

# California Energy Regulatory Research and Legislative Guide

Navigating the CPUC, CEC, CAISO, CARB, FERC, and  
California Assembly and Senate Websites

December 2016  
Third Edition



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# 1 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates privately owned telecommunications, electric, natural gas, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger and energy transportation companies.<sup>1</sup> The CPUC is responsible for ensuring that customers have safe, reliable utility service at reasonable rates, protecting against fraud, and promoting the health of California's economy.

With respect to energy, the CPUC conducts rulemaking to promulgate policies, which implement broader policy mandates set forth by the legislature. The rulemaking process allows the CPUC to add more detailed scientific, economic, or industry-specific expertise to a statewide policy, as well as set forth implementation plans.

Primary CPUC activities include:

- Establishing service standards and safety rules, and authorizing utility rate changes;
- Monitoring the safety of utility and transportation operations, and overseeing markets to control anti-competitive activity;
- Prosecuting unlawful utility marketing and billing activities, governing business relationships between utilities and their affiliates, and resolving complaints by customers against utilities;
- Implementing energy efficiency and conservation programs, and programs for the low-income and disabled;
- Overseeing the merger and restructuring of utility corporations, and enforcing the California Environmental Quality Act for utility construction;
- Working with other state and federal agencies in promoting air and water quality, environmental protection, and safety;
- Intervening in Federal proceedings on issues that affect California utility rates or services.<sup>2</sup>

A fundamental document for regulated entities and other CPUC participants is the CPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Rules establish specific requirements including filing applications for relief, filing complaints, investigations, rulemaking procedures, proceedings, settlements, hearings, evidence, briefs and submissions, decisions, rehearing, and forms. The Rules are available for download on the CPUC website.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>CPUC Home Page is located at [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

<sup>2</sup> For more information on the scope of CPUC activity see <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/history/>.

<sup>3</sup> CPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=1620>.

## 1.1 CPUC Rulemaking Process

The CPUC initiates rulemakings and investigations, and acts on applications and complaints. The general cycle of a CPUC rulemaking is as follows:

- **Docket Opened** - A rulemaking or investigation is commenced by the CPUC, or an application, petition, or complaint is filed by a person or the CPUC on its own motion and a docket is opened. For example, an Order Instituting Rulemaking is issued, which includes preliminary information on the topic and its scope.
- **Scoping Memo** – This provides more detailed information about what the rulemaking will cover, and typically includes a preliminary schedule of activity.
- **Prehearing Conference** – An assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issues a prehearing conference notice. Interested individuals and organizations attend this conference in order to become a party to the proceeding.
- **Hearings** – The CPUC conducts hearings for proceedings that require an introduction of evidence.
- **Rulings** – The ALJ and/or a single Assigned Commissioner assigned to manage the proceeding to a decision, or decisions, issue rulings on matters related to the proceeding.
- **Proposed Decision** – The ALJ or the Assigned Commissioner issues a proposed decision, sometimes called a "draft decision."
- **Comments** - Parties have an opportunity to comment on the proposed decision, first during a round of opening comments and then during a round of reply comments.
- **Final Decision** – The final decision appears on the agenda of a regularly scheduled CPUC business meeting for approval, modification, or denial.
- **Advice Letters** – To comply with certain final decisions, utilities submit advice letters to make changes to rates and tariffs, among other things, sometimes called a "compliance filing."
- **Resolutions** – The CPUC staff develops and issues resolutions on a range of topics, including contracts and administrative matters. The full Commission must vote to approve or deny these resolutions.

### 1.1.1 CPUC Complaint Proceedings

A complaint may be filed by any corporation, person, chamber of commerce, board of trade, or labor organization; or any civic, commercial, traffic, agricultural, or manufacturing association; or any body politic or municipal corporation. The complaint may set forth any act

or thing done or omitted to be done by any public utility. There is a higher bar for complaints regarding the reasonableness of utility rates or charges.<sup>4</sup>

The CPUC Consumer Affairs Branch is responsible for processing complaints.<sup>5</sup> Article 4 of the CPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure establishes requirements for the form and content of complaints. Complaints are first brought to the CPUC staff for an informal resolution. If accepted for filing, the CPUC will serve defendants with the complaint and assign an ALJ to the proceeding. There are specific requirements for the defendant's answer (Rule 4.4).

## 1.2 Locating CPUC Proceedings

### 1.2.1 Index of Currently Open Proceedings

The CPUC provides an index of all open proceedings. Use this index when you know the number (e.g., R.09-01-019) or the general time period in which the proceeding commenced and want to locate related documents such as decisions, rulings, and party filings.

To find the List of Open Proceedings (Figure 1), hover over "Proceedings" on the top-center panel of the CPUC homepage (Figure 2) and then click on the "Open Proceedings (Docket Card)."<sup>6</sup>

Figure 1 CPUC Index of Open Proceedings

**California Public Utilities Commission**

**Proceeding Information Search**

Looking for information and documents for a specific proceeding? This page gives you options for how to get to what you are looking for quickly.

You can search for information for proceedings that are currently open, or that have been closed for less than 30 years. The more recent the proceeding, the more links there will be to documents filed in the proceeding.

Below we provide several different ways to search.

Proceeding Search (Click on underlined text for further information related to each search field)

Proceeding Number Search:  Filer Search:

Date Range (Low):   Date Range (High):

Description Search:  Assignment Search:

To find a specific proceeding, you can do a keyword search of your proceeding search results (Ctrl+F for PC users/Command+F for Mac users). Additionally, you can search for your proceeding either by number or topic. As with documents, open proceedings listings do not use any periods or dashes in the rulemaking number.

<sup>4</sup> See CPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure, Article 4:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M164/K610/164610801.PDF>.

<sup>5</sup> Consumer Affairs Branch: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/cab/>.

<sup>6</sup> Open Proceedings (Docket Card): <https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=401:1:0>.

### 1.2.2 Statistics on Open Proceedings

Another useful way to identify and assess the status of an open proceeding is to use CPUC Statistics under the Proceedings tab.<sup>7</sup> There you can download a master spreadsheet (excel format) of proceedings before the CPUC. Using a key word search or the filter function in excel is an easy way to identify proceedings in particular topics.

### 1.2.3 Closed Proceedings and Ordering Documents

Dockets for closed proceedings since 2000 should include electronic downloads of pertinent filings. If electronic records are not available, you can request hard copies of decisions, resolutions, rulings signed and/or issued by the CPUC, and certain other documents by submitting an online form and paying a nominal fee. To access the order form and relevant instructions, hover over the "Transparency" tab in the center panel of the CPUC home page, select "Find a Document," and then click "Order a Document" at the bottom of the page.<sup>8</sup>

## 1.3 Locating CPUC Documents

This section explains several ways to access CPUC documents.

Figure 2 California Public Utilities Commission Home Page



<sup>7</sup> Statistics on Open Proceedings: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/openproceedings/>.

<sup>8</sup> CPUC Order a Document: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/orderadocument/>.

### 1.3.1 CPUC Documents Page

To access the CPUC documents page, hover over “Transparency” on the home page menu (Figure 2) and then click on the “Find a Document” link.<sup>9</sup> From here, you can find and search for a variety of Commission and ALJ documents. This page is broken into several key sections to guide the viewer to search for “Recently Published Documents,” including those published in the past 24 hours, 7 days, and 30 days, or by “Type of Document.” Document types include:

- [CPUC Voting Meeting Agenda](#);
- [Daily Calendar](#);
- [Proposed Decisions and Resolutions Issued for Public Comment](#) in the last 30 days;
- [Final Decisions](#) and [Final Resolutions](#);
- [Docket Card for a Specific Proceeding](#);
- [E-filed Documents](#);
- [Rulings](#);
- [Agenda Decisions \(search for documents from Voting Meetings\)](#);
- [Advice Letters Statistics](#);
- [General Orders](#); and
- [Codes, Laws, Policies, Rules of Practice & Procedure](#).

This page also allows for a “Search by Entering Specific Criteria.” The advanced search form allows a search by document title, type, industry, proceeding number, meeting date, and general date range. There is also a search option for electronic filings.

When using the CPUC documents page, documents are generally easier to find if you know the number of the document you are looking for or the proceeding it is a part of (See Section 1.2). Include the initial letter of the document number (e.g., D or R), but do not include periods or dashes.

### 1.3.2 Advice Letters

Advice letters are formal documents filed by regulated entities with the CPUC that request some change to the entity’s regulated operations. In general, advice letters provide a quicker and simpler process for review of the types of utility request that is expected to be neither controversial nor to raise important policy questions. Specific requests might include a review of the regulated entity’s request to change its tariffs in a manner previously authorized by statute or CPUC order, to conform the entity’s tariffs to the requirements of a statute or CPUC order, to get CPUC authorization to deviate from its tariffs, or to propose a new product or

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<sup>9</sup> CPUC Find a Document: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/documents/>.



service. A utility may seek a rate increase by means of an advice letter only if use of an advice letter for this purpose is authorized by statute or CPUC order.

Utility websites are good sources for advice letters, including the following:

- [San Diego Gas & Electric](#);
- [Pacific Gas & Electric](#);
- [Southern California Edison](#); and
- [SoCalGas](#).

You can also locate advice letters on the CPUC's website by hovering over the "Utilities & Industries" tab at the top of their homepage, then selecting "Energy-Electric and Natural Gas," and finally clicking "Energy Advice Letter and Tariff Information" towards the bottom of the page, below the heading "Energy Programs."<sup>10</sup> This page allows users to find closed advice letters,<sup>11</sup> suspended advice letters,<sup>12</sup> as well as a compilation and search engine for advice letters.<sup>13</sup> The best way to navigate the advice letters compilation is through their search engine (see "Search" at the top of the page). Within "search," the "advanced search" will be most helpful, which includes the ability to search by tag (available tags include advice letters, supplement, resolution, resolution revision, comments, reply, protests, and response).

More information about advice letters is provided online, including statistics, the tier system categorization, some timeline information, and a CPUC contact.<sup>14</sup>

## 1.4 Receiving CPUC Documents

Interested parties and participants in proceedings can subscribe to receive information about proceedings as they are issued or filed, including decisions, rulings, and comments filed by parties. To receive documents in this fashion, you must be added to the official Service List.

### 1.4.1 Subscribe to a Service List

To start, hover over "Proceedings" on the CPUC home page and then click on the "Service Lists for Open Proceedings."<sup>15</sup> Here, you will find an index of service lists arranged by proceeding number and instructions on how to subscribe. If there is no service list for a particular proceeding, no link will appear for that proceeding. If there are multiple service lists for a proceeding, then a separate proceeding docket number will be listed for each service list.

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<sup>10</sup> Advice Letters, generally: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=4416>.

<sup>11</sup> Closed Advice Letters: [https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=505:1:0::NO::P1\\_BRANCH,P1\\_TITLE:E,Energy](https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=505:1:0::NO::P1_BRANCH,P1_TITLE:E,Energy).

<sup>12</sup> Suspended Advice Letters: [https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/adviceletters/al\\_suspend\\_t.htm](https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/adviceletters/al_suspend_t.htm).

<sup>13</sup> Advice letter compilation and search engine: [https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=506:1:0::NO::P1\\_BRANCH,P1\\_TITLE:T,Telecommunication](https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=506:1:0::NO::P1_BRANCH,P1_TITLE:T,Telecommunication).

<sup>14</sup> More advice letter information: <https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=404:3:8304649313792>.

<sup>15</sup> CPUC Service List for Open Proceedings: [https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/servicelists/sl\\_index.htm](https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/servicelists/sl_index.htm).

To subscribe to the "Information Only" (non-party) section of a particular service list, you will need to email your request with the proceeding number in the subject line and your name, address, email address, and phone number to: [process\\_office@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:process_office@cpuc.ca.gov). Your request will be routinely granted and your name will be added to the information-only section of the service list. To be added as a party you must have entered an appearance at the prehearing conference for the proceeding or have made a motion to be included as a party explaining to the assigned ALJ the circumstances justifying your addition to the service list as a party in mid-proceeding.

### 1.4.2 CPUC Subscription Service

In contrast to the Service List, which convey documents to subscribers at the moment of service, the subscription service provides e-mail notification when any document meeting their subscription criteria is published to the CPUC website. Unfortunately, the subscription service will not provide notice of prepared testimony or advice letters. To sign up for the subscription service, hover over "Proceedings" atop the CPUC homepage and click "Track Proceedings."<sup>16</sup>

## 1.5 Other Useful CPUC Topics

### 1.5.1 CPUC Commission Meetings

The CPUC holds regularly scheduled public meetings at which three or more Commissioners meet to discuss and vote on proposed policies, rules, and other issues. For information on these meetings, hover over "Proceedings" and then click "Voting Meeting"<sup>17</sup> (Figure 3). Here, you will find additional links with timely information regarding the Commission meetings, including:

- Current agenda;
- Presentations shown at Commission meetings;
- List of Commission meetings for the current year;
- Webcast information;
- About the Commission's business meeting; and
- Commission meeting policies & guidelines.

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<sup>16</sup> <http://subscribecpuc.cpuc.ca.gov/>.

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/commission\\_meeting/](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/commission_meeting/).

Figure 3 CPUC Meetings Webpage



### 1.5.2 CPUC Annual Report

The CPUC's Annual Report is assembled pursuant to Public Utilities Code sections 321.6 and 321.7, and is intended to inform the Governor, Legislature, and public about the work the CPUC plans to undertake in the coming year. The Report describes the CPUC's objectives and priorities, and identifies the key issues the CPUC will focus on to satisfy its legislative requirements.

From the Annual Report you can also view major proceedings for that particular year, as well as action plans for each proceeding, categorized by issue (safety, water, energy, communication, transportation, etc.). To access the Report, click on the "About Us" link on the CPUC home page. You will find this on the top-left panel of the CPUC home page. Next, scroll down to the middle of the site and click on the "Annual Reports" link. From here, you can select an Annual Report for a particular year.<sup>18</sup>

### 1.5.3 Becoming a Party to a Proceeding

The CPUC publishes a brochure entitled "How to Become a Party in a CPUC Proceeding," which provides a very general overview of formal public participation and party rights and responsibilities.<sup>19</sup> Potential participants should also consult Rule 1.4 of the CPUC Rules of

<sup>18</sup> CPUC Annual Reports: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/annualreports>.

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/party\\_to\\_a\\_proceeding/](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/party_to_a_proceeding/).

Practice and Procedure. The CPUC also provides templates for creating formal documents<sup>20</sup> and instructions for serving and filing formal documents in a proceeding.<sup>21</sup>

#### 1.5.4 Discovery in CPUC Proceedings

The CPUC's formal rules for discovery are contained in Article 10, and Rules 11.3 and 11.7 of the CPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission is generally not bound by the formal rules for discovery found in the Code of Civil Procedure, though it may look to that Code for guidance in resolving discovery disputes. The CPUC also published a helpful guidance document on discovery customs and practices.<sup>22</sup>

#### 1.5.5 Ex Parte Communications

An *ex parte* communication is a communication between a decision maker and an interested person, concerning a substantive issue in a formal proceeding before the CPUC that does not occur in a public forum established in the proceeding or on the record of the proceeding. *Ex parte* communications are governed by Article 8 of the CPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure, as mandated by Public Utilities Code § 1701.1 *et seq.*

The rules governing *ex parte* communication generally depend on the category of the proceeding.<sup>23</sup> Generally, *ex parte* communication is prohibited in adjudicatory proceedings, permitted in rate setting proceedings subject to restrictions and reporting requirements, and permitted without restriction in quasi-legislative proceedings.

Interested persons subject to this rule include any party to the proceeding, any person with a financial interest in the proceeding (as defined in Gov. Code § 87100), any formally organized association who intends to influence a decision maker, and any representative of such persons. Decision makers include the Commissioners, the Chief Administrative Law Judge, any Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge, any Administrative Law Judge assigned to the proceeding, and any designated Law and Motion Administrative Law Judge. Although the Commissioners' personal advisors are not defined as "decision makers," communications with them are governed by most of the same rules as apply to decision makers.

Senate Bill 215 requires the Commission to adopt procedures for the disqualification of Commissioners, due to bias or prejudice, similar to the procedures of other state agencies and superior courts.<sup>24</sup> SB 215 could have significant implications for *ex parte* communications, namely by broadening the types of communications that count as *ex parte*, and by broadening the definition of "decision maker" and "interested party."

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<sup>20</sup> [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/creating\\_formal\\_documents/](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/creating_formal_documents/).

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/servingandfilingdocuments/>.

<sup>22</sup> [ftp://ftp2.cpuc.ca.gov/PG&E20150130ResponseToA1312012Ruling/2011/01/SB\\_GT&S\\_0031727.pdf](ftp://ftp2.cpuc.ca.gov/PG&E20150130ResponseToA1312012Ruling/2011/01/SB_GT&S_0031727.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/REPORT/124510.htm>.

<sup>24</sup> Chaptered version of SB 215:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160SB215](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB215).

## 2 CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is the state's primary energy policy and planning agency.<sup>25</sup> Created by the Warren-Alquist Act in 1974, the CEC has five major areas of responsibility:

- Forecasting future energy needs and keeping historical energy data;
- Licensing thermal power plants 50 megawatts or larger;
- Promoting energy efficiency through appliance and building standards;
- Developing energy technologies and supporting renewable energy; and
- Planning for and directing state response to energy emergency.

### 2.1 Locating CEC Proceedings or Dockets

#### 2.1.1 CEC Proceedings

A quick and easy way to locate CEC proceedings is to use the Commission Proceedings tool from the top panel on the CEC home page (Figure 4). Hover over "About Us" (shown in

Figure 4 below) and select "Proceedings."<sup>26</sup> This page includes a subset of all proceedings.

Figure 4 CEC Home Page - Proceeding Look Up Options



<sup>25</sup> CEC Home Page is located at <http://energy.ca.gov/>.

<sup>26</sup> CEC list of proceedings: <http://energy.ca.gov/dockets/>.

At the top of the Proceedings page is a link for the “List of All Proceedings.”<sup>27</sup> From this page, you can link directly a particular proceeding’s main page, where you will find the following information (if available):

- General information regarding the particular proceeding’s content;
- Notices, orders, hearings, workshops, and announcements;
- Documents decisions; and
- Schedule.

The Directory of Dockets Since 2000 provides a list of open proceedings organized by docket number and siting number for power plant siting and licensing cases. There are also options to view proceedings by year or alphabetical order.<sup>28</sup>

## 2.2 Power Plant Siting Cases

The California Energy Commission is the primary authority for siting and licensing thermal power plants 50 MW or greater in capacity. The power plant siting process can take several years, and each project undergoes a thorough review by the CEC’s Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection (STEP) Division.<sup>29</sup>

A comprehensive database of projects filed since 1996 can be accessed by hovering over “Power Plants” on the panel atop the CEC home page, then clicking “Power Plants” (see Figure 5).<sup>30</sup> Selecting a project will link you to its applications for certification (AFC), which includes documents and correspondences relevant to each project, key dates, a general description of the project, and important contacts. For a current list of projects awaiting licensure, again hover over “Power Plants” located atop CEC’s homepage, and select “Power Plant Licensing Cases” (Figure 5).<sup>31</sup>

Further information about the CEC’s involvement with power plants can be found by viewing the vertical tabs on the right side of many of the power plant sub-pages (for simple access to one such page, visit the CEC homepage and click “Power Plants” on the panel atop the page). The following topics are included:

- STEP Division: provides basic information about the Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection (STEP) Division of the CEC, including their website and contact information;

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<sup>27</sup> List of All Proceedings: <http://energy.ca.gov/dockets/>.

<sup>28</sup> CEC Directory of Dockets: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/dockets/index.php>.

<sup>29</sup> CEC Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division:  
<http://energy.ca.gov/siting/index.html>.

<sup>30</sup> CEC Projects Database: <http://energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/alphabetical.html>.

<sup>31</sup> Power plant licenses under review: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/newnav/power\\_plant\\_links.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/newnav/power_plant_links.html).



- Power Plant Siting: includes a variety of information about many power plant sites, those that exist or are under review;
- Compliance: includes peaker projects, and organizes plants by year licensed;
- Developers: provides information about the process and fees associated with licenses;
- Public: provides the Public Participation Guide and contact information for the Public Adviser;
- Environmental: provides some information on environmental programs; the environmental program main page is not easily located—one must first select the “Once-Through Cooling” option within the “Environmental” tab (here being described), and once on the “Once-Through Cooling” page, return to the “Environmental” tab on the right, where an “Environmental Programs” link then appears;
- Transmission: includes initiatives, programs, and more regarding transmission lines; and
- Special Projects: currently, this tab only provides information on and a downloadable link to the Energy Aware Planning Guide (2011 ed.).

Figure 5 CEC - Power Plant Licensing Under Review



You can also check the status of any power plant by selecting "Power Plants Project Status" while hovering over the "Power Plants" tab atop the CEC homepage.<sup>32</sup>

## 2.3 Receiving CEC Documents

The CEC hosts a number of list servers on various topics about Commission programs, workshops, and other activities. You can subscribe to one or more lists according to the topics that are of interest to you. Start by clicking on the "Email Subscription-List Serve" link on the CEC home page, which is located towards the bottom of the CEC home page under the heading "Resources."<sup>33</sup> Here, you will find lists arranged by general and then specific topics. You can subscribe below by entering your e-mail address and clicking on the box for the list(s) you wish to subscribe to.

## 2.4 Other Useful CEC Topics

In addition to the above topics, the CEC website has other useful information.

### 2.4.1 Integrated Energy Policy Report

Public Resources Code section 25301(a) requires the California Energy Commission to "conduct assessments and forecasts of all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery and distribution, demand, and prices. The Energy Commission shall use these assessments and forecasts to develop energy policies that conserve resources, protect the environment, ensure energy reliability, enhance the state's economy, and protect public health and safety." The CEC adopts this Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) every two years and updates it every other year. The following information can be found online:

- An overview of IEPR activity;<sup>34</sup>
- The 2010 update to the IEPR;<sup>35</sup> and
- The most recently completed 2009 IEPR.<sup>36</sup>

The CEC stores reports and data associated with the IEPR on this section of the web site. For example, reports and presentations associated with 2009 IEPR are available.<sup>37</sup>

### 2.4.2 Business Meetings

The CEC holds regularly scheduled business meetings that are open to the public. The CEC website makes available dates, agenda, minutes, and transcripts for all CEC business meetings.

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<sup>32</sup> CEC Power Plants Project Status: [http://energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/all\\_projects.html](http://energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/all_projects.html).

<sup>33</sup> CEC Email Subscription-List Serve: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html>.

<sup>34</sup> IEPR overview: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/energypolicy/index.html>.

<sup>35</sup> 2010 IEPR update: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/2010\\_energypolicy/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/2010_energypolicy/).

<sup>36</sup> Completed 2009 IEPR: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/2009\\_energypolicy/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/2009_energypolicy/index.html).

<sup>37</sup> IEPR reports and data: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/2009\\_energypolicy/documents/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/2009_energypolicy/documents/index.html).



Visit online for more information about CEC business meetings and how to subscribe to a service list for all meeting agendas.<sup>38</sup>

### 2.4.3 Energy Statistics and Data

The CEC provides statistical information on a variety of energy-related topics, including, among other things, California's energy sources, consumption, supply, demand, rates, and infrastructure (Figure 6).<sup>39</sup> The CEC refers to this as the "Energy Almanac," an encyclopedia on the California energy industry that includes a list of links arranged by energy type, including California energy sources electricity,<sup>40</sup> gasoline/diesel/ethanol ("transportation fuels"),<sup>41</sup> oil/petroleum,<sup>42</sup> and natural gas or liquefied natural gas (LNG).<sup>43</sup>

Figure 6 CEC – Energy Almanac



<sup>38</sup>Business meetings: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/business\\_meetings/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/business_meetings/index.html).

<sup>39</sup> Energy stats: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/>.

<sup>40</sup> Electricity: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/>.

<sup>41</sup> Transportation (Gasoline, Diesel, Ethanol): [http://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/transportation\\_data/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/transportation_data/).

<sup>42</sup> Oil/Petroleum: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/petroleum\\_data/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/petroleum_data/).

<sup>43</sup> Natural Gas and LNG: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/naturalgas\\_data/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/naturalgas_data/).

### 3 CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR

The California Independent System Operator (California ISO or CAISO) is a tariff-governed public-benefit corporation that operates the majority of California's high-voltage wholesale power grid.<sup>44</sup> The CAISO, which operates under the oversight of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), is the impartial link between power plants and the distribution utility companies that provide electricity to consumers. It provides equal access to the grid and plans for the transmission needs of the infrastructure.

The CAISO website is divided into five basic sections, listed atop of the home page:

- Planning: This section provides information on the rules of procedure behind operating the grid. It includes information on the CAISO's stakeholder processes on renewable energy integration, the Generator Interconnection Process (how generating facilities can connect their product to the grid), transmission outage reports, general operational audit reports, and other general topics.
- Market and Operations: This section describes market demand, requirements for generation facilities, and implications of implementation in regard to the CAISO tariff.
- Participate: This section lists the CAISO stakeholders, instructions on how to become a participant, system access and documentation, and business practice manuals for participants.
- Stay Informed: This section lists stakeholder initiatives currently underway at the CAISO, upcoming events and workshops, and an initiatives archive.
- Rules: This section links to documents regarding the CAISO Tariff, related amendments, and protocols. This section also includes filings with the FERC, the CPUC, reports to government entities, contracts between the ISO and market participants, and matters in Alternative Dispute Resolution.

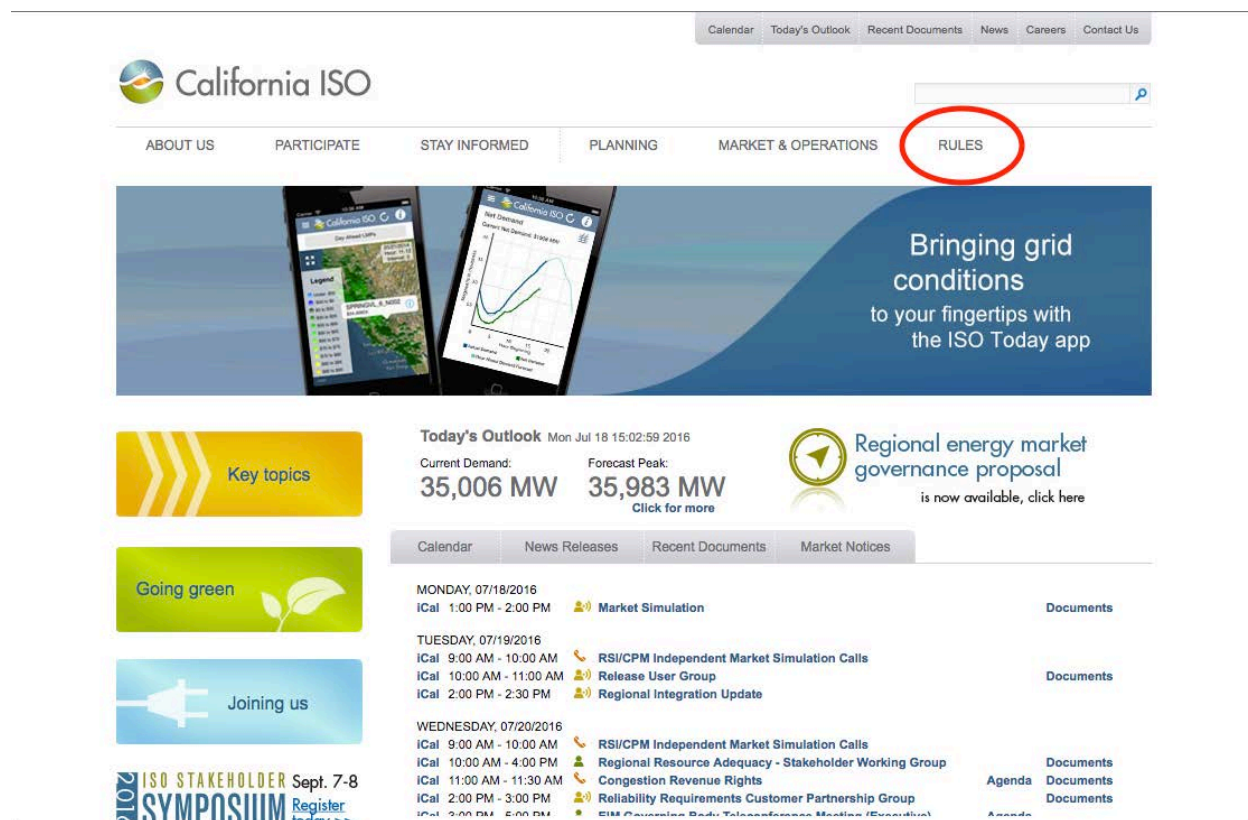
#### 3.1 Locating CAISO Documents

To locate CAISO documents, you will typically start by clicking on the "Rules" tab on top panel of the CAISO home page (Figure 7). From there, several subsections are available and the documents are located throughout these Rules subsections (see the topics below to help locate each one).

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<sup>44</sup> CAISO Home Page: [www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com).

Figure 7 California ISO Home Page - Rules



### 3.1.1 Tariffs: Current, Pending, Amendments, and Archives

A tariff is a rule or procedure, approved by the appropriate regulatory agency (in this case, the FERC), that lists the terms and conditions, including a schedule of prices, under which utility services will be provided. To find this area of the CAISO website, from the "Rules" page (see 3.1), select "Regulatory."<sup>45</sup> Here, you will find both current and pending Tariffs.

The CAISO also provides information regarding all publicly available changes to California ISO Tariffs. This can be found when viewing the current and pending Tariffs by selecting "Amendments" either on the left-hand side, or the bottom of the page.<sup>46</sup> Here, you will find a list of tariff amendments arranged in chronological order and by amendment number. To

<sup>45</sup> CAISO Tariffs, current and pending: <http://caiso.com/pubinfo/tariffs/index.html>.

<sup>46</sup> CAISO Tariff Amendments: <http://www.caiso.com/pubinfo/amendments/index.html>.

locate a specific amendment, you can do a keyword-search with the amendment number, docket number, or topic of the amendment.

CAISO also archives their tariffs, which can be found just as Amendments are, at the bottom of left side of the Regulatory/Tariff page.<sup>47</sup>

### 3.1.2 Business Practices

The CAISO provides business practice manuals (BPMs) to detail their rules, procedures, and examples for the administration, operation, planning, and accounting requirements for the CAISO and their markets that are consistent with ISO tariffs. The BPMs can be located from the CAISO homepage by hovering over "Rules" and selecting "Business Practice Manuals."<sup>48</sup>

### 3.1.3 FERC Filings and Orders

The CAISO provides information regarding all publicly available CAISO-authored FERC filings from 1998 to the present year. To locate the CAISO's FERC Filings, from the "Rules" page (see 3.1) click on "Regulatory," then select "Regulatory Filings and Orders" on the left or bottom of the page.<sup>49</sup> Here, you will find a listing of all FERC Filings arranged in chronological order. To locate a specific filing, first click the "+" symbol to expand either the current year (e.g. "FERC filings-2016"), or previous years, which are found by expanding "FERC filings archive," where you can further expand a specific year. Once a year is expanded or selected, you can do a keyword-search with the date, docket number, or title of the filing.

The CAISO also provides information regarding selected publicly available FERC orders. A complete list of FERC orders relating to the CAISO can be found on the FERC website<sup>50</sup> (more FERC information in the following section of this guide). To locate the FERC Orders, follow the same directions as the FERC Filings immediately above to navigate the site and expand the topics. Here, you will find a listing of all FERC Orders arranged in chronological order. To locate a specific order, you can do a keyword-search with the date, docket number, or topic of the order.

### 3.1.4 CPUC Proceedings and Filings

The CAISO also submits documents to the CPUC that are either apart of CPUC Proceedings or Filings. The Proceedings section contains various orders and applications, whereas the Filings compiles many different legal documents filed with CPUC and arranged by year. Locating the CPUC Proceedings and Filings is done the same as FERC Filings and Orders (see 3.1.3 FERC Filings and Orders to navigate the website, locate CPUC Proceedings or Filings, and expand the topics to find individual files).

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<sup>47</sup> Tariff archive: <http://www.caiso.com/rules/Pages/Regulatory/TariffArchive/Default.aspx>.

<sup>48</sup> Business Practice Manuals: <http://www.caiso.com/rules/Pages/BusinessPracticeManuals/Default.aspx>.

<sup>49</sup> CAISO-authored FERC filings:  
<https://www.caiso.com/rules/Pages/Regulatory/RegulatoryFilingsAndOrders.aspx>.

<sup>50</sup> FERC website: <https://www.ferc.gov/>.

## 3.2 Receiving CAISO Documents

You can sign up to receive notifications from the CAISO regarding CAISO Operations and Markets, Emergency Power Alerts, Emergency Status Alerts, and News Releases. To sign up to receive notifications from the CAISO, hover over the “Stay Informed” tab on the top panel of the CAISO home page, then click on “Notifications.”<sup>51</sup> Once on the Notifications page, you will see four types of notifications. The most relevant notification topics will be under the “Market Notices” category.<sup>52</sup>

You will then be able to enter your contact information and select more specific topics on which to receive email notifications. These topics include the following:

- CAISO News and Information;
- Market Rules and Market Design;
- Market Operations;
- Settlements and Market Clearing;
- Grid Operations;
- Legal/Regulatory; and
- System Status/Technical Updates.

## 3.3 Other Useful CAISO Topics

### 3.3.1 Market Information

The CAISO’s website provides information on the CAISO market, including operating procedures, performance reports, compliance reports, metering, transmission scheduling, and market monitoring. To locate CAISO market information, click on the “Market & Operations” tab on the top of the CAISO home page. On the next page, you will find a drop down list arranged by topic.

### 3.3.2 The Grid – Today’s Outlook

The CAISO provides a daily display of how well California’s energy supply is meeting its current demand and projected demand for the following day. This information is provided both in text and graph form, and is titled “Today’s Outlook.” This can be accessed from the link at the very top of the ISO home page.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> CAISO Notifications: <http://www.caiso.com/informed/Pages/Notifications/Default.aspx>.

<sup>52</sup> CAISO Market Notices: <http://www.caiso.com/informed/Pages/Notifications/MarketNotices/Default.aspx>.

<sup>53</sup> Today’s Outlook of energy supply and demand: <http://www.caiso.com/outlook/SystemStatus.html>.

### 3.3.3 Generator Interconnection Process

The CAISO displays the current requirements and resources for Generating Facilities seeking interconnection with the transmission grid in the CAISO Balancing Area. From the home page, hover above "Participate," and then click on "Generation."<sup>54</sup>

### 3.3.4 Resource Interconnection Management System (RIMS)

The Resource Interconnection Management System (RIMS) is software used by the CAISO to track and generate status reports for all new, removed, or modified grid assets that require a change to the ISO's full network model. It analyzes the behavior of the real-time system by examining three components: Application and Study, Transmission, and Generation. Authorization is required to access RIMS and can be obtained by submitting the appropriate forms. For more information on RIMS, hover over "Participate" atop the home page and click "Application Access."<sup>55</sup>

### 3.3.5 Revised Transmission Planning Process (RTPP)

The Revised Transmission Planning Process (RTPP) is the proposed work plan for building new transmission that will enable the integration of renewable energy sources onto the grid, to comply with the State's 33% Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) target.<sup>56</sup>

### 3.3.6 Energy Imbalance Market (EIM)

The EIM is a joint effort among western balancing authority areas (BAAs) to efficiently and cost effectively balance demand and supply across a large and more diverse footprint. Currently, the EIM consists of the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), PacificCorp, and NV Energy, with Puget Sound Energy and Arizona Public Service expected to join by the end of 2016. Portland General Electric and Idaho Power are expected to join in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

The EIM is a system that balances supply and demand by matching the lowest cost electricity supply. The EIM also seeks to address California's over generation conditions, where generation "exceeds schedule[d] demand in the hour-ahead market,"<sup>57</sup> generally between the hours of 7 AM and 3 PM. Over generation conditions are caused by the combination of variable generation resources coming online (e.g. solar); the need for long-start generators to be online prior to and after solar ramping occurs; the inability of online conventional generation to ramp down further to compensate for the variable generation supply; and output

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<sup>54</sup> Generator Interconnection Process: <http://www.caiso.com/thegrid/generation/index.html>.

<sup>55</sup> Resource Interconnection Management System: <http://www.caiso.com/2330/2330d8fe5c260.html>.

<sup>56</sup> Revised Transmission Planning Process: <http://www.caiso.com/242a/242abe1517440.html>.

<sup>57</sup> Kaatz, Joe. "Water Reliability and Renewable Energy Overgeneration." The EPIC Energy Blog. N.p., 30 Mar. 2016. Web. 18 July 2016. <https://epicenergyblog.com/2016/03/30/water-reliability-and-renewable-energy-overgeneration/>.



from non-dispatchable must-take resources providing supply in times of low demand (to meet voltage support and local or system reliability requirements).<sup>58</sup>

### 3.3.7 Potential Expansion of CAISO into Regional Wholesale Market

[SB 350](#), the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (signed by Governor Brown on October 7, 2015), lays out the framework to transition CAISO to a regional independent transmission operator. This process recently completed the required study process,<sup>59</sup> and joint agency stakeholder meetings are ongoing. In the meantime, CAISO's existing obligations to ratepayers, the state, and its laws remain in effect, subject to future Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulation.

SB 350 requires that both the proposed governance structure and bylaws and study results be presented to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2017. The Legislature must then enact new legislation to authorize the necessary changes to create a regional independent system operator. The new entity will become active once the FERC approves the governing board structure, bylaws, and market operation changes. Transmission owners outside of California may then join the new regional system, but retain the contractual right to leave at any time, for any reason. Authorization to create a regional independent system operator is revoked on January 1, 2019, if a statute implementing the governance changes is not enacted on or before January 1, 2019.

The CAISO provides general information, a basic timeline, and studies done by California's Senate and others on their website.<sup>60</sup>

The CAISO also has a mailing list for those who wish to stay up-to-date on the matter.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Energy Imbalance Market: <http://www.caiso.com/informed/Pages/EIMOverview/Default.aspx>.

<sup>59</sup> SB 350's study process:

<http://www.caiso.com/informed/Pages/RegionalEnergyMarket/BenefitsofaRegionalEnergyMarket.aspx>.

<sup>60</sup> Basic information the CAISO provides regarding the regional wholesale market expansion:

<http://www.caiso.com/informed/Pages/RegionalEnergyMarket/BenefitsofaRegionalEnergyMarket.aspx#PacificCorp>.

<sup>61</sup> CAISO mailing list provided for the regional wholesale market expansion:

<http://www.caiso.com/informed/Pages/Notifications/MarketNotices/MarketNoticesSubscriptionForm.aspx>.

## 4 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is an independent federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil.<sup>62</sup> In addition to overseeing the CAISO and the Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs), the FERC also reviews proposals to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, interstate natural gas pipelines, and licenses hydropower projects. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 gave the FERC a number of new specific responsibilities as outlined in FERC's Top Priorities and Strategic Plan. As part of those responsibilities, the FERC:

- Regulates the transmission and sale of natural gas for resale in interstate commerce;
- Regulates the transmission of oil by pipeline in interstate commerce;
- Regulates the transmission and wholesale sales of electricity in interstate commerce;
- Licenses and inspects private, municipal, and state hydroelectric projects;
- Approves the siting of and abandonment of interstate natural gas facilities, including pipelines, storage, and liquefied natural gas;
- Ensures the reliability of high voltage interstate transmission system;
- Monitors and investigates energy markets;
- Uses civil penalties and other means against energy organizations and individuals who violate the FERC rules in the energy markets;
- Oversees environmental matters related to natural gas and hydroelectricity projects and major electricity policy initiatives; and
- Administers accounting and financial reporting regulations and conduct of regulated companies.

### 4.1 Locating FERC Documents

The following section describes several ways to locate FERC documents.

#### 4.1.1 Document Search

Using the FERC's "eLibrary," you can search for documents issued and received by the FERC. The "eLibrary" provides many different search options. To access the "eLibrary," hover over the "Documents and Filings" tab at the top panel of the FERC home page and then click on "eLibrary."<sup>63</sup> Here, you will find the following search options:

- The "General Search" function will allow you to select a date range, category, library, docket number and/or document type, and input keywords into a text search;

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<sup>62</sup> FERC Home Page is located at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov).

<sup>63</sup> The FERC eLibrary for document searches: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>.

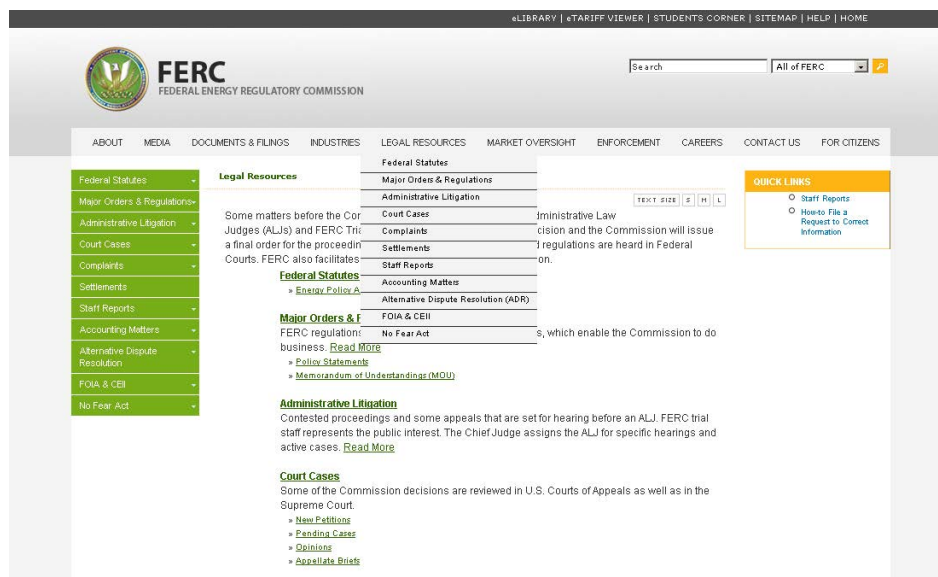


- The “Advanced Search” function adds the options to input multiple dates, docket and sub-docket numbers, and document types; it also allows you to search by author and/or recipient name, as well as input a specific Federal Register Cite, Federal Court Case, FERC Cite, Accession or Opinion number;
- The “Docket Search” function will allow you to search only by docket and/or sub-docket number and date, a quick way to locate a specific docket when you have the corresponding number.
- The “Daily Search” function will allow you to locate a Filing or Issuance by date, according to the particular library the document is located in (Electric, Gas, Hydro, Oil, Rulemaking, or General); and
- The “New Dockets” search will allow you quickly locate a new docket by inputting the date range in which it was created or filed.

#### 4.1.2 Legal Resources: Major Orders and Regulations

The “Legal Resources” section of the FERC website provides a broad range of information on legal and regulatory issues. Here, you will find major orders and regulations, federal statutes, administrative litigation, court cases, complaints, settlements, No-Action letters, staff reports, accounting reports, Alternative Dispute Resolution service information, and limited Critical Energy Infrastructure Information. To access these resources, hover over the “Legal Resources” tab at the top panel of the FERC home page. Here, you will find a drop-down list arranged by topic (Figure 8).<sup>64</sup>

Figure 8 FERC Legal Resources



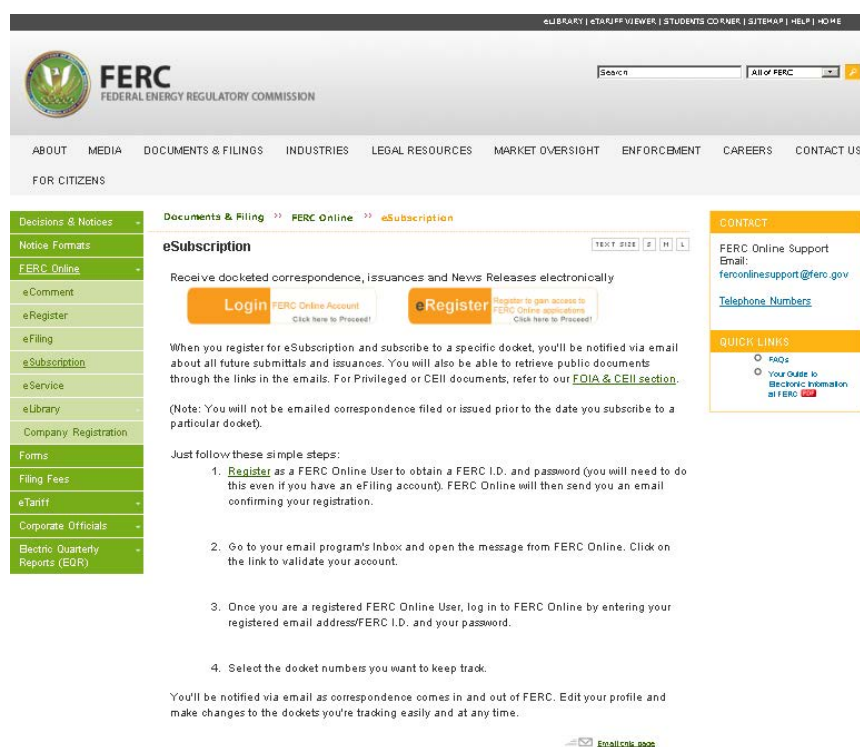
<sup>64</sup> The FERC, legal resources: <http://www.ferc.gov/legal/legal.asp>

The “Major Orders and Regulations” section will be most useful to you for general research topics. Here, you will find a list of the FERC’s most important orders and regulations. The list is arranged first by topic, and then by docket number, date, and title. The “Court Cases” section may also be useful. Here, you will find new petitions, pending cases, opinions, citations to published opinions, as well as general information regarding how cases are handled by the FERC.

## 4.2 Receiving FERC Documents

You can subscribe to receive docketed correspondence, issuances, and press releases electronically through the FERC’s “eSubscription” service. When you register for “eSubscription” and subscribe to specific dockets, you will be notified via email about future correspondence. You will also be able to retrieve these documents online. To register for “eSubscription,” hover over the “Documents and Filings” tab at the top panel of the FERC home page and then click on “eSubscription.”<sup>65</sup> Here, you will find general information on the “eSubscription” service, as well as a step-by-step instruction on how to register (Figure 9).

Figure 9 FERC eSubscription



<sup>65</sup> Receiving FERC documents: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp>

### 4.3 Other Useful FERC Topics

Several other useful resources are available on the FERC website.

#### 4.3.1 Industries

The FERC website provides a range of information on the Electric, Hydropower, Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and Oil Industries that may also be useful to you. Here you will find general information about each industry, as well as industry-specific topics, such as regulation, annual charges, safety and inspections, environmental concerns, tariffs, and industry activities.

To access these resources, scroll over the “Industries” tab at the top panel of the FERC Home page. Here, you will find a drop-down list arranged by industry. When you select an industry, you will be linked that industry’s page, where you will find additional topics related to that industry.

## 5 CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the California state agency that regulates the activities of the public, the business sector, and the local governments as they relate to “clean air” standards.<sup>66</sup> The CARB is responsible for mitigating air pollution, and promoting the public health and economic benefits associated with healthy air quality.

Since the 2006 adoption of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, the CARB has also been charged with preparing and implementing a scoping plan to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, via regulations and programs relating to energy efficiency, clean energy, and transportation.

Primary CARB activities related to climate change and energy include:

- Implementing cap-and-trade programs, such as electricity and renewable energy workshops;
- Convening advisory groups to provide subject information to the legislature;
- Maintaining and reporting an inventory of California greenhouse gas emissions;
- Coordinating the efforts across state agencies under a Climate Action Strategy; and
- Creating and enforcing cleaner and more efficient standards for personal vehicles.

More information on the CARB’s Climate Change Programs can be located by hovering over the “Reducing Air Pollution” tab on the CARB home page (

Figure 10), then select “Programs.” Click “Climate Change.”<sup>67</sup>

With respect to energy, the CARB coordinates with other agencies and local governments to control emissions of criteria pollutants from electrical generation equipment.

Current programs and activities include:

- Adopting and implementing the Renewable Electricity Standard (RES), a regulation requiring a 33 percent renewable energy target by 2020;
- Increasing the use of Combined Heat and Power systems;
- Reducing SF<sub>6</sub> (Sulfur Hexafluoride), a potent GHG, from gas insulated switchgear; and
- Permitting for Distributed Generation.

To learn more about these activities, click on “Energy-Related Activities” from under the Programs tab of the CARB home page.<sup>68</sup>

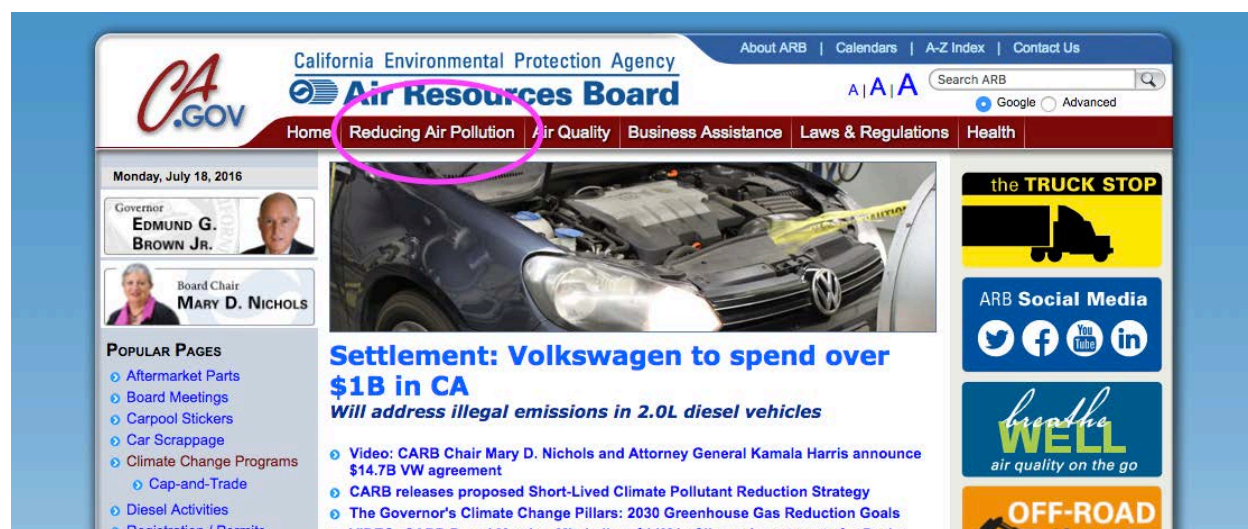
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<sup>66</sup> CARB Home Page is located at <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

<sup>67</sup> The CARB’s Climate Change programs: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/cc.htm>.

<sup>68</sup> Energy Related Activities: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/energy/energy.htm>.

Figure 10 CARB's Reducing Air Pollution tab for locating their Climate Change programs



## 5.1 CARB Documents Page (Climate Change)

To access the CARB documents page, scroll down the page and locate the “Assembly Bill 32 Implementation and ARB Activities” section in the center. The “Activities” tab provides the list of current programs and regulations. By selecting your program of interest, you will be brought to another page, which includes links to program background, Resolutions, Public Comments, and Document Archives.<sup>69</sup>

Other documents of interest, as they relate to Energy and Climate Change, include:

- Scoping Plan: the CARB’s official outline of activities to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020;<sup>70</sup>
- Fact Sheets: organized by topic or audience type, there are press releases, newsletters, and timelines that provide general overviews and comments;<sup>71</sup> and
- Laws and Regulations: though this section is primarily concerned with laws and regulations pertaining to Air Quality Management, you may still be interested in tracking regulations related to emissions from fuels or electricity use; to access these resources, click on the “Laws and Regulations” tab on the CARB home page (information is organized by program type).

<sup>69</sup> The CARB documents page: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/cc.htm>.

<sup>70</sup> Scoping Plan: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scopingplan.htm>.

<sup>71</sup> Fact Sheets: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/facts/facts.htm>.

## 5.2 Index of Proceedings

The CARB provides an index of rulemakings, amendments, and other proceedings, organized by year, through 1996. It can be accessed by hovering over “Laws and Regulations” tab on the CARB home page, then clicking on the “Rulemaking-Formal Activity” link.<sup>72</sup> From here, you can select the year of interest, or search by keyword from the search engine provided at the bottom of the page. The proceeding pages provide links to documents of interest, including regulation orders, executive orders, test procedures, etc.

## 5.3 Receiving CARB Documents

Interested parties and participants in rulemakings can subscribe to receive information about proceedings in real time, including decisions, rulings, and comments filed by the parties. To receive documents, you have to be added to the official service list.

### 5.3.1 Subscribe to a Service List

Start by clicking on the “Join Any Email Lists” link on the CARB home page. You will find this under the “Resources” tab towards the bottom of the page.<sup>73</sup> Here, you will find a drop-down menu of topics arranged alphabetically. For news and documents related to energy and climate change, select the topics related to “Climate Change,” “Energy-Related Activities,” or “Fuels.” Enter your e-mail address and confirm.

## 5.4 Other Useful CARB Topics

In addition to the above topics, the CARB website is a source for other useful information.

### 5.4.1 CARB Board Meetings

The CARB holds regularly scheduled public meetings at which Board Members meet to discuss and vote on regulatory developments. The proposed regulations are announced, with a request for public comment, 45 days before the board hearing. To find more information about these meetings, hover over “Reducing Air Pollution” at the top of the CARB home page and click the “ARB Board Meetings” tab.<sup>74</sup>

Here, you have options including “Board Meeting Agendas,” “Meeting Dates,” and instructions on getting involved or attending. The “Board Agendas” may include links to regulatory documents, but unfortunately, there is no direct index for these documents.

### 5.4.2 Guide to Public Participation

The guide is intended to help individuals or groups participate or intervene in CARB proceedings. It provides a broad range of information on board meetings, timelines on rulemaking procedures, agendas, and instructions on how to make presentations at the meetings. To access the guide, follow the steps or link noted in the immediately preceding section to reach the CARB Board Meetings page (5.4.1 CARB Board Meetings). From there,

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<sup>72</sup> Rulemaking-Formal Activity: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/regact.htm>.

<sup>73</sup> Join any email list, to subscribe to a service list: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/listserv.php>.

<sup>74</sup> The CARB board meetings: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/board/board.htm>.

scroll to the very bottom of the page and select “Decisions Pending and Opportunities for Public Participation” (in grey writing below everything).<sup>75</sup>

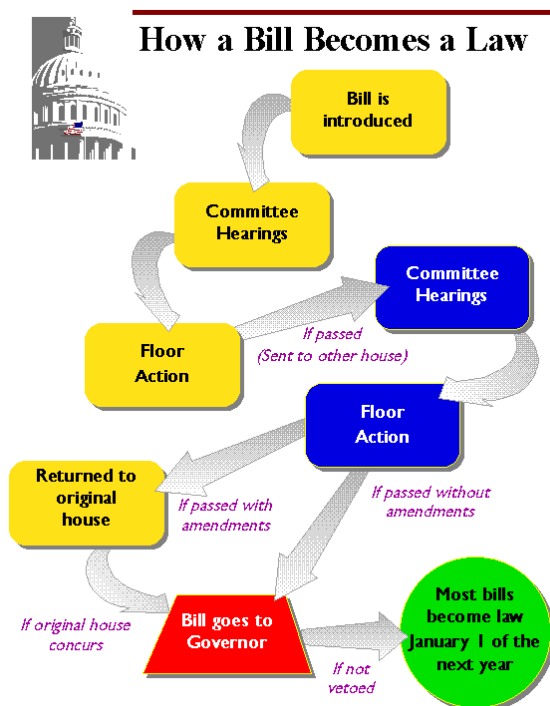
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<sup>75</sup> Guide to public participation: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/html/decisions.htm>.

## 6 INTRODUCTION TO THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

The California Legislature, comprised of the Senate and Assembly, reviews and votes on proposed legislation. The legislative process is summarized in Figure 11.<sup>76</sup>

Figure 11 California Legislative Process



Note that each bill must be discussed, and amended if necessary, by the relevant House committees before being put to a vote on the floor. Likewise, the Assembly and Senate each have their own distinct set of committees to review them.

### 6.1 Accessing Bills

#### 6.1.1 General Legislative Information

The Official California Legislative Information website functions as an online database for every bill that has passed under consideration in the legislature through 1993 (

Figure 12).<sup>77</sup> For the current session, if you know which bill you are looking for, you can search the list of bills directly by clicking the appropriate legislative house in the center of the main

<sup>76</sup> "How a Bill Becomes a Law" is from <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bil2lawd.html>

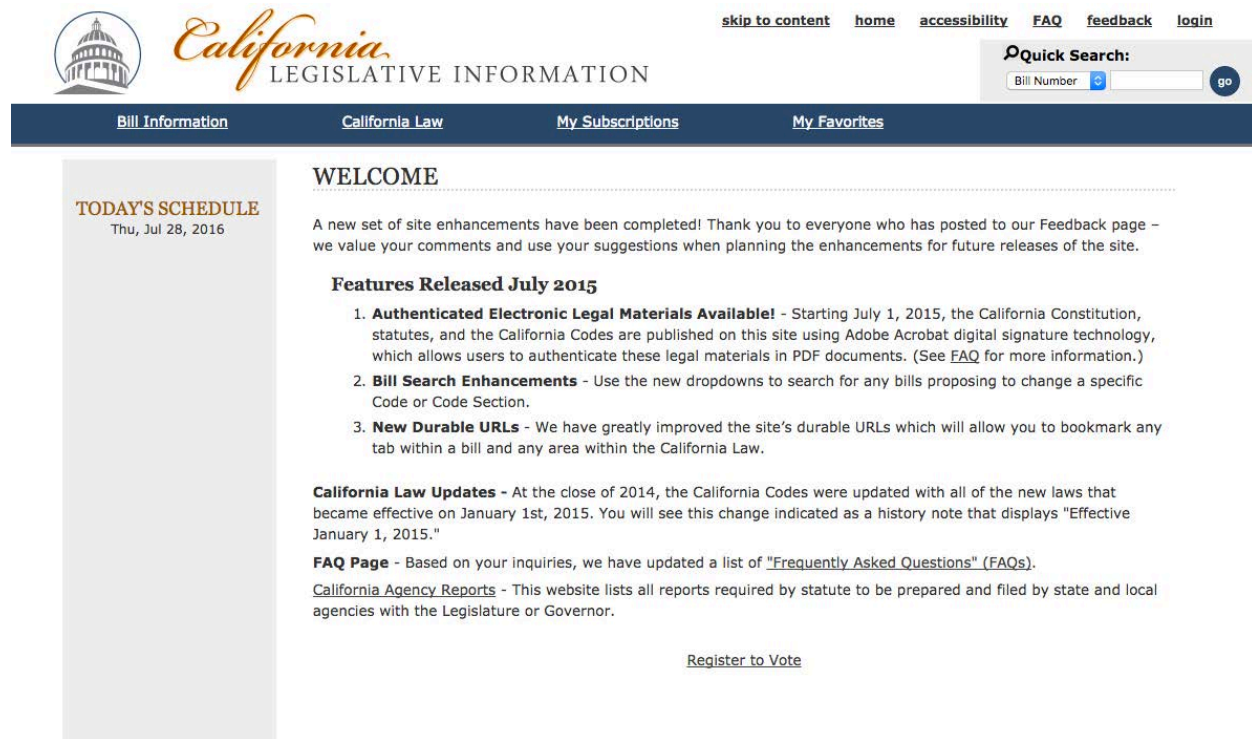
<sup>77</sup> The Official California Legislative Information Homepage is located at: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>.



page. Or, from the main page, click on "Bill Information" to search and sort by Session Year, House in which the bill was conceived, Bill Number, Author, or Keyword.

By selecting a bill, you will be brought to a separate page for that bill, in which you can choose to read the full text of the bill, view its status and history, review legislative analysis, or subscribe to an email list to receive updates on its forthcoming activity.

Figure 12 Official California Legislative Information Website



### 6.1.2 Assembly Committees

The Assembly home page provides updates on the daily and historical activities of the Assembly, including Committee action on live bills.<sup>78</sup> You can view the list of Committees by clicking on "Committees" from the home page (Figure 13).

<sup>78</sup> The Assembly Home page is located at <http://assembly.ca.gov/>.

Figure 13 California State Assembly Home Page



The following Assembly Standing Committees review energy-related legislation:

- Committee on Appropriations: all bills, including those on energy, will pass through the Appropriations Committee to ensure the bill meets any budgetary or fiscal requirements before floor action can be taken; to see the Committee on Appropriations page, click on "Committees" from the Assembly home page, and then select "Appropriations";<sup>79</sup>
- Committee on Natural Resources: reviews bills that relate to climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and oil spills;<sup>80</sup> and
- Committee on Utilities and Commerce: reviews bills that relate to public utilities and agencies, including the CPUC, CEC, ISO; the bills in review in this committee also pertain to energy companies, alternative energy development and conservation, and electricity.<sup>81</sup>

<sup>79</sup> Asm. Committee on Appropriations: <http://apro.assembly.ca.gov/>.

<sup>80</sup> Asm. Committee on Natural Resources: <http://antr.assembly.ca.gov/>.

<sup>81</sup> Asm. Committee on Utilities and Commerce: <http://autl.assembly.ca.gov/>.

Once you have selected your Committee of interest, you will be brought to a separate page in which the top panel provides options, such as viewing scheduled "Hearings," or reading the "Publications," legislative summaries of bills.

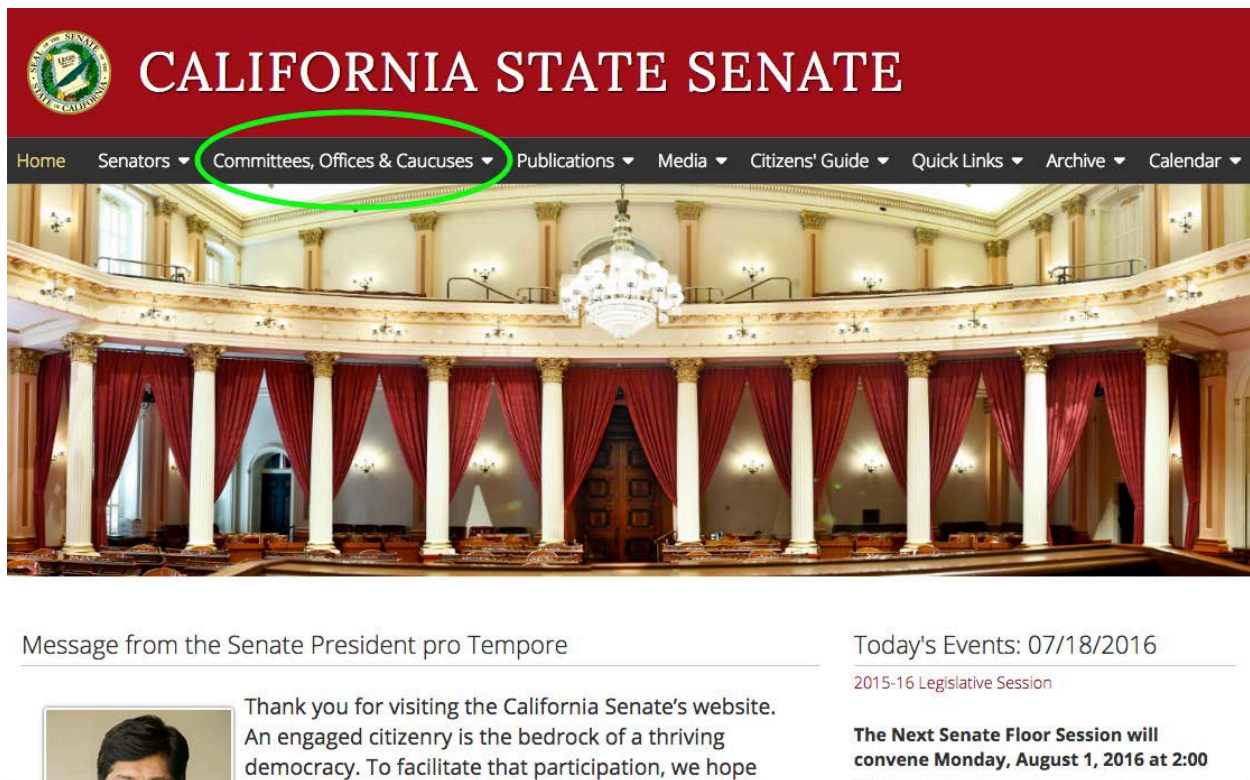
### 6.1.3 Other Useful Assembly Topics

The Assembly publishes a pamphlet every day called the "Daily File," which indexes committee hearings and provides the most current update on bills. To access it, click the "Daily File" link in the center of the Assembly home page under "Your State Assembly."<sup>82</sup>

## 6.2 Senate Committees

The Senate home page<sup>83</sup> provides updates on the daily and historical activities of the Senate, including Committee action on live bills. You can view the list of Committees by clicking on "Committees, Offices & Caucuses" from the home page (Figure 14).

Figure 14 California State Senate Home Page



### 6.2.1 Standing Committees of the Senate

The following Senate Committees review energy-related legislation:

- Committee on Appropriations: all bills, including those on energy, will pass through Appropriations to ensure that they meet any budgetary or fiscal requirements, before

<sup>82</sup> Assembly's Daily File: <http://assembly.ca.gov/dailyfile>.

<sup>83</sup> The Senate Homepage is located at <http://senate.ca.gov/>.

meeting any floor action; to access this committee, look below “Standing Committees” on the “Committees” page, and then select “Appropriations”;<sup>84</sup>

- Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications: reviews bills related to utilities, energy companies, and alternative energy development and conservation;<sup>85</sup> and
- Committee on Natural Resources and Water: analyzes bills relating to conservation of oil, mining, and geothermal development.<sup>86</sup>

On the left side panel of each Committee, you can select “Information” to see full bill texts, informational hearings, fact sheets, conference committee documents, or joint hearing summaries.

### 6.2.2 Other Useful Senate Topics

The Senate publishes a pamphlet every day called the “Daily File,” which indexes committee hearings and provides the most current update on bills. To locate the Senate Daily File, hover over “Publications” on the Senate home page, and then select “Daily File.” You can see upcoming hearings sorted by date.<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Sen. Committee on Appropriations: <http://sapro.senate.ca.gov/> .

<sup>85</sup> Sen. Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communication: <http://seuc.senate.ca.gov/> .

<sup>86</sup> Sen. Committee on Natural Resources and Water: <http://sntr.senate.ca.gov/> .

<sup>87</sup> Senate Daily File: <http://senate.ca.gov/dailyfile> .