



June 27, 2022

FLOOR ALERT

Assembly Bill 205 (Committee on Budget)
Senate Bill 122 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review)
As Amended June 26, 2022 – **OPPOSE**

The above local government organizations oppose AB 205/SB 122, the Energy Trailer Bills. These bills would allow for a shift of local authority for siting of solar, wind, and certain battery backup projects to the California Energy Commission (CEC) and would, under the auspices of a Strategic Energy Reserve, delegate to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) blanket authority to bypass local permitting, including through the Coastal Act of 1976. These facilities can have enormous impacts on local communities, even when the benefits are spread to other parts of the state. Counties work closely with energy developers to site facilities and appropriately balance the needs of the community. As such, we would support efforts to assist local governments in expediting permitting but transitioning authority to the CEC and DWR is not the solution.

The CEC permitting process for renewable energy and manufacturing contained in these bills misses the mark, is overly broad, usurps local control, excludes local governments from meaningful involvement in major development projects within their jurisdictions, and could result in even more litigation.

Counties and Cities agree that the state must improve energy reliability both at the local level and for the larger grid. Many of our communities have suffered a dramatic decline in energy reliability over the last several years.

Counties and Cities understand that the CEC permitting process is just one component of the trailer bill, however, its impact will be sweeping and long-lasting. AB 205/SB 122 bypasses the traditional local permitting process designed to ensure a project's impacts on local communities and residents will be minimized. AB 205/SB 122 also removes all local permitting for facilities cited through the Department of Water Resources for strategic energy reserves and exempts these projects from the California Coastal Act.

AB 205/SB 122 were crafted without the input, and over the objections of, local governments that are best positioned to balance competing interests. For more information, please see our letters ([CSAC](#), [RCRC](#), [Cal Cities](#)) to the Budget Committees objecting to this proposal.

Local governments oppose this over-reach of state permitting and urgently request your "No" vote on AB 205/SB 122. Should you have any questions please contact Catherine Freeman (CSAC) at cfreeman@counties.org, Jean Hurst (UCC) at jkh@hbeadvocacy.com, John Kennedy (RCRC) at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org, or Derek Dolfie (CalCities) ddolfie@calcities.org.