

NASEO Western Regional Meeting – California

1. COVID-19 stimulus and energy-related economic development

- [2020 CA Energy and Employment Report \(CAEER\)](#): The CAEER was released this month and provides energy employer survey data from 2019, as well as information about job losses from March and April 2020 resulting from COVID-19. The report provides a snapshot of California's energy industry at its previous peak, including data on wages, demographics, and geography. This information can be used as a reference point in policy discussions about the types of jobs and sectors that could be restored or expanded with stimulus funding. The report was produced by BW Research.
- Governor's Task Force on Business and Job Recovery: On April 17, 2020, Governor Newsom created this [Task Force](#) to chart a path forward on economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19. The Task Force is co-chaired by Tom Steyer and the Governor's Chief of Staff Ann O'Leary, and is comprised of nearly 100 members including state government representatives and private sector CEOs and presidents. Activities have included outreach to gather information about opportunities and advocating for stimulus funding at a national level.
- The Just Transition Framework: At the core of California's climate change and clean energy policies is the concept of a Just Transition, which focuses on helping the state adapt to a carbon-neutral economy in a manner that is equitable, environmentally sustainable, and community-driven. The Just Transition seeks to encourage policies that support clean technology and businesses; invest in workforce training programs and infrastructure to address unmet or shifting labor needs; and develop local business and community ownership of investments.

2. FERC petition filed by New England Ratepayers Association (NERA)

The California Energy Commission (CEC) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) joined with the coalition of states in submitting a joint protest of the NERA position. The CEC also provided an addendum to the State Opposition setting out the importance of full net metering to California's decarbonization goals and its substantial contribution to the state's economy.

3. Energy security and resilience activities; wildfire and utility discussions

The CEC is continuously engaged with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services on both planning updates and responses relevant to energy security

and resilience. Most of the work is focused on analyzing wildfire risk and mitigation, especially in relation to public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) by the utilities. CEC activities include:

- Regular, and in some instances daily, wildfire activity reports to show proximity and risks to energy infrastructure. These reports are supported by in-house GIS mapping tools.
- Open discussions with the CPUC wildfire steering committee on ongoing wildfire risk studies and how microgrids can mitigate PSPS events.
- Evaluation of generation resources in high risk fire zones and collaboration with project owners at key facilities to update fire preparedness and emergency responses.
- Transmission and substation power flow studies to evaluate potential PSPS impacts to circuits and major load center customers.

4. Implementation of new energy legislation, executive orders, and regulations

- Implementing 2019 Building Energy Efficiency (EE) Standards: The 2019 Building EE Standards came into effect as of January 1, 2020. Highlights include a residential rooftop solar requirement and promotion of high-performance walls and attics.
- Planning for 2022 Building EE Standards: The 2022 Building EE Standards are currently being developed with input from stakeholders. Significant proposed changes include the addition of a source energy compliance metric that mirrors the carbon intensity of a building, new weather files that reflect a changing climate, and updates to the life cycle cost methodology.
- SB 49 (Skinner, 2019): The CEC received statutory authority in 2019 to adopt regulations and standards for appliances that facilitate the deployment of flexible demand technologies. The CEC is currently scoping what appliances should be addressed in the first rulemaking proceeding and the metrics by which to measure effective load shifting.
- Load Management Standards Proceeding: The CEC opened a new rulemaking that will revise existing standards to promote peak efficiency and demand flexibility in California's energy systems, while ensuring that costs and benefits are equitable. Potential amendments to regulations include the

establishment of a mandatory, cloud-based tariff portal and harmonization of communications functions embedded appliances.

- AB 3232 Building Decarbonization Assessment: The CEC was statutorily mandated in 2018 to produce a report assessing the potential for the state to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from its residential and commercial building stock to at least 40% below 1990 levels by January 1, 2030. The report is currently being developed alongside new tools that can model the effects of fuel-substitution and other building decarbonization approaches.