CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
AB 2493 (Petrie-Norris)
As Amended August 28, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish a transmission development monitor to track transmission and interconnection project progress and delays, and to direct remedial actions to address material deficiencies within a large electrical corporation's *or a transmission owner's* reasonable control.

Senate Amendments

1) Requires the CPUC, by *October 1, 2027,* instead of July 1, 2027, to establish a transmission development monitor to continuously monitor and review transmission and interconnection project progress, instead of requiring each large electrical corporation to retain an independent third-party auditor.

2) *Extends the deadline from 180 days to one year* for a large electrical corporation or *transmission owner* to submit a project-specific schedule to the transmission development monitor following the adoption of a California Independent System operator (CAISO) transmission plan or the execution of a generator interconnection agreement that assigns the entity to construct a project requiring CPUC approval.

3) *Specify that, for a project eligible for competitive solicitation through the CAISO transmission planning process, the one-year period begins on the date CAISO selects a project sponsor, rather than the date the transmission plan is adopted.*

4) *Expands the bill's requirements to apply to transmission owners and defines "transmission owner" for purposes of the bill.*

5) Authorizes the CPUC, *by resolution and after notice and an opportunity for public comment, to modify the scope, objectives, or reporting requirements of the transmission development monitor's review as necessary to address changes in the risks to the timely and cost-effective completion of transmission and interconnection projects.*

6) Expands the definition of a "high-priority upgrade" to also include *projects needed for system or local reliability, projects needed to meet state policy objectives, and upgrades that have experienced significant cost overruns and delays that could impact ratepayers.*

7) Requires *that compliance with a remedial action ordered by the CPUC does not create a presumption that any cost incurred in complying with that remedial action is reasonable or recoverable in rates pursuant to PUC section 451.*

8) Requires the CPUC, within 90 days of receiving an annual report or notice of a material deficiency from the transmission development monitor, to issue a resolution directing the large electrical corporation or *transmission owner* to take remedial actions to address material deficiencies identified by the monitor that are within the corporation's or transmission owner's reasonable control.

9) *Makes other technical and conforming changes.*

COMMENTS

Delays in Transmission and Interconnection. California continues to add significant amounts of clean energy generation and storage, but many projects depend on transmission and interconnection upgrades before they can come online. Recent CPUC and CAISO findings indicate that these projects continue to experience delays beyond their original in-service dates. In response to growing interconnection backlogs, CAISO has adopted reforms intended to prioritize commercially viable projects. However, these reforms generally do not address delays that occur after studies are completed, including utility permitting and construction of required transmission upgrades.

Transmission Planning and Permitting. CAISO's annual Transmission Planning Process (TPP) identifies transmission projects needed to maintain grid reliability, support state policy goals, reduce congestion, and integrate new resources. Once identified, utilities may need CPUC approval and environmental review before constructing new transmission facilities. Recent CPUC findings indicate that utilities can take several years between project approval and initiating the CPUC permitting process. To address these delays, AB 2493 would require large electrical corporations *and transmission owners* to submit project-specific schedules within *one year* following specified CAISO transmission plan approvals or generator interconnection agreements. These schedules would identify anticipated permitting dates and key interim steps. Large electrical corporations *and transmission owners* would also be required to report schedule changes and explain the reasons for those changes.

Transmission Development Monitor. In addition, the bill would require the CPUC, *by October 1, 2027*, to establish a transmission development monitor within the commission. The monitor would track project schedules, network upgrades, delays, and compliance with CPUC requirements and remedial actions. It would also report annually on project progress and, where reasonably ascertainable, identify whether delays are attributable to a large electrical corporation *or transmission owner*, a generator interconnection customer, a transmission developer, CAISO, a permitting agency, or another third party. *The CPUC could also modify the scope, objectives, or reporting requirements of the monitor's review, by resolution and after notice and an opportunity for public comment, as necessary to address changes in risks to the timely and cost-effective completion of transmission and interconnection projects.*

*Reporting and Accountability***.** This measure would also require standardized reporting on project timelines, delays, preconstruction activities, resources, contracting, and project prioritization. If the transmission development monitor identifies a material deficiency within a large electrical corporation's *or transmission owner's* reasonable control, the CPUC would be required to direct the large electrical corporation *or transmission owner* to take remedial action. For delays beyond the large electrical corporation's *or transmission owner's* reasonable control, the monitor could instead refer the project to GO-Biz for interagency coordination.

According to the Author

According to the author, "Federal clean energy tax credits worth billions of dollars to California ratepayers are on the verge of expiring, and the single greatest obstacle to capturing those savings is the failure of our largest utilities to complete the grid upgrades needed to connect new clean energy projects. The CPUC's own data shows that nearly two-thirds of these transmission upgrades are delayed, with some languishing for over a decade. AB 2493 creates the independent oversight and enforceable accountability mechanisms needed to break through these delays before it is too late."

Arguments in Support
AB 2493 is supported by clean energy trade associations, environmental organizations, and clean energy developers who contend that delays in transmission and interconnection upgrades are slowing the development of new clean energy resources and increasing electricity system costs. Supporters further argue that the bill would improve oversight and accountability related to transmission upgrade delays, help bring new clean energy resources online more quickly, support electric reliability, and help reduce upward pressure on electricity rates.

Arguments in Opposition
This measure is opposed by PG&E, which, among other reasons, argues that AB 2493 duplicates existing federal and CAISO oversight and adds unnecessary reporting requirements. PG&E also raises concerns that project schedules can change for reasons outside a utility's control and that this bill gives the CPUC broad remedial authority that could affect how utilities prioritize personnel and resources.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, this bill would result in ongoing costs, potentially in the high hundreds of thousands of dollars annually from ratepayer funds, for the CPUC to establish a transmission development monitor and implement the bill's other requirements.

VOTES:

ASM UTILITIES AND ENERGY: 14-1-3
YES: Petrie-Norris, Boerner, Calderon, Davies, Mark González, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Kalra, Papan, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Zbur
NO: Ta
ABS, ABST OR NV: Patterson, Chen, Wallis

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-3-1
YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache
NO: Dixon, Ta, Tangipa
ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 57-17-6
YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO: Chen, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Ramos, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alanis, Castillo, Flora, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

SENATE FLOOR: 30-9-1
YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland
ABS, ABST OR NV: Valladares

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

UPDATED

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