sup> <https://fervoenergy.com/fervo-energy-announces-320-mw-power-purchase-agreements-with-southern-california-edison/>, June 25, 2024

<sup>9</sup> COUC, CPUC Augments Historic Clean Energy Procurement Goals To Ensure Electric Reliability”; <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/news-and-updates/all-news/cpuc-augments-historic-clean-energy-procurement-goals-to-ensure-electric-reliability-2023>, February 23, 2023; Accessed April 12, 2025

<sup>10</sup> <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1373/id/2815509>, Bill text CA AB1373, 2023-2024, LegiScan

<sup>11</sup> Bernier P. et al, CPUC Authorizes Procurement of 10.6 GW of Clean Energy Resources under AB 1373, <https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/insights/publications/2024/08/cpuc-authorizes-procurement-of-106-gw-of-clean-energy-resources-under-ab-1373>

<sup>12</sup> CEC; “About”; <https://www.energy.ca.gov/about>; Accessed April 12, 2025

<sup>13</sup> CEC; “Power Plant Licensing”; [https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/power-plants/power-plant-licensing#:~:text=The%20California%20Energy%20Commission%20\(CEC,of%20Water%20Resources%20energy%20facilities](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/power-plants/power-plant-licensing#:~:text=The%20California%20Energy%20Commission%20(CEC,of%20Water%20Resources%20energy%20facilities). Accessed April 12, 2025

- Natural gas-fired power plants (including combined-cycle and peaking plants)
- Geothermal plants
- Solar thermal power plants (e.g., concentrated solar power or CSP plants)
- Biomass or biogas facilities (waste-to-energy plants)

For thermal power plants generating less than 50 MW, the CEC's certification is not required, and local permitting agencies typically the county or city government with jurisdiction over the project site—retain permitting authority these power plants.

*Small Power Plant Exemptions (SPPE)* – The CEC has exclusive jurisdiction to review, and ultimately approve or deny, applications to construct and operate thermal power plants<sup>14</sup> that generate 50 MW or more, as provided under the Warren-Alquist Act.<sup>15</sup> However, for projects that can generate more than 50 MW but less than 100 MW, developers may apply for a Small power plant exemptions (SPPE). As the lead agency under CEQA, the CEC determines that the proposed project would not create a substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources, it may grant this exemption. Upon granting an SPPE, the local land use agency—typically the county or city government with jurisdiction over the project site—assumes permitting authority for the project.<sup>16</sup> If the application for the SPPE is denied, the project applicant would be required to file an application for power plant certification with the CEC.

*Opt-in Certification Program* – AB 205 (Assembly Committee on Budget, Chapter 61, Statutes of 2022) expanded the CEC authority to oversee the streamlined permitting of certain clean and renewable energy facilities through an opt-in certification program until June 30, 2029.<sup>17</sup> This program allows the following eligible projects to undergo a consolidated state-level review, similar to, but distinct from, the AFC.<sup>18</sup>

- Solar photovoltaic or terrestrial wind power plants with a generating capacity of 50 megawatts or more
- Energy storage systems capable of storing 200 megawatt hours or more of electrical energy
- Any stationary power plant using any source of thermal energy, excluding fossil or nuclear fuels, 50 MW or greater
- Specified facilities that cost at least \$250 million and are for the manufacturing, production, or assembly of an energy storage system
- Electric transmission lines carrying electric power from a facility described the above generating and storage facilities
- Hydrogen production facilities (not derived from fossil fuel feedstock) and associated onsite storage and processing facilities

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<sup>14</sup> And related facilities, such as transmission to and from the power plant

<sup>15</sup> Public Resources Code § 25500

<sup>16</sup> Public Resources Code § 25541

<sup>17</sup> Opt-In Certification Program, California Energy Commission, <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/power-plants/opt-certification-program>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

Under the AB 205 process, the CEC serves as the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, conducting a comprehensive environmental assessment equivalent to an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This consolidated permitting process aims to complete the environmental review and reach a certification decision within 270 of determining that an application is complete, subject to specified exceptions.<sup>19</sup> Additionally, the program mandates the CEC to carry out ongoing public participation and tribal consultation through engagement with local communities and California Native American tribes.<sup>20</sup> Within five days of deeming an application complete, the CEC must invite California Native American tribes to engage in consultation. A public scoping meeting is required within 30 days, and a draft EIR is released by day 150, followed by a public meeting and a 60-day public comment period. To obtain certification, applicants must demonstrate that the project will provide a net positive economic benefit to the local community. This includes requirements to: enter into a community benefits agreement, ensure payment of prevailing wages, and use of a skilled and trained workforce for construction.<sup>21</sup> As such, if a developer submits an application, a certification issued by the CEC under AB 205 serves in lieu of most other state, local, or regional permits, thereby streamlining the overall approval process. Consistent with the existing requirements in the Warren-Alquist Act, local governments may participate in the process but they do not retain primary land use authority over the application once it is under CEC jurisdiction.

*Permitting Challenges* – Geothermal projects in California must comply with both federal and state-level environmental regulations, specifically the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

- NEPA- If a geothermal project involves federal land, or requires federal permits, it is subject to NEPA. Under NEPA, federal agencies must assess the environmental impacts of a project. Depending on the project's potential effects, developers must complete either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which can significantly extend approval timelines.
- CEQA- Geothermal projects in California are also subject to CEQA which mandates state and local agencies to identify and mitigate significant environmental impacts of proposed projects. If a project is found to have substantial environmental effects, developers must prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), outlining potential risks and mitigation strategies. The California Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) oversees compliance with CEQA for geothermal projects, ensuring responsible resource development. However, AB 1359 (Papan, Chapter 678, Statutes of 2024) permits project applicants to request that the county where the project is located assume the lead agency role, regardless of whether the county has adopted a geothermal element in its general plan. While regulatory requirements, are essential for environmental protection, they have been reported to prolong permitting timelines and

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Opt-In Certification Program Fact Sheet, California Energy Commission,  
[https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/Opt-In\\_Certification\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_ada.pdf](https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/Opt-In_Certification_Fact_Sheet_ada.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

hence increasing projects costs, making geothermal project development in California particularly challenging.<sup>22</sup>

*Geothermal Element* – These are optional components that counties can incorporate into their general plans to guide the development of geothermal resources within their jurisdictions.<sup>23</sup> For instance, Imperial County has adopted a Renewable Energy & Transmission Element in its general plan, which includes comprehensive policies and frameworks for the development of geothermal energy, among other renewable resources.<sup>24</sup> This element serves as a foundational guide for the review and approval of renewable projects in the county. Similarly, Siskiyou County has adopted a Geothermal Element in its general plan, emphasizing the county's approach to managing geothermal resources responsibly.<sup>25</sup> The element outlines policies and objectives related to geothermal development, ensuring that such activities align with the county's land use goals and environmental considerations.

## COMMENTS:

- 1) *Author's Statement.* According to the author, "Imperial County and other regions with rich geothermal resources have proven for decades that they are capable of responsibly permitting and managing clean energy development. AB 1016 empowers these local governments—who have invested in planning, community engagement and environmental stewardship—to lead the way in building the clean energy infrastructure California urgently needs. By streamlining the permitting process for geothermal projects up to 150 megawatts, this bill reduces bureaucratic delays, speeds up project delivery, and ensures that local voices are central in decisions that directly impact their communities. AB 1016 is not only about efficiency—it's about equity. It gives local jurisdictions the tools they need to create jobs, attract investment and advance the state's clean energy goals from the ground up. This is how we accelerate our climate progress and bring tangible benefits to regions like Imperial County that are ready to lead."
- 2) *California's "Lithium Valley."* Lithium is critical<sup>26</sup> to the clean energy transition and national security of the United States, serving as a key component in batteries that power electric vehicles, renewable energy storage systems, and military equipment (radios, sensors, GPS units). Globally, majority of lithium production occurs in Australia, South America, and Asia with China dominating in the downstream supply chain, including processing, refining, and battery manufacturing. As of 2023, the United States accounted

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<sup>22</sup> E-6; California Energy Commission; "Report: SB 423 Emerging Renewable Firm and Firm Zero-Carbon Resources Report", December 2024

<sup>23</sup> Government Code § 65303

<sup>24</sup> Imperial County; "Renewable Energy & Transmission Element"; [https://www.icpds.com/planning/land-use-documents/general-plan/renewable-energy-and-transmission-element?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.icpds.com/planning/land-use-documents/general-plan/renewable-energy-and-transmission-element?utm_source=chatgpt.com); Accessed April 12, 2025.

<sup>25</sup> Geothermal Element; "To the Siskiyou County General Plan"; May 1984

<sup>26</sup> Critical minerals provide the building blocks for many modern technologies and are essential to our national security and economic prosperity. These minerals—such as rare earth elements, lithium, and cobalt—can be found in products from computers to household appliances. They are also key inputs in clean energy technologies like batteries, electric vehicles, wind turbines, and solar panels. As the world transitions to a clean energy economy, global demand for these critical minerals is set to skyrocket by 400-600 percent over the next several decades, and, for minerals such as lithium and graphite used in electric vehicle (EV) batteries, demand will increase by even more—as much as 4,000 percent.

for less than 2% of global lithium supply, with production concentrated in Nevada.<sup>27</sup> However, California's, "Lithium Valley"—the Salton Sea Geothermal Resource Area, in Imperial County—has an existing geothermal capacity of 400MW (as of 2023) and is home to one of the world's largest and most environmentally sustainable lithium reserves.<sup>28</sup> According to an analysis by the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab), the Salton Sea region could contain more than 3,400 kilotons of lithium—enough to support the production of over 375 million electric vehicle batteries.<sup>29</sup> In recent years, some companies have developed technologies to sustainably extract lithium directly from geothermal brines, avoiding the environmental impacts associated with traditional mining methods.

- 3) *Conflicting Directives.* Under this measure, the local agency assumes the role of lead agency under CEQA for qualifying geothermal projects; current law grants this authority exclusively to the CEC. AB 531 (Rogers, 2025) has the opposite approach, but for geothermal projects below 50 MW. That measure allows geothermal projects below 50 MW to be permitted by the CEC, and makes the CEC lead agency under CEQA, should a developer choose to file their application with the CEC (the AB 205 Opt-in process, mentioned above). Currently law exempts CEC review of these projects, and local permitting agencies typically the county or city government with jurisdiction over the project site—retain permitting authority of these power plants.

Additionally, AB 205 seeks to centralize permitting under the CEC for faster approvals, ensuring a consistent state-led process. This measure requires the CEC to exempt larger geothermal power plants from its certification process if they meet specific criteria. This action would decentralize permitting for these specified geothermal plants by mandating local oversight, which contradicts the intent of AB 205 to consolidate clean energy project approvals at the state level.

Specifically, this bill requires the CEC to exempt certain geothermal power plants from its certification process, provided they meet the following criteria:

- **Location:** The facility must be situated in a county with an approved geothermal or geothermal and renewable element in its general plan.
- **Capacity:** The plant's generating capacity should not exceed 150 MW, or any modifications should not increase capacity beyond this limit.
- **Permitting Authority:** The local governmental agency with jurisdiction must determine, after conducting an environmental review under the CEQA, that the project will not have a substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources.

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<sup>27</sup> Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia; "Lithium Supply in the Energy Transition"; December 2023

<sup>28</sup> Department of Energy Fact Sheet; "Improved Quantification of Lithium Resources in the Salton Sea Region"; November 2023; Accessed April 12, 2025.



The author contends that counties are prohibited from permitting geothermal projects with a generating capacity above 50 MW—a threshold that does not reflect the scale of development needed to meet California’s clean energy goals. The proposed change could help address the lengthy permitting timelines that often occur under the current-state level review process. Therefore, this measure expands local authority by allowing counties that have adopted a geothermal element in their general plans to permit geothermal power plants up to 150 MW—tripling the current threshold. As such, the local agency assumes the role of the lead agency for CEQA purposes, instead of the CEC.

This shift may or may not speed up the permitting process, depending on the resources and expertise that a local agency has on permitting geothermal power plants. The CEC has expertise on navigating the permitting process for thermal powerplants, including potentially coordinating with CalGEM or dovetailing CEQA with NEPA as required. The CEC also has specialized expertise in assessing the impacts of proposed energy facilities on grid reliability, and their alignment with California’s climate and energy goals. In contrast, local agencies may lack the necessary capacity and resources to conduct robust project reviews. Moreover, other bills this committee has considered seek to grant the CEC more – not less – authority to permit geothermal projects. *Given these conflicting directives, the committee recommends amendments that delete language limiting CEC authority and instead include provisions that permit the CEC to retain certification authority for these specified geothermal facilities, but only in circumstances where the applicant chooses to file with the CEC.* This approach provides geothermal developers with the discretion to pursue permitting either at the local level or state-level certification through the CEC; a similar process adopted under AB 205.

4) *Related legislation.*

AB 526 (Papan) would require the California Energy Commission (CEC) in coordination with other relevant state, federal and local agencies to develop a strategic plan for the development of new in-state geothermal energy in California. Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

AB 527 (Papan) would allow geothermal exploratory projects that meet the same environmental standards, as determined by the lead agency overseeing the project, to be considered compliant with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

AB 531 (Rogers) would expand the types of facilities eligible for certification as environmental leadership development projects by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to include geothermal power plants and geothermal field development projects, as defined. Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee

5) *Prior Legislation.*

AB 1359 (Papan), authorizes the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) in the Department of Conservation (DOC) to delegate lead agency authority under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for geothermal exploratory projects, as provided. Status: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 678, Statutes of 2024.

AB 1373 (Garcia), authorizes the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to serve as a central procurement entity to procure energy resources to include offshore wind, long-duration storage, and geothermal in order to help the state meet its renewable and zero-carbon energy resources and reliability goals. Status: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 367, Statutes of 2023.

AB 205 (Committee on Budget), among its many provisions, established the SRR at DWR to fund procurement of backstop resources to provide reliability to CAISO's grid. Status: Chapter 61, Statutes of 2022.

AB 1161 (E. Garcia, 2021) would have required DWR to procure newly developed eligible renewable energy resources or zero-carbon resources, and energy storage associated with those resources, in an amount that satisfies 100% of the electricity procured to serve all state agencies by December 31, 2030. Status: Died – Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy.

SB 423 (Stern) requires the CEC to submit to the Legislature an assessment by December 31, 2023, of firm zero-carbon resources that support a clean, reliable, and resilient electrical grid and will help achieve the existing statutory goal of ensuring renewable energy and zero-carbon resources supply 100 percent of all retail sales of electricity to California customers by December 31, 2045. Status: Chapter 243, Statutes of 2021.

AB 56 (E. Garcia, 2019) would have required the CPUC to empower the CAEATFA to undertake backstop procurement of electricity that would otherwise be performed by an electrical corporation to meet state resource adequacy, integrated resource planning, and renewable portfolio standard goals not satisfied by retail sellers or load-serving entities. Status: Died – Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications.

SB 350 (De León), among its many provisions, requires the CPUC to adopt a process for each LSE to file an IRP starting in 2017 and updating periodically. Additionally requires POU's to file an IRP by January 1, 2019. Status: Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015.

SB 100 (De León) established the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018 which increases the RPS requirement from 50% by 2030 to 60%, and creates the policy of planning to meet all of the state's retail electricity supply with a mix of RPS-eligible and zero-carbon resources by December 31, 2045, for a total of 100% clean energy. Status: Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018.

*Double Referral.* This bill is double-referred; upon passage in this Committee, this bill will be referred

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

County of Imperial  
Geothermal Rising  
Hudson Ranch Power 1 LLC  
Imperial Irrigation District

Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Independent Energy Producers Association  
Ivedc  
Ormat Technologies, INC.  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)  
Xgs Energy

**Oppose**

California-nevada Conference of Operating Engineers  
California State Council of Laborers  
District Council of Iron Workers of the State of California and Vicinity  
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
State Building and Construction Trades Council

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