



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

April 11, 2023

The Honorable Josh Becker  
Member, California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7250  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 410 – SUPPORT  
As Amended March 14, 2023**

Dear Senator Becker:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support your Senate Bill 410, regarding 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 410 seeks to improve electrical distribution planning, reduce interconnection delays, and ensure that California residents and businesses can timely access new and increased service for general economic growth, housing production, and meeting the state's decarbonization goals. SB 410 also charges the Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with establishing reasonable average and maximum interconnection time periods.

SB 410 is necessitated by frequent and long-term interconnection 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. There have also been numerous 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.

We appreciate that SB 410 establishes clear state policy that utilities must upgrade electrical distribution systems, improve planning and construction to increase distribution system capacity, and promptly interconnect new customers to the grid. We support your effort to establish a working group to provide input on how to best achieve these goals;

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however, we strongly suggest modifying proposed Public Utilities Code Section 934(a) to explicitly require inclusion of local governments and economic development officials who have many years of experience in dealing with utility electric distribution system interconnection challenges. Local governments and economic development officials also have better knowledge of projected growth and future energy demand than do many of the other proposed working group members.

Beyond this, it is also imperative that utilities work more collaboratively with local governments to ensure that the projected demand for a given distribution 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 should be included in SB 410 and will significantly improve utilities' ability to meet customer expectations over the mid- and long-term planning horizon.

SB 410 commendably takes a multi-pronged approach to improve distribution planning and interconnection timeframes to ensure that California can continue to grow in terms of economic development and housing production and to facilitate achievement of the state's climate goals. For the above reasons, RCRC supports your SB 410. 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 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

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Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus