
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2543 (Ransom) - Emergency preparedness: fuel and transportation resources: assessment

Version: July 2, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: E.M. 6 - 1, E., U. & C. 15 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 2543 requires the Office of Emergency Services (OES), in consultation with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS), to submit an assessment to the Legislature by July 1, 2028, that evaluates the impact of emergencies on fuel and transportation access, identifies critical resources, and recommends state actions to ensure public safety and evacuation capabilities, as specified.

Fiscal Impact:

- OES estimates costs of \$1,883,000 in the first year and \$1,108,000 ongoing to complete the assessment (General Fund). This estimate includes costs for 4.0 positions and \$775,000 in one-time consulting costs.
- CEC estimates total one-time costs of \$267,000 (Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program Fund or Energy Resources Programs Account) , which includes:
 - \$72,000 for a limited-term Electric Generation System Program Specialist I in the Fuels and Transportation Division to assist with the study of direct current fast charging stations.
 - \$95,000 for a limited-term Research Data Specialist II in the Energy Assessments Division to assist with the study of liquid fuel service stations.
 - \$100,000 in one-time contracting costs to build a statewide service station dataset.

Background: The State Emergency Plan (SEP), prepared by OES, addresses California's response and recovery to emergency situations associated with natural or human-caused disasters. The SEP is required by the Emergency Services Act 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.

Proposed Law:

- Requires OES, by July 1, 2028 and in consultation with CEC and OEIS, to submit an assessment to the relevant legislative policy committees that:

- Identifies and evaluates emergencies where limited access to fuel and transportation threatens public health and safety, including, but not limited to, seismic events, deenergization, extreme weather, and wildfires.
- Identifies critical fuel and transportation resources to maintain and access during emergencies, based on factors including:
 - Population that is reliant on the fuel and transportation resources.
 - Geographical location of the fuel and transportation resources.
 - Types of fuel and transportation resources used by populations impacted by emergencies, including the rate of electric vehicle adoption in a region prone to emergencies.
 - Evacuation fuel and transportation resources needed for different types of emergencies.
 - Safety of accessing the fuel and transportation resources during the emergency.
 - Whether the population using the fuel and transportation resources can be adequately served by alternative fuel and transportation resources during an emergency.
- Provides recommendations for actions the state should take in the event of an emergency to ensure that fuel and transportation resources necessary for public health and safety are available during the emergency, including recommendations for any fuel and transportation resources that should be made available to Californians under evacuation orders.
- Requires OES to provide opportunities for public comment and feedback in conducting the assessment.

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