



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

April 11, 2023

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 83 – SUPPORT
As Amended March 30, 2023**

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support your Senate Bill 83, regarding timely electrical interconnection. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

Senate Bill 83 requires electrical utilities to interconnect a development project within eight weeks of that project becoming “interconnection ready.” SB 83 seeks to establish clear expectations for how quickly utilities are expected to provide service to new customers or increased load to existing customers.

These changes are all necessitated by frequent and long-term challenges faced by a wide variety of jurisdictions throughout the state. Many of our local governments have been told it will take anywhere from 2-7 years to improve utility distribution systems to provide additional capacity to support normal growth and facilitate economic development. These excessive delays have resulted in lost opportunities for transformative economic development, inhibit local ability to increase desperately needed local housing stocks, frustrate efforts to install electric vehicle charging systems, and will stymie the state’s efforts to decarbonize existing residential and commercial buildings. These challenges are in addition to numerous reported delays in connecting completed housing projects and subdivisions to the grid, which have forced developers to find alternative housing for residents who are ready and waiting to move into their new homes.

While we appreciate that SB 83 sets a maximum interconnection timeframe of eight weeks from the project being interconnection ready, we believe there should be an expectation that the utility will attempt to connect the project as soon as possible. Any delay in interconnection results in increased overhead costs or reduced economic benefit for the project. To reflect this, we urge amending SB 83 to clarify that this eight-week limit

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

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does not modify or abrogate the expectation that interconnection be accomplished as soon as possible.

SB 83 is an important piece of a larger effort to improve distribution planning and interconnection timeframes to ensure that California can continue to grow in terms of economic development and housing production.

For the above reasons, RCRC supports your SB 83. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "J" and "K".

JOHN KENNEDY
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Steven Bradford, Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, and
Communications Committee
Members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
Nidia Bautista, Consultant, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications
Committee
Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus