



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood  
Member, California State Assembly  
1020 N Street, Suite 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 50 – SUPPORT  
As Amended, March 23, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support your Assembly Bill 50, 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.

Assembly Bill 50 makes several interrelated changes to expedite the timely delivery of service by electrical utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). AB 50 seeks to establish clear expectations for how quickly utilities are expected to deliver service to new customers, fulfill requests for increased load from existing customers, and reenergize customers after a power outage. Importantly, AB 50 also seeks to improve utility planning and information sharing to facilitate systematic reductions in the time it takes to meet requests for new or increased levels of service from 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. While these problems have gotten worse recently, they are much longer-term issues in many areas.

AB 50 seeks to address these problems from several different perspectives. First, AB 50 will invest the CPUC with authority to determine what constitutes the timely provision of electrical service and fulfillment of requests to provide additional capacity.

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The Honorable Jim Wood  
Assembly Bill 50  
March 30, 2023  
Page 2

Second, AB 50 takes a more holistic approach by requiring utilities to refine their distribution planning processes to work more collaboratively with local governments and ensure that the projected demand for a given planning cycle more closely matches the actual demand for service.

Experiences have shown that some utilities develop their multi-year distribution plans without any interaction with local governments or economic development officials. Local governments and economic development officials can provide valuable input on projected development trends in the area, where those projects are anticipated to occur, and anticipated planning horizons. Failure to undertake these basic consultations has resulted in utility distribution plans that miss actual demand by a wide margin, leading to multi-year delays in service connection that result in economic stagnation. These simple, common-sense changes include in AB 50 will significantly improve utilities' ability to meet customer expectations over the mid- and long-term planning horizon.

Finally, AB 50 includes provisions requiring utilities to share information with local governments about where distribution capacity exists or could be easily added to help meet local housing and economic development objectives. At least one of our counties unsuccessfully requested information from their electrical utility about where capacity exists in order to develop an implementable housing plan. Having this information would enable local governments to develop better, more refined housing and economic development plans that avoid directing development into areas where service is unlikely to be available in the foreseeable future.

For the above reasons, RCRC supports your AB 50. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jkennedy@rcrcnet.org](mailto:jkennedy@rcrcnet.org).

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY  
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair, Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee  
Members of the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee  
Laura Shybut, Chief Consultant, Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee  
Greg Melkonian, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus