



CITY COUNCILMEMBER
RIGEL ROBINSON
 DISTRICT 7

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 12, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Rigel Robinson (Author) and Councilmember Sophie Hahn (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Support for SB 1063: Flexibility for Energy Innovation

RECOMMENDATION

Send a letter to Senator Nancy Skinner and Assemblymember Buffy Wicks in support of Senate Bill 1063, which would authorize the California Energy Commission (CEC) to make new technology standards effective sooner, enabling the Commission to expedite the rollout of new green technologies and be more responsive to climate emergencies.

BACKGROUND

The California Energy Commission is responsible for setting standards for minimum levels of operating efficiency, which regulate the sale of appliances such as water heaters, air conditioners, refrigerators, showerheads, and more. The Warren-Alquist Act (1977) includes a provision that requires a one-year delay for the effective date of new or updated energy and water efficiency standards. SB 1063 would allow for the one-year delay in effective date to be removed if the CEC adopts a finding that good cause exists for doing so, and if both the manufacturer and CEC deem the new standards to be cost-effective.

For some standards, the current effective date delay limits the ability of the CEC to be responsive to statewide or regional emergencies. This is of particular concern during heatwaves, drought, or increased electrical grid demand, where the State may have an interest in expediting the rollout of new technologies. Removing the mandatory one-year delay would allow the CEC to, for example, accelerate the availability of water-use efficiency technologies during a drought, or of energy-efficient appliances during times of great stress on the electrical grid.

Since the adoption of the one-year delay provision over 40 years ago, technology design and manufacturing processes have vastly improved. Now that appliance manufacturers have the ability to bring new technologies to market well before the one-year mark, the State's standards should reflect this in the interest of allowing consumers access to climate-beneficial technology as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No impact.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Rigel Robinson, (510) 981-7170

Angie Chen, Legislative Assistant

Attachments:

1: Letter of support

2: Bill text

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1063

July 12, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: City of Berkeley's Support for SB 1063

Dear Senator Nancy Skinner,

The Berkeley City Council would like to convey our full support for Senate Bill 1063, Flexibility for Energy Innovation, which authorizes the California Energy Commission (CEC) to make new technology standards effective sooner than one year after their date of adoption or revision, as long as they are deemed cost-effective by the manufacturer and the CEC.

This bill would allow for the one-year delay in effective date to be removed if the CEC adopts a finding that good cause exists for doing so. Providing the CEC with this flexibility would enable them to effectively assist in meeting the State's climate goals, grid reliability concerns, and mandates, while still preserving the one-year delay in most situations. The CEC would have the authority to consider the specific circumstances of rapid innovation, achievable energy savings, and unpredictable climate and health and safety needs in each energy and water efficiency rulemaking.

SB 1063 would help Californians access new technologies faster by allowing new appliance standards to be applied more quickly in instances where accelerated adoption is warranted. As a city that has been a champion for electrification and energy efficiency, Berkeley is pleased to support SB 1063. We thank you for your leadership in spearheading this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,
The Berkeley City Council

CC: Assemblymember Buffy Wicks

