

Introduced by Senator KehoeFebruary 23, 2006

An act to add Section 379.9 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1539, as introduced, Kehoe. San Diego Association of Governments Energy Working Group.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission (commission) has regulatory authority over public utilities and is authorized to establish its own procedures, subject to statutory limitations or directions and constitutional requirements. The existing Public Utilities Act provides compensation for reasonable advocate's fees, reasonable expert witness fees, and other reasonable costs to public utility customers for participation or intervention in any proceeding of the commission based, in part, upon whether the intervenor would experience significant financial hardship.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature that the commission and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) allocate existing funds to reimburse the San Diego Association of Governments Energy Working Group for certain costs incurred by working group in participating in specified proceedings of the commission, the Energy Commission, and the working group, and certain other energy-related activities. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 379.9 is added to the Public Utilities
2 Code, to read:

3 379.9. (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) “Energy Commission” means the State Energy Resources
5 Conservation and Development Commission.

6 (2) “Working group” means the San Diego Association of
7 Governments Energy Working Group.

8 (b) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

9 (1) The purpose of this section is to encourage the commission
10 and the Energy Commission to enable and facilitate the
11 participation of the working group in its participation or
12 intervention in any proceeding of the commission or the Energy
13 Commission.

14 (2) The participation of the working group in proceedings
15 should be promoted and encouraged where that participation
16 substantially contributes to orders and decisions of the
17 commission or the Energy Commission and that participation is
18 in the public interest.

19 (3) The Legislature encourages the participation of the
20 working group in state policymaking processes.

21 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that all of the following
22 should occur:

23 (1) The Energy Commission should allocate existing funds to
24 reimburse the working group for those costs the working group
25 incurs in participating in all of the following proceedings:

26 (A) The Integrated Energy Policy Report of the State Energy
27 Resources Conservation and Development Commission pursuant
28 to Section 25302 of the Public Resources Code.

29 (B) The state Energy Action Plan II.

30 (C) The improvement of energy security and resource
31 enhancement through in-region distributed generation.

32 (2) The commission should reimburse the working group from
33 existing funds for the costs incurred by the working group in the
34 San Diego Gas & Electric Corporation Long Term Resources
35 Plan proceeding of the commission (Rulemaking No. 04-04-003).

36 (3) The commission should allocate existing funds to support
37 regional planning and the implementation of energy-related
38 policy by the working group to achieve regional energy goals and

1 optimize the social, economic, and environmental impacts of
2 essential energy infrastructure not required of investor-owned
3 utilities, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
4 (A) Transportation fuels.
5 (B) Transportation corridors.
6 (C) Border issues related to energy policy.
7 (D) Implementation of the energy goals of the state.
8 (4) The commission should allocate existing funds to
9 reimburse the working group for the costs of the use of subject
10 matter experts, including, but not limited to, the San Diego
11 Regional Energy Office and the Energy Policy Initiative Center,
12 to provide assistance and education to the working group in
13 development and implementation of energy management plans to
14 advise local governments in the effective implementation of
15 renewable energy projects, green building options, and energy
16 efficiency. The plans should also include funding initiatives to
17 facilitate the implementation of the loading order that is included
18 in the Energy Action Plan II.

O