

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2476 (Ellis)

As Amended August 20, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Eliminates the requirement that a pumped storage hydroelectric facility be directly appropriated funding by the state before January 1, 2023, in order for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to procure resources from the facility as part of the central procurement function.

Senate Amendments

Incorporate chaptering provisions to ensure both this bill and AB 2369 (Rogers, 2026) may be effectuated.

COMMENTS

In 2023, the Legislature authorized the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to request DWR exercise a central procurement function to procure eligible long lead-time energy resources, until January 1, 2035. (AB 1373, E. Garcia, Chapter 367, Statutes of 2023). The law limits DWR's authority to the procurement of only certain resources, including resources from a pump hydroelectric facility if the pump hydroelectric facility does not exceed 500 megawatts and has been directly appropriated funding by the state before January 1, 2023.

This bill removes the state funding requirement, expanding eligibility to any pumped storage facility at or below 500 MWs. The practical effect is to broaden the pool of pumped hydroelectric projects DWR can procure, allowing more facilities to qualify. Given that pumped storage is a key tool for storing renewable energy and managing grid reliability, this expansion of central procurement project eligibility may be warranted to enable DWR to pursue a wider range of storage projects before its central procurement authority expires in 2035.

According to the Author

"AB 2476 is designed to enhance the state's existing central procurement program by permitting the procurement of pumped-storage hydro (PSH) as an eligible zero carbon resource available to the program. Under the initial program PSH was limited. PSH is a reliable, cost-effective, long-duration storage clean energy option that also diversifies the state's energy resources."

Arguments in Support

This bill is supported by the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association and various pumped storage developers (EDF Power, Greengeneration, and Rye Development). Rye Development notes its belief this bill "strikes the right balance between progress and protection. It does not change the central procurement process or mandate any specific project or technology; it merely expands the eligibility criteria to include a technology proven in California since 1967."

Arguments in Opposition

None received.

FISCAL COMMENTS

This Senate Committee on Appropriations found this bill to not have a significant fiscal impact, sending the bill to the Senate Floor pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8.

VOTES:**ASM UTILITIES AND ENERGY: 18-0-0**

YES: Petrie-Norris, Patterson, Boerner, Calderon, Chen, Davies, Mark González, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Kalra, Papan, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Ta, Wallis, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0-3

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Flora, Celeste Rodriguez

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

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CONSULTANT: Laura Shybut / U. & E. / (916) 319-2083

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