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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Senator Henry Stern**

**Chair**

**2025 - 2026 Regular**

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**Bill No:** AB 2543 **Hearing Date:** 6/23/2026  
**Author:** Ransom  
**Version:** 5/18/2026 Amended  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Cassie Royce

**SUBJECT:** Emergency preparedness: direct-current fast-charging station sites

**SUMMARY:** Directs the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to consult with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) and the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS) to identify direct current fast charging (DCFC) station sites that should be required to maintain operations during an emergency, as specified, and develop related backup power recommendations by July 1, 2027. Also requires operators of the identified sites to submit emergency management plans to Cal OES by January 1, 2028. Additionally, requires electrical corporations to consider charging stations in their annual report and emergency response plans submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Designates, under the California Emergency Services Act (ESA), Cal OES as the lead state agency responsible for state emergency response to natural, technological, or man-made disasters, including activities necessary to prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters to people and property.
- 2) Requires all state agencies to use the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) for emergency and disaster response involving multiple jurisdictions or agencies and directs local agencies to use it to be eligible for state funding of personnel costs related to emergencies and disasters.
- 3) Requires Cal OES to review county emergency operations plans (EOPs).

- 4) Authorizes the CPUC to supervise and regulate every public utility in the state and do all things necessary and convenient in the exercise of such power.
- 5) Establishes the CEC as the state's primary energy policy and planning agency.
- 6) Requires CEC, in consultation with the CPUC, to develop uptime recordkeeping and reporting standards for electric vehicle (EV) chargers and charging stations installed on or after January 1, 2024. Applies these standards, known as EV Charger Data and Reliability Standards, to applicable EV chargers and charging stations for a minimum of six years.

This bill:

- 1) Directs Cal OES, in consultation with CEC and OEIS, on or before July 1, 2027, to identify and evaluate the types of emergencies, as specified, for which DCFCs should be required to maintain operations.
- 2) Requires the identification of the DC Fast Chargers pursuant to 1) above to be based on considerations that shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following factors:
  - a) Population density.
  - b) Geographical area.
  - c) Number of chargers per station site.
  - d) Distance to the next DC Fast Charger station.
  - e) Safety of accessing the station site during the emergency.
  - f) Whether the population using the station site can be adequately served by mobile charger deployment.
- 3) Requires Cal OES, CEC and OEIS to develop recommendations on the duration for which energy should be maintained during each emergency type in 1) above.
- 4) Requires Cal OES, CEC and OEIS to develop recommendations on requirements for DCFC operators identified pursuant to 2) above to ensure operability during each emergency type in 1) above, including the type of backup power provided.
- 5) Defines “backup power” to mean anything that may be used to provide off-grid energy to DCFC charging stations, including, but not limited to, backup generators.

- 6) Specifies that Cal OES, CEC and OEIS must provide opportunity for public comment and feedback when conducting the activities required by this bill.
- 7) Directs Cal OES, in consultation with CEC and OEIS, to meet annually to review and update the activities required by this bill.
- 8) Requires operators of identified DCFC station sites to submit an emergency management plan to Cal OES that considers backup power options to be used during an emergency, as specified, to maintain operations, by January 1, 2028.
- 9) Provides that Cal OES shall review the emergency management plans and consult with CEC and OEIS as necessary.
- 10) Requires an operator to submit an emergency management plan annually and include a report on if, how, and when an identified station site was maintained during an emergency.
- 11) Requires electrical corporations to consider electric vehicle charging stations in their annual report and emergency response plan prepared for the CPUC.

## Background

*Author's statement.* According to the author, "Emergency preparedness in the EV sector during an active emergency remains rather unexplored, underscoring the urgent need for clear guidelines for direct current fast charging (DCFC) operations in the event of an emergency. With climate-driven hazards such as wildfires and extreme weather intensifying and the grid occasionally subject to planned shutoffs like PSPS events, comprehensive emergency plans that explicitly address EV charging infrastructure can help ensure that both personal EV users and fleet operators retain access to critical charging services when they are most needed."

*DCFCs.* According to the CEC, a DCFC is a type of EV charger that uses direct current electricity at 480 volts to recharge an all-battery electric vehicle to about 80% capacity in roughly 30 minutes. As of September 2025, California has over 200,000 EV chargers, with nearly 18,000 of those being publicly available and DCFC specific, per the CEC's EV Chargers in California dashboard.

*State emergency preparedness and response.* State and local agencies in California must integrate with the SEMS during disasters to ensure consistent response, particularly in emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions or multiple agencies and in coordination with other local and state partners, including Cal OES. SEMS is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of all emergency responders in

California. The basic components of SEMS are the Incident Command System, multi-agency or inter-agency coordination, the operational area concept, and the mutual aid system.

The State Emergency Plan (SEP), prepared by Cal OES, addresses California's response and recovery to emergency situations associated with natural or human-caused disasters. The SEP is required by the ESA and describes methods for oversight of emergency operations, mutual aid provision, government agencies emergency capabilities, mobilization of resources, consistent and accessible public messaging, and continuity of government during disasters. The 2024 SEP incorporates the Whole Community Planning Approach to involve community members, businesses, organizations, and all levels of government to increase capacity for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. The SEP is updated every five years.

*County EOPs.* County EOPs describe the tactical, real-time actions taken during an emergency response, including the chain of command system, evacuation and shelter processes, communications protocols, and resource deployment. Currently, Cal OES is required to review emergency plans from at least 10 counties every year, prioritizing plans from counties with a high wildfire risk. Cal OES reviews the plans for alignment with the SEMS and consistency with best practices.

The Planning and Preparedness Branch at Cal OES reports that the following elements have been added to the EOP review process: (1) protection and accommodation of vulnerable populations; (2) procedures to alert and warn, evacuate, and shelter individuals during an emergency; (3) procedures to alert and warn, evacuate, and shelter individuals during an emergency; (4) county emergency alert systems; (5) evacuation routes and shelter-in-place plans; (6) community outreach; (7) plans to ensure the health and safety of citizens during power outages; and, (8) plans to accommodate the evacuation, shelter and rescue of animals.

Cal OES undertakes a comprehensive review to ensure each EOP contains all essential elements and provides recommendations for improvement. To date, Cal OES reports completing reviews of 44 counties' EOPs, with three more currently in process. By the end of 2026, Cal OES anticipates having completed 54, with the final four scheduled in 2027.

*Lead agency administration.* This bill directs Cal OES to consult with specified state energy sector agencies to, among other things, identify DCFC stations that are important to maintain during different types of emergencies and develop specified backup power recommendations. While Cal OES is the state's subject matter

agency for emergency preparedness and response, it is not clear if Cal OES has the expertise or staffing to conduct the energy-infrastructure related activities in this bill. The author may wish to continue conversations with the relevant state agencies to develop a joint administration approach that could be modeled after existing law under SB 100, De Leon, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018, requiring the CEC, CPUC and the California Air Resources Board to work together to prepare a joint agency report related to clean energy.

*Plan submission process.* To align with Cal OES' existing EOP review process, the Committee may wish to strike the provisions related to requiring identified DCFC operators to submit emergency plans directly to Cal OES for review, and, instead, require the operators to submit plans to the county for inclusion in the next update to the county EOP based on operator compliance guidance from the CEC.

*Backup power definition.* Given that mobile chargers provide a power alternative to allow for continued access to charging capabilities, the Committee may wish to modify the definition of "backup power" to include mobile chargers.

*Recommended amendments.* To clarify the plan submission process, and the definition of "backup power," the Committee recommends the following amendments described below:

*Amend Section 1 as follows:*

**SECTION 1. 8570.7....** (3) *Develop recommendations on the duration for which energy should be maintained during each emergency type identified pursuant to paragraph (1).*

(4) *Develop recommendations on requirements for operators of station sites identified pursuant to paragraph (2) to ensure operability of those station sites during each emergency type, including the type of backup power to be provided. For purposes of this paragraph, "backup power" means anything that may be used to provide off-grid energy to direct-current fast-charging stations, including, but not limited to, backup generators **or mobile chargers.***

(5) *Provide opportunity for public comment and feedback when conducting the activities required pursuant to paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive.*

(b) *The Office of Emergency Services, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission and the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, shall meet annually to review and update the activities required pursuant to subdivision (a).*

**(c) The CEC shall issue guidance to counties on operator compliance with the recommendations developed pursuant to paragraph (4).**

*(d) (1) On or before January 1, 2028, an operator of a direct-current fast-charging station site identified pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) shall submit an emergency management plan to the county to the Office of Emergency Services that considers options to be used during an emergency, including, but not limited to, a seismic event, deenergization event, extreme weather condition, or wildfire, to maintain operations.*

**(2) Following receipt of the CEC guidance developed pursuant to (c) and receipt of the operators plans pursuant to (d)(1), the county shall incorporate the information into the next update of its emergency operations plan.**

~~*(2) The Office of Emergency Services shall review the emergency management plans and consult with the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, as necessary.*~~

~~*(3) An operator shall submit an emergency management plan annually and include a report on if, how, and when an identified station site was maintained during an emergency.*~~

### **Prior/Related Legislation**

AB 2061 (Ting and Reyes), Chapter 345, Statutes of 2022, requires CEC to develop uptime recordkeeping and reporting standards for EV charging stations that received state funding or ratepayer money and are installed on or after January 1, 2024.

AB 580 (Rodriguez), Chapter 744, Statutes of 2021, requires Cal OES to review county EOPs.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

### **SUPPORT:**

None on file

### **OPPOSITION:**

ABB E-mobility  
California Electric Transportation Coalition  
ChargePoint  
Electric Vehicle Charging Association  
Electrify America  
Forum Mobility

Gateway Fleets  
Powering America's Commercial Transportation  
Tesla  
Workhorse  
Zeem

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:** In opposition to this bill, the Electric Vehicle Charging Association, representing charging industry and allied energy and infrastructure interests, writes that, “The bill puts CalOES in charge of implementation, with no feasibility assessment and, beyond a general public comment period, no formal role for the operators or utilities that must comply. An earlier version’s multi-stakeholder working group has been removed. The state thus risks designating sites with no viable path to compliance, leaving operators with open-ended obligations and no defined outcome. The schedule of the requirements compounds the problem: the operability requirements are due only as recommendations by July 1, 2027, yet operators must begin filing annual emergency-management plans and performance reports by January 1, 2028, before any workable compliance standard is likely to be settled, even as utility energization for charging sites frequently runs upwards of 24 months.”

**DUAL REFERRAL:** Senate Emergency Management Committee & Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee