



CITY COUNCILMEMBER
RIGEL ROBINSON
 DISTRICT 7

CONSENT CALENDAR
 July 9, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmembers Rigel Robinson and Kate Harrison
 Subject: Opposition to SB 386 (California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program: irrigation districts)

RECOMMENDATION

Send a letter to Senator Caballero, Senator Skinner, and Assemblymember Wicks opposing SB 386, which would allow certain irrigation districts to count specific large hydroelectric resources toward compliance requirements under the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program, undermining the state's climate change prevention efforts.

BACKGROUND

The California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program requires all retail sellers of electricity to procure a minimum quantity of electric products from eligible renewable energy resources, increasing from 25% of retail sales by December 31, 2016 to 60% by December 31, 2030. Requiring local publicly owned electric utilities to procure a minimum quantity of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources helps the state achieve long-term energy goals established by the passage of SB 100 last year.

Californians stand to benefit from further investments in renewable energy resources through low utility rates and revenue from "clean tech" investors. Additionally, there are two to four times more jobs in the renewable energy sector than any fossil fuel sector.¹ It is important that we continue to drive innovation in the renewable energy sector to not only avoid irreversible climate change effects but to protect the interests of Californians.

SB 386 would relax eligibility requirements for renewable energy resources and allow certain irrigation districts to avoid making investments in renewable energy resources, undercutting the effectiveness of SB 100 in achieving long-term energy goals. California is a national leader in energy efficiency,² and SB 386 would jeopardize these recent accomplishments by allowing certain irrigation districts to continue relying on natural gas and coal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

¹ <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/Green-energy-is-gold-for-California-US-13164863.php>

² Ibid

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

SB 386 threatens progress towards achieving the long-term energy goals which were established to avoid climate change effects threatening California and ultimately Berkeley residents.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Rigel Robinson, (510) 981-7170
Aoife Megaw, Intern

Attachments:

- 1: Letter of opposition
- 2: Bill Text - SB 386

(https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB386)

April 29, 2019

The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5052
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 386 - California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program (Caballero)
Opposition from the Berkeley City Council

Dear Senator Caballero:

The Berkeley City Council writes to you to express our opposition to SB 386. This bill sets a bad precedent and undermines our state's efforts to fight climate change.

Requiring local publicly owned electric utilities to procure a minimum quantity of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources helps the state achieve long-term energy goals established by SB 100 just last year. SB 386 undercuts the effectiveness of SB 100 in achieving these goals by relaxing these requirements and allowing certain irrigation districts to avoid making investments in renewable energy resources. This opens the door for more agencies to request such exceptions in the future, thus creating the potential for far more damage to our environmental goals.

Californians pose to benefit from further investments in renewable energy resources through low utility rates, job generation, and revenue from "clean tech" investors. It is important that we continue to drive innovation in the renewable energy sector to not only avoid irreversible climate change effects but to protect the interests of Californians.

Currently, California is a national leader in energy efficiency, and SB 386 would jeopardize these recent accomplishments.

Respectfully,
The Berkeley City Council

CC: Senator Nancy Skinner
Assembly Member Buffy Wicks

