

Date of Hearing: August 27, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Isaac G. Bryan, Chair

SCR 180 (Valladares) – As Introduced May 20, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: Hydrogen: decarbonization tool

SUMMARY: Recognizes hydrogen as a key decarbonization tool when produced, transported, and used in accordance with a carbon intensity standard that ensures verifiable lifecycle greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and supports the continued development and refinement of carbon intensity frameworks to guide hydrogen policy, investment, and deployment.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires the Air Resources Board (ARB), pursuant to California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 [AB 32 (Núñez), Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006], to adopt a statewide GHG emissions limit equivalent to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and to 85% below 1990 levels by 2045. (Health & Safety Code 38500 *et seq.*)
- 2) Establishes the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) regulations to reduce the full fuel-cycle, carbon intensity of the transportation fuel pool used in California, pursuant to AB 32. (Title 17 California Code of Regulations 95480)
- 3) Requires, pursuant the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2017 [SB 100 (de León), Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018] increases in the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement from 50% by 2030 to 60%, and creates the policy of planning to meet all of the state's retail electricity supply with a mix of RPS-eligible and zero-carbon resources by December 31, 2045, for a total of 100% clean energy.
- 4) Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) to take specified steps to support the state's clean energy and pollution reduction goals, including authorizing the procurement of resources to provide grid reliability services that minimize reliance on system power and fossil fuel resources. (Public Utilities Code (PUC) 400)
- 5) Requires the CEC to adopt an integrated energy policy report (IEPR) every two years. This IEPR shall contain an overview of major energy trends and issues facing the state. (Public Resources Code 25302)

THIS RESOLUTION:

- 1) States that hydrogen produced and deployed based on a transparent, science-based carbon intensity standard can provide meaningful GHG reductions while supporting California's air quality, public health, and environmental justice objectives.

- 2) Resolves that the Legislature recognizes hydrogen as a key decarbonization tool when produced, transported, and used in accordance with a carbon intensity standard that ensures verifiable life-cycle GHG reductions.
- 3) Resolves that the Legislature supports the continued development and refinement of carbon intensity-based frameworks to guide hydrogen policy, investment, and deployment in California.
- 4) Resolves that the Legislature encourages state agencies to prioritize hydrogen deployment, including fast-tracking of the development of open access hydrogen infrastructure, in hard-to-electrify sectors, including transit, heavy-duty vehicle fleets, port and maritime operations, power generation, and industrial applications where hydrogen can deliver the greatest emissions reductions and air quality benefits.
- 5) Resolves that the Legislature urges coordination among state agencies, local governments, labor, environmental stakeholders, and the private sector to ensure hydrogen projects advance economic development, workforce opportunities, and environmental justice outcomes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Nonfiscal

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Hydrogen.** Hydrogen has held momentum across both public and private sectors as a clean energy source in California, driven by a growing focus on AB 32 implementation and advancing goals under the Renewable Portfolio Standard. Hydrogen can be used as source of electrical energy and transportation fuel. How it is produced and how it is transported has significant bearing on its carbon footprint. Over the past few decades, research has been conducted looking at the impacts of multiple segments of the hydrogen fuel life cycle, as well as studies on renewable hydrogen pathways. In 2022, the Legislature enacted SB 1075 (Skinner), Chapter 363, Statutes of 2022, to specifically direct ARB and the CEC to analyze options for using hydrogen as part of the state's decarbonization strategies.

ARB developed the LCFS to reduce lifecycle GHGs and overall carbon intensity in the transportation sector. ARB evaluates hydrogen through a well-to-wheel lifecycle analysis (LCA) to measure the total GHGs and criteria pollutant emissions associated with its production, distribution, and use in transportation.

The CEC evaluates hydrogen LCA to identify GHG reductions and guide clean fuel policies under frameworks like the IEPR. CEC has studied the potential role of hydrogen production from renewable electricity and end-use conversion technologies for electric sector applications in California's efforts to decarbonize the electric system.

- 2) **This resolution.** SCR 180 recognizes hydrogen as a key decarbonization tool when produced, transported, and used in accordance with a carbon intensity standard that ensures verifiable lifecycle GHG reductions; supports the continued development and refinement of carbon intensity frameworks to guide hydrogen policy, investment, and deployment; encourages state agencies to prioritize hydrogen deployment; and, urges coordination to

ensure hydrogen projects advance economic development, workforce opportunities, and environmental justice outcomes.

3) Author's statement:

This resolution acknowledges that hydrogen pathways should be evaluated through transparent lifecycle carbon intensity standards that measure actual environmental performance. SCR 180 does not mandate any specific technology or project. Instead, it affirms the Legislature's support for a technology-neutral framework that encourages innovation, investment, job creation, and emissions reductions while helping California maintain its leadership in clean energy and climate policy.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Hydrogen Business Council
United States Hydrogen Alliance

Opposition

None on file

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