

Senate Bill No. 1036

Passed the Senate September 12, 2007

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly September 10, 2007

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2007, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Sections 25742, 25744, 25748, and 25751 of, to amend and repeal Section 25740.5 of, and to repeal and add Section 25743 of, the Public Resources Code, and to amend Sections 399.8, 399.13, 399.14, 399.15, 399.16, and 454.5 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1036, Perata. Energy: renewable energy resources.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. The Public Utilities Act requires the PUC to review and adopt a renewable energy procurement plan for each electrical corporation pursuant to the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program. The renewables portfolio standard program requires that a retail seller of electricity, including electrical corporations, community choice aggregators, and electric service providers, but not including local publicly owned electric utilities, purchase a specified minimum percentage of electricity generated by eligible renewable energy resources, as defined, in any given year as a specified percentage of total kilowatthours sold to retail end-use customers each calendar year (renewables portfolio standard). Existing law requires the PUC to require the state's 3 largest electrical corporations, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric, and Southern California Edison, to identify a separate electrical rate component to fund programs that enhance system reliability and provide in-state benefits. This rate component is a nonbypassable element of local distribution and collected on the basis of usage. Existing PUC resolutions refer to the nonbypassable rate component as a "public goods charge." The public goods charge moneys are collected to support cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation activities, public interest, research, and development not adequately provided by competitive and regulated markets, and renewable energy resources.

Existing law establishes the Renewable Resource Trust Fund as a continuously appropriated fund in the State Treasury, and provides that 51.5% of the money collected by the public goods charge for renewable energy resources, after deducting certain administrative expenses, be deposited in the New Renewable Resources Account in the fund, for use by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) to foster the development of new in-state renewable electricity generation facilities. Existing law requires the Energy Commission to certify eligible renewable energy resources, to design and implement an accounting system to verify compliance with the renewables portfolio standard by retail sellers, and to award production incentives and allocate and award supplemental energy payments from the New Renewable Resources Account to cover above-market costs of purchasing electricity from eligible renewable energy resources.

This bill would, effective July 1, 2008, repeal those provisions providing for the New Renewable Resources Account within the Renewable Resource Trust Fund. The bill would delete the requirement that the Energy Commission award production incentives and allocate and award supplemental energy payments to eligible renewable energy resources to cover above-market costs of renewable energy. The bill would require the Energy Commission to terminate all production incentives awarded prior to January 1, 2002, from the New Renewable Resources Account, unless the renewable energy project began generating electricity by January 1, 2007. The Energy Commission would be required by March 1, 2008, to transfer to electrical corporations serving customers subject to the renewable energy public goods charge, the remaining unencumbered funds in the New Renewable Resources Account, to be allocated among retail sellers on the basis of annual retail sales of electricity. The bill would require the PUC to ensure that electrical corporations allocate funds received from the Energy Commission in a manner that maximizes the economic benefit to all customer classes that funded the New Renewable Resources Account. The bill would place certain cost limitations upon the requirements placed upon electrical corporations pursuant to the renewables portfolio standard. The bill would make other conforming changes.

Because this bill would make moneys in the New Renewable Resources Account within the Renewable Resource Trust Fund available for use for a new purpose, it would make an appropriation.

Appropriation: yes.

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

SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to reform elements of the renewables portfolio standard program relating to cost containment. In recognition of numerous problems associated with the current process for awarding supplemental energy payments, the Legislature intends to restructure the renewables portfolio standard program to streamline the approval of contracts executed by electrical corporations for the purchase of electricity generated by eligible renewable energy resources involving costs above the market prices determined in subdivision (c) of Section 399.15 of the Public Utilities Code, to ensure that any above-market costs sought by generators may be relied upon in obtaining project financing, and to minimize both unnecessary delays and duplicative agency reviews. In achieving these objectives, the Legislature intends to continue meaningful ratepayer protections through limits on the total costs of meeting the renewable energy goals established pursuant to Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code.

SEC. 2. Section 25740.5 of the Public Resources Code, as added by Section 4 of Chapter 464 of the Statutes of 2006, is amended to read:

25740.5. (a) The commission shall optimize public investment and ensure that the most cost-effective and efficient investments in renewable energy resources are vigorously pursued.

(b) The commission's long-term goal shall be a fully competitive and self-sustaining supply of electricity generated from renewable sources.

(c) The program objective shall be to increase, in the near term, the quantity of California's electricity generated by in-state renewable electricity generation facilities, while protecting system reliability, fostering resource diversity, and obtaining the greatest environmental benefits for California residents.

(d) An additional objective of the program shall be to identify and support emerging renewable technologies in distributed generation applications that have the greatest near-term commercial promise and that merit targeted assistance.

(e) The Legislature recommends allocations among all of the following:

(1) Rebates, buydowns, or equivalent incentives for emerging renewable technologies.

(2) Customer education.

(3) Production incentives for reducing fuel costs, that are confirmed to the satisfaction of the commission, at solid fuel biomass energy facilities in order to provide demonstrable environmental and public benefits, including improved air quality.

(4) Solar thermal generating resources that enhance the environmental value or reliability of the electrical system and that require financial assistance to remain economically viable, as determined by the commission. The commission may require financial disclosure from applicants for purposes of this paragraph.

(5) Specified fuel cell technologies, if the commission makes all of the following findings:

(A) The specified technologies have similar or better air pollutant characteristics than renewable technologies in the report made pursuant to Section 25748.

(B) The specified technologies require financial assistance to become commercially viable by reference to wholesale generation prices.

(C) The specified technologies could contribute significantly to the infrastructure development or other innovation required to meet the long-term objective of a self-sustaining, competitive supply of electricity generated from renewable sources.

(6) Existing wind-generating resources, if the commission finds that the existing wind-generating resources are a cost-effective source of reliable energy and environmental benefits compared with other in-state renewable electricity generation facilities, and that the existing wind-generating resources require financial assistance to remain economically viable. The commission may require financial disclosure from applicants for the purposes of this paragraph.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, moneys collected for renewable energy pursuant to Article 15 (commencing

with Section 399) of Chapter 2.3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code shall be transferred to the Renewable Resource Trust Fund. Moneys collected between January 1, 2007, and January 1, 2012, shall be used for the purposes specified in this chapter.

SEC. 3. Section 25740.5 of the Public Resources Code, as added by Section 9 of Chapter 512 of the Statutes of 2006, is repealed.

SEC. 4. Section 25742 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

25742. (a) Twenty percent of the funds collected pursuant to the renewable energy public goods charge shall be used for programs that are designed to achieve fully competitive and self-sustaining existing in-state renewable electricity generation facilities, and to secure for the state the environmental, economic, and reliability benefits that continued operation of those facilities will provide during the 2007–2011 investment cycle. Eligibility for production incentives under this section shall be limited to those technologies found eligible for funds by the commission pursuant to paragraphs (3), (4), and (6) of subdivision (e) of Section 25740.5.

(b) Any funds used to support in-state renewable electricity generation facilities pursuant to this section shall be expended in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(c) Facilities that are eligible to receive funding pursuant to this section shall be registered in accordance with criteria developed by the commission and those facilities shall not receive payments for any electricity produced that has any of the following characteristics:

(1) Is sold at monthly average rates equal to or greater than the applicable target price, as determined by the commission.

(2) Is used onsite.

(d) (1) Existing facilities generating electricity from biomass energy shall be eligible for funding and otherwise considered an in-state renewable electricity generation facility only if they report to the commission the types and quantities of biomass fuels used and certify to the satisfaction of the commission that fuel utilization is limited to any of the following:

(A) Agricultural crops and agricultural wastes and residues.

(B) Solid waste materials such as waste pallets, crates, dunnage, manufacturing, and construction wood wastes, landscape or right-of-way tree trimmings, mill residues that are directly the result of the milling of lumber, and rangeland maintenance residues.

(C) Wood and wood wastes that meet all of the following requirements:

(i) The wood or wood waste has been harvested pursuant to an approved timber harvest plan prepared in accordance with the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 (Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 4511) of Part 2 of Division 4).

(ii) The wood or wood waste has been harvested for the purpose of forest fire fuel reduction or forest stand improvement.

(iii) Do not transport or cause the transportation of species known to harbor insect or disease nests outside zones of infestation or quarantine zones, as identified by the Department of Food and Agriculture or the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, unless approved by the Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

(2) The commission shall report the types and quantities of biomass fuels used by each facility to the Legislature in the reports prepared pursuant to Section 25748.

(e) Each existing facility seeking an award pursuant to this section shall be evaluated by the commission to determine the amount of the funds being sought, the cumulative amount of funds the facility has received previously from the commission and other state sources, the value of any past and current federal or state tax credits, the facility's contract price for energy and capacity, the prices received by similar facilities, the market value of the facility, and the likelihood that the award will make the facility competitive and self-sustaining within the 2007–2011 investment cycle. The commission shall use this evaluation to determine the value of an award to the public relative to other renewable energy investment alternatives. The commission shall compile its findings and report them to the Legislature in the reports prepared pursuant to Section 25748.

SEC. 5. Section 25743 of the Public Resources Code is repealed.

SEC. 6. Section 25743 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

25743. (a) The commission shall terminate all production incentives awarded from the New Renewable Resources Account prior to January 1, 2002, unless the project began generating electricity by January 1, 2007.

(b) (1) The commission shall, by March 1, 2008, transfer to electrical corporations serving customers subject to the renewable energy public goods charge the remaining unencumbered funds in the New Renewable Resources Account.

(2) The Public Utilities Commission shall ensure that each electrical corporation allocates funds received from the commission pursuant to paragraph (1) in a manner that maximizes the economic benefit to all customer classes that funded the New Renewable Resources Account.

SEC. 7. Section 25744 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

25744. (a) Seventy-nine percent of the money collected pursuant to the renewable energy public goods charge shall be used for a multiyear, consumer-based program to foster the development of emerging renewable technologies in distributed generation applications.

(b) Any funds used for emerging technologies pursuant to this section shall be expended in accordance with this chapter, subject to all of the following requirements:

(1) Funding for emerging technologies shall be provided through a competitive, market-based process that is in place for a period of not less than five years, and is structured to allow eligible emerging technology manufacturers and suppliers to anticipate and plan for increased sale and installation volumes over the life of the program.

(2) The program shall provide monetary rebates, buydowns, or equivalent incentives, subject to paragraph (3), to purchasers, lessees, lessors, or sellers of eligible electricity generating systems. Incentives shall benefit the end-use consumer of renewable generation by directly and exclusively reducing the purchase or lease cost of the eligible system, or the cost of electricity produced by the eligible system. Incentives shall be issued on the basis of the rated electrical generating capacity of the system measured in watts, or the amount of electricity production of the system, measured in kilowatthours. Incentives shall be limited to a maximum percentage of the system price, as determined by the

commission. The commission may establish different incentive levels for systems based on technology type and system size, and may provide different incentive levels for systems used in conjunction with energy-efficiency measures.

(3) Eligible distributed emerging technologies are fuel cell technologies that utilize renewable fuels, including fuel cell technologies with an emission profile equivalent or better than the State Air Resources Board 2007 standard, and that serve as backup generation for emergency, safety, or telecommunications systems. Eligible renewable fuels may include wind turbines of not more than 50 kilowatts rated electrical generating capacity per customer site and other distributed renewable emerging technologies that meet the emerging technology eligibility criteria established by the commission and are not eligible for rebates, buydowns, or similar incentives from any other commission or Public Utilities Commission program. Eligible electricity generating systems are intended primarily to offset part or all of the consumer's own electricity demand, including systems that are used as backup power for emergency, safety, or telecommunications, and shall not be owned by local publicly owned electric utilities, nor be located at a customer site that is not receiving distribution service from an electrical corporation that is subject to the renewable energy public goods charge and contributing funds to support programs under this chapter. All eligible electricity generating system components shall be new and unused, shall not have been previously placed in service in any other location or for any other application, and shall have a warranty of not less than five years to protect against defects and undue degradation of electrical generation output. Systems and their fuel resources shall be located on the same premises of the end-use consumer where the consumer's own electricity demand is located, and all eligible electricity generating systems shall be connected to the utility grid, unless the system purpose is for backup generation used in emergency, safety, or telecommunications in California. The commission may require eligible electricity generating systems to have meters in place to monitor and measure a system's performance and generation. Only systems that will be operated in compliance with applicable law and the rules of the Public Utilities Commission shall be eligible for funding.

(4) The commission shall limit the amount of funds available for a system or project of multiple systems and reduce the level of funding for a system or project of multiple systems that has received, or may be eligible to receive, any government or utility funds, incentives, or credit.

(5) In awarding funding, the commission may provide preference to systems that provide tangible demonstrable benefits to communities with a plurality of minority or low-income populations.

(6) In awarding funding, the commission shall develop and implement eligibility criteria and a system that provides preference to systems based upon system performance, taking into account factors, including shading, insulation levels, and installation orientation.

(7) At least once annually, the commission shall publish and make available to the public the balance of funds available for emerging renewable energy resources for rebates, buydowns, and other incentives for the purchase of these resources.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 27540.5, the commission may expend, until December 31, 2008, up to sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) of the funding allocated to the Renewable Resources Trust Fund for the program established in this section, subject to the repayment requirements of subdivision (f) of Section 25751.

(d) Any funds for photovoltaic or solar thermal electric technologies shall be awarded in compliance with Chapter 8.8 (commencing with Section 25780), and not with this section.

SEC. 8. Section 25748 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

25748. (a) The commission shall report to the Legislature on or before November 1, 2007, and annually thereafter, regarding the results of the mechanisms funded pursuant to this chapter. The report shall contain all of the following:

(1) A description of the allocation of funds among existing, new, and emerging technologies, the allocation of funds among programs, including consumer-side incentives, and the need for the reallocation of money among those technologies.

(2) The status of account transfers and repayments.

(3) A description of the cumulative commitment of claims by account, the relative demand for funds by account, and a forecast of future awards.

(4) A list identifying the types and quantities of biomass fuels used by facilities receiving funds pursuant to Section 25742 and their impacts on improving air quality.

(5) A discussion of the progress being made toward achieving the targets established under Section 25740 by each funding category authorized pursuant to this chapter.

(6) A description of the allocation of funds from interest on the accounts described in this chapter, and money in the accounts described in subdivision (b) of Section 25751.

(7) An itemized list, including project descriptions, award amounts, and outcomes for projects awarded funding in the prior year.

(8) Other matters the commission determines may be of importance to the Legislature.

(b) Money may be reallocated without further legislative action among existing, new, and emerging technologies and consumer-side programs in a manner consistent with the report and with the latest report provided to the Legislature pursuant to this section, except that reallocations shall not increase the allocation established in Section 25742.

SEC. 9. Section 25751 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

25751. (a) The Renewable Resource Trust Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury.

(b) The following accounts are hereby established within the Renewable Resource Trust Fund:

(1) Existing Renewable Resources Account.

(2) Emerging Renewable Resources Account.

(3) Renewable Resources Consumer Education Account.

(c) The money in the fund may be expended, only upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, for the following purposes:

(1) The administration of this article by the state.

(2) The state's expenditures associated with the accounting system established by the commission pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 399.13 of the Public Utilities Code.

(d) That portion of revenues collected by electrical corporations for the benefit of in-state operation and development of existing and new and emerging renewable resource technologies, pursuant to Section 399.8 of the Public Utilities Code, shall be transmitted

to the commission at least quarterly for deposit in the Renewable Resource Trust Fund pursuant to Section 25740.5. After setting aside in the fund money that may be needed for expenditures authorized by the annual Budget Act in accordance with subdivision (c), the Treasurer shall immediately deposit money received pursuant to this section into the accounts created pursuant to subdivision (b) in proportions designated by the commission for the current calendar year. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, the money in the fund and the accounts within the fund are hereby continuously appropriated to the commission without regard to fiscal year for the purposes enumerated in this chapter.

(e) Upon notification by the commission, the Controller shall pay all awards of the money in the accounts created pursuant to subdivision (b) for purposes enumerated in this chapter. The eligibility of each award shall be determined solely by the commission based on the procedures it adopts under this chapter. Based on the eligibility of each award, the commission shall also establish the need for a multiyear commitment to any particular award and so advise the Department of Finance. Eligible awards submitted by the commission to the Controller shall be accompanied by information specifying the account from which payment should be made and the amount of each payment; a summary description of how payment of the award furthers the purposes enumerated in this chapter; and an accounting of future costs associated with any award or group of awards known to the commission to represent a portion of a multiyear funding commitment.

(f) The commission may transfer funds between accounts for cashflow purposes, provided that the balance due each account is restored and the transfer does not adversely affect any of the accounts.

(g) The Department of Finance shall conduct an independent audit of the Renewable Resource Trust Fund and its related accounts annually, and provide an audit report to the Legislature not later than March 1 of each year for which this article is operative. The Department of Finance's report shall include information regarding revenues, payment of awards, reserves held for future commitments, unencumbered cash balances, and other

matters that the Director of Finance determines may be of importance to the Legislature.

SEC. 10. Section 399.8 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

399.8. (a) In order to ensure that the citizens of this state continue to receive safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable electric service, it is the policy of this state and the intent of the Legislature that prudent investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and research, development and demonstration shall continue to be made.

(b) (1) Every customer of an electrical corporation shall pay a nonbypassable system benefits charge authorized pursuant to this article. The system benefits charge shall fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and research, development and demonstration.

(2) Local publicly owned electric utilities shall continue to collect and administer system benefits charges pursuant to Section 385.

(c) (1) The commission shall require each electrical corporation to identify a separate rate component to collect revenues to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and research, development and demonstration programs authorized pursuant to this section beginning January 1, 2002, and ending January 1, 2012. The rate component shall be a nonbypassable element of the local distribution service and collected on the basis of usage.

(2) This rate component may not exceed, for any tariff schedule, the level of the rate component that was used to recover funds authorized pursuant to Section 381 on January 1, 2000. If the amounts specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) are not recovered fully in any year, the commission shall reset the rate component to restore the unrecovered balance, provided that the rate component may not exceed, for any tariff schedule, the level of the rate component that was used to recover funds authorized pursuant to Section 381 on January 1, 2000. Pending restoration, any annual shortfalls shall be allocated pro rata among the three funding categories in the proportions established in paragraph (1) of subdivision (d).

(d) The commission shall order San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company to collect these funds commencing on January 1, 2002, as follows:

(1) Two hundred twenty-eight million dollars (\$228,000,000) per year in total for energy efficiency and conservation activities, sixty-five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$65,500,000) in total per year for renewable energy, and sixty-two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$62,500,000) in total per year for research, development and demonstration. The funds for energy efficiency and conservation activities shall continue to be allocated in proportions established for the year 2000 as set forth in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 381.

(2) The amounts shall be adjusted annually at a rate equal to the lesser of the annual growth in electric commodity sales or inflation, as defined by the gross domestic product deflator.

(e) The commission shall ensure that each electrical corporation allocates funds transferred by the Energy Commission pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 25743 in a manner that maximizes the economic benefit to all customer classes that funded the New Renewable Resources Account.

(f) The commission and the Energy Commission shall retain and continue their oversight responsibilities as set forth in Sections 381 and 383, and Chapter 7.1 (commencing with Section 25620) and Chapter 8.6 (commencing with Section 25740) of Division 15 of the Public Resources Code.

(g) An applicant for the Large Nonresidential Standard Performance Contract Program funded pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) and an electrical corporation shall promptly attempt to resolve disputes that arise related to the program's guidelines and parameters prior to entering into a program agreement. The applicant shall provide the electrical corporation with written notice of any dispute. Within 10 business days after receipt of the notice, the parties shall meet to resolve the dispute. If the dispute is not resolved within 10 business days after the date of the meeting, the electrical corporation shall notify the applicant of his or her right to file a complaint with the commission, which complaint shall describe the grounds for the complaint, injury, and relief sought. The commission shall issue its findings in response to a filed complaint within 30 business days of the date of receipt of the complaint. Prior to issuance of its findings, the commission shall provide a copy of the complaint to the electrical corporation, which shall provide a response to the complaint to the commission within five business days of the date of receipt. During the dispute

period, the amount of estimated financial incentives shall be held in reserve until the dispute is resolved.

SEC. 11. Section 399.13 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

399.13. The Energy Commission shall do all of the following:

(a) Certify eligible renewable energy resources that it determines meet the criteria described in subdivision (b) of Section 399.12.

(b) Design and implement an accounting system to verify compliance with the renewables portfolio standard by retail sellers, to ensure that electricity generated by an eligible renewable energy resource is counted only once for the purpose of meeting the renewables portfolio standard of this state or any other state, to certify renewable energy credits produced by eligible renewable energy resources, and to verify retail product claims in this state or any other state. In establishing the guidelines governing this accounting system, the Energy Commission shall collect data from electricity market participants that it deems necessary to verify compliance of retail sellers, in accordance with the requirements of this article and the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code). In seeking data from electrical corporations, the Energy Commission shall request data from the commission. The commission shall collect data from electrical corporations and remit the data to the Energy Commission within 90 days of the request.

(c) Establish a system for tracking and verifying renewable energy credits that, through the use of independently audited data, verifies the generation and delivery of electricity associated with each renewable energy credit and protects against multiple counting of the same renewable energy credit. The Energy Commission shall consult with other western states and with the Western Electricity Coordinating Council in the development of this system.

(d) Certify, for purposes of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard requirements by a retail seller, the eligibility of renewable energy credits associated with deliveries of electricity by an eligible renewable energy resource to a local publicly owned electric utility, if the Energy Commission determines that the following conditions have been satisfied:

(1) The local publicly owned electric utility that is procuring the electricity is in compliance with the requirements of Section 387.

(2) The local publicly owned electric utility has established an annual renewables portfolio standard target comparable to those applicable to an electrical corporation, is procuring sufficient eligible renewable energy resources to satisfy the targets, and will not fail to satisfy the targets in the event that the renewable energy credit is sold to another retail seller.

SEC. 12. Section 399.14 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

399.14. (a) (1) The commission shall direct each electrical corporation to prepare a renewable energy procurement plan that includes the matter in paragraph (3), to satisfy its obligations under the renewables portfolio standard. To the extent feasible, this procurement plan shall be proposed, reviewed, and adopted by the commission as part of, and pursuant to, a general procurement plan process. The commission shall require each electrical corporation to review and update its renewable energy procurement plan as it determines to be necessary.

(2) The commission shall adopt, by rulemaking, all of the following:

(A) A process for determining market prices pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 399.15. The commission shall make specific determinations of market prices after the closing date of a competitive solicitation conducted by an electrical corporation for eligible renewable energy resources.

(B) A process that provides criteria for the rank ordering and selection of least-cost and best-fit eligible renewable energy resources to comply with the annual California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program obligations on a total cost basis. This process shall consider estimates of indirect costs associated with needed transmission investments and ongoing utility expenses resulting from integrating and operating eligible renewable energy resources.

(C) (i) Flexible rules for compliance, including rules permitting retail sellers to apply excess procurement in one year to subsequent years or inadequate procurement in one year to no more than the following three years. The flexible rules for compliance shall apply to all years, including years before and after a retail seller procures

at least 20 percent of total retail sales of electricity from eligible renewable energy resources.

(ii) The flexible rules for compliance shall address situations where, as a result of insufficient transmission, a retail seller is unable to procure eligible renewable energy resources sufficient to satisfy the requirements of this article. Any rules addressing insufficient transmission shall require a finding by the commission that the retail seller has undertaken all reasonable efforts to do all of the following:

(I) Utilize flexible delivery points.

(II) Ensure the availability of any needed transmission capacity.

(III) If the retail seller is an electric corporation, to construct needed transmission facilities.

(IV) Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to revise any portion of Section 454.5.

(D) Standard terms and conditions to be used by all electrical corporations in contracting for eligible renewable energy resources, including performance requirements for renewable generators. A contract for the purchase of electricity generated by an eligible renewable energy resource shall, at a minimum, include the renewable energy credits associated with all electricity generation specified under the contract. The standard terms and conditions shall include the requirement that, no later than six months after the commission's approval of an electricity purchase agreement entered into pursuant to this article, the following information about the agreement shall be disclosed by the commission: party names, resource type, project location, and project capacity.

(3) Consistent with the goal of procuring the least-cost and best-fit eligible renewable energy resources, the renewable energy procurement plan submitted by an electrical corporation shall include all of the following:

(A) An assessment of annual or multiyear portfolio supplies and demand to determine the optimal mix of eligible renewable energy resources with deliverability characteristics that may include peaking, dispatchable, baseload, firm, and as-available capacity.

(B) Provisions for employing available compliance flexibility mechanisms established by the commission.

(C) A bid solicitation setting forth the need for eligible renewable energy resources of each deliverability characteristic, required online dates, and locational preferences, if any.

(4) In soliciting and procuring eligible renewable energy resources, each electrical corporation shall offer contracts of no less than 10 years in duration, unless the commission approves of a contract of shorter duration.

(5) In soliciting and procuring eligible renewable energy resources, each electrical corporation may give preference to projects that provide tangible demonstrable benefits to communities with a plurality of minority or low-income populations.

(b) The commission may authorize a retail seller to enter into a contract of less than 10 years' duration with an eligible renewable energy resource, if the commission has established, for each retail seller, minimum quantities of eligible renewable energy resources to be procured either through contracts of at least 10 years' duration or from new facilities commencing commercial operations on or after January 1, 2005.

(c) The commission shall review and accept, modify, or reject each electrical corporation's renewable energy procurement plan prior to the commencement of renewable procurement pursuant to this article by an electrical corporation.

(d) The commission shall review the results of an eligible renewable energy resources solicitation submitted for approval by an electrical corporation and accept or reject proposed contracts with eligible renewable energy resources based on consistency with the approved renewable energy procurement plan. If the commission determines that the bid prices are elevated due to a lack of effective competition among the bidders, the commission shall direct the electrical corporation to renegotiate the contracts or conduct a new solicitation.

(e) If an electrical corporation fails to comply with a commission order adopting a renewable energy procurement plan, the commission shall exercise its authority pursuant to Section 2113 to require compliance. The commission shall enforce comparable penalties on any other retail seller that fails to meet annual procurement targets established pursuant to Section 399.15.

(f) (1) The commission may authorize a procurement entity to enter into contracts on behalf of customers of a retail seller for deliveries of eligible renewable energy resources to satisfy annual renewables portfolio standard obligations. The commission may not require any person or corporation to act as a procurement entity

or require any party to purchase eligible renewable energy resources from a procurement entity.

(2) Subject to review and approval by the commission, the procurement entity shall be permitted to recover reasonable administrative and procurement costs through the retail rates of end-use customers that are served by the procurement entity and are directly benefiting from the procurement of eligible renewable energy resources.

(g) Procurement and administrative costs associated with long-term contracts entered into by an electrical corporation for eligible renewable energy resources pursuant to this article and approved by the commission shall be deemed reasonable per se, and shall be recoverable in rates.

(h) Construction, alteration, demolition, installation, and repair work on an eligible renewable energy resource that receives production incentives pursuant to Section 25742 of the Public Resources Code, including work performed to qualify, receive, or maintain production incentives is “public works” for the purposes of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1720) of Part 7 of Division 2 of the Labor Code.

SEC. 13. Section 399.15 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

399.15. (a) In order to fulfill unmet long-term resource needs, the commission shall establish a renewables portfolio standard requiring all electrical corporations to procure a minimum quantity of electricity generated by eligible renewable energy resources as a specified percentage of total kilowatthours sold to their retail end-use customers each calendar year, subject to limits on the total amount of costs expended above the market prices determined in subdivision (c), to achieve the targets established under this article.

(b) The commission shall implement annual procurement targets for each retail seller as follows:

(1) Each retail seller shall, pursuant to subdivision (a), increase its total procurement of eligible renewable energy resources by at least an additional 1 percent of retail sales per year so that 20 percent of its retail sales are procured from eligible renewable energy resources no later than December 31, 2010. A retail seller with 20 percent of retail sales procured from eligible renewable energy resources in any year shall not be required to increase its procurement of renewable energy resources in the following year.

(2) For purposes of setting annual procurement targets, the commission shall establish an initial baseline for each retail seller based on the actual percentage of retail sales procured from eligible renewable energy resources in 2001, and to the extent applicable, adjusted going forward pursuant to Section 399.12.

(3) Only for purposes of establishing these targets, the commission shall include all electricity sold to retail customers by the Department of Water Resources pursuant to Section 80100 of the Water Code in the calculation of retail sales by an electrical corporation.

(4) In the event that a retail seller fails to procure sufficient eligible renewable energy resources in a given year to meet any annual target established pursuant to this subdivision, the retail seller shall procure additional eligible renewable energy resources in subsequent years to compensate for the shortfall, subject to the limitation on costs for electrical corporations established pursuant to subdivision (d).

(c) The commission shall establish a methodology to determine the market price of electricity for terms corresponding to the length of contracts with eligible renewable energy resources, in consideration of the following:

(1) The long-term market price of electricity for fixed price contracts, determined pursuant to an electrical corporation's general procurement activities as authorized by the commission.

(2) The long-term ownership, operating, and fixed-price fuel costs associated with fixed-price electricity from new generating facilities.

(3) The value of different products including baseload, peaking, and as-available electricity.

(d) The commission shall establish, for each electrical corporation, a limitation on the total costs expended above the market prices determined in subdivision (c) for the procurement of eligible renewable energy resources to achieve the annual procurement targets established under this article.

(1) The cost limitation shall be equal to the amount of funds transferred to each electrical corporation by the Energy Commission pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 25743 of the Public Resources Code and the 51.5 percent of the funds which would have been collected through January 1, 2012, from the

customers of the electrical corporation based on the renewable energy public goods charge in effect as of January 1, 2007.

(2) The above-market costs of a contract selected by an electrical corporation may be counted toward the cost limitation if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(A) The contract has been approved by the commission and was selected through a competitive solicitation pursuant to the requirements of subdivision (d) of Section 399.14.

(B) The contract covers a duration of no less than 10 years.

(C) The contracted project is a new or repowered facility commencing commercial operations on or after January 1, 2005.

(D) No purchases of renewable energy credits may be eligible for consideration as an above-market cost.

(E) The above-market costs of a contract do not include any indirect expenses including imbalance energy charges, sale of excess energy, decreased generation from existing resources, or transmission upgrades.

(3) If the cost limitation for an electrical corporation is insufficient to support the total costs expended above the market prices determined in subdivision (c) for the procurement of eligible renewable energy resources satisfying the conditions of paragraph (2), the commission shall allow the electrical corporation to limit its procurement to the quantity of eligible renewable energy resources that can be procured at or below the market prices established in subdivision (c).

(4) Nothing in this section prevents an electrical corporation from voluntarily proposing to procure eligible renewable energy resources at above-market prices that are not counted toward the cost limitation. Any voluntary procurement involving above-market costs shall be subject to commission approval prior to the expense being recovered in rates.

(e) The establishment of a renewables portfolio standard shall not constitute implementation by the commission of the federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-617).

(f) The commission shall consult with the Energy Commission in calculating market prices under subdivision (c) and establishing other renewables portfolio standard policies.

SEC. 14. Section 399.16 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

399.16. (a) The commission, by rule, may authorize the use of renewable energy credits to satisfy the requirements of the renewables portfolio standard established pursuant to this article, subject to the following conditions:

(1) Prior to authorizing any renewable energy credit to be used toward satisfying annual procurement targets, the commission and the Energy Commission shall conclude that the tracking system established pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 399.13, is operational, is capable of independently verifying the electricity generated by an eligible renewable energy resource and delivered to the retail seller, and can ensure that renewable energy credits shall not be double counted by any seller of electricity within the service territory of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC).

(2) A renewable energy credit shall be counted only once for compliance with the renewables portfolio standard of this state or any other state, or for verifying retail product claims in this state or any other state.

(3) The electricity is delivered to a retail seller, the Independent System Operator, or a local publicly owned electric utility.

(4) All revenues received by an electrical corporation for the sale of a renewable energy credit shall be credited to the benefit of ratepayers.

(5) No renewable energy credits shall be created for electricity generated pursuant to any electricity purchase contract with a retail seller or a local publicly owned electric utility executed before January 1, 2005, unless the contract contains explicit terms and conditions specifying the ownership or disposition of those credits. Deliveries under those contracts shall be tracked through the accounting system described in subdivision (b) of Section 399.13 and included in the baseline quantity of eligible renewable energy resources of the purchasing retail seller pursuant to Section 399.15.

(6) No renewable energy credits shall be created for electricity generated under any electricity purchase contract executed after January 1, 2005, pursuant to the federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 2601 et seq.). Deliveries under the electricity purchase contracts shall be tracked through the accounting system described in subdivision (b) of Section 399.12 and count toward the renewables portfolio standard obligations of the purchasing retail seller.

(7) The commission may limit the quantity of renewable energy credits that may be procured unbundled from electricity generation by any retail seller, to meet the requirements of this article.

(8) No electrical corporation shall be obligated to procure renewable energy credits to satisfy the requirements of this article in the event that the total costs expended above the applicable market prices for the procurement of eligible renewable energy resources exceeds the cost limitation established pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 399.15.

(9) Any additional condition that the commission determines is reasonable.

(b) The commission shall allow an electrical corporation to recover the reasonable costs of purchasing renewable energy credits in rates.

SEC. 15. Section 454.5 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

454.5. (a) The commission shall specify the allocation of electricity, including quantity, characteristics, and duration of electricity delivery, that the Department of Water Resources shall provide under its power purchase agreements to the customers of each electrical corporation, which shall be reflected in the electrical corporation's proposed procurement plan. Each electrical corporation shall file a proposed procurement plan with the commission not later than 60 days after the commission specifies the allocation of electricity. The proposed procurement plan shall specify the date that the electrical corporation intends to resume procurement of electricity for its retail customers, consistent with its obligation to serve. After the commission's adoption of a procurement plan, the commission shall allow not less than 60 days before the electrical corporation resumes procurement pursuant to this section.

(b) An electrical corporation's proposed procurement plan shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) An assessment of the price risk associated with the electrical corporation's portfolio, including any utility-retained generation, existing power purchase and exchange contracts, and proposed contracts or purchases under which an electrical corporation will procure electricity, electricity demand reductions, and electricity-related products and the remaining open position to be served by spot market transactions.

(2) A definition of each electricity product, electricity-related product, and procurement related financial product, including support and justification for the product type and amount to be procured under the plan.

(3) The duration of the plan.

(4) The duration, timing, and range of quantities of each product to be procured.

(5) A competitive procurement process under which the electrical corporation may request bids for procurement-related services, including the format and criteria of that procurement process.

(6) An incentive mechanism, if any incentive mechanism is proposed, including the type of transactions to be covered by that mechanism, their respective procurement benchmarks, and other parameters needed to determine the sharing of risks and benefits.

(7) The upfront standards and criteria by which the acceptability and eligibility for rate recovery of a proposed procurement transaction will be known by the electrical corporation prior to execution of the transaction. This shall include an expedited approval process for the commission's review of proposed contracts and subsequent approval or rejection thereof. The electrical corporation shall propose alternative procurement choices in the event a contract is rejected.

(8) Procedures for updating the procurement plan.

(9) A showing that the procurement plan will achieve the following:

(A) The electrical corporation will, in order to fulfill its unmet resource needs and in furtherance of Section 701.3, until a 20 percent renewable resources portfolio is achieved, procure renewable energy resources with the goal of ensuring that at least an additional 1 percent per year of the electricity sold by the electrical corporation is generated from renewable energy resources, provided sufficient funds are made available pursuant to Sections 399.6 and 399.15, to cover the above-market costs for new renewable energy resources.

(B) The electrical corporation will create or maintain a diversified procurement portfolio consisting of both short-term and long-term electricity and electricity-related and demand reduction products.

(C) The electrical corporation will first meet its unmet resource needs through all available energy efficiency and demand reduction resources that are cost effective, reliable, and feasible.

(10) The electrical corporation's risk management policy, strategy, and practices, including specific measures of price stability.

(11) A plan to achieve appropriate increases in diversity of ownership and diversity of fuel supply of nonutility electrical generation.

(12) A mechanism for recovery of reasonable administrative costs related to procurement in the generation component of rates.

(c) The commission shall review and accept, modify, or reject each electrical corporation's procurement plan. The commission's review shall consider each electrical corporation's individual procurement situation, and shall give strong consideration to that situation in determining which one or more of the features set forth in this subdivision shall apply to that electrical corporation. A procurement plan approved by the commission shall contain one or more of the following features, provided that the commission may not approve a feature or mechanism for an electrical corporation if it finds that the feature or mechanism would impair the restoration of an electrical corporation's creditworthiness or would lead to a deterioration of an electrical corporation's creditworthiness:

(1) A competitive procurement process under which the electrical corporation may request bids for procurement-related services. The commission shall specify the format of that procurement process, as well as criteria to ensure that the auction process is open and adequately subscribed. Any purchases made in compliance with the commission-authorized process shall be recovered in the generation component of rates.

(2) An incentive mechanism that establishes a procurement benchmark or benchmarks and authorizes the electrical corporation to procure from the market, subject to comparing the electrical corporation's performance to the commission-authorized benchmark or benchmarks. The incentive mechanism shall be clear, achievable, and contain quantifiable objectives and standards. The incentive mechanism shall contain balanced risk and reward incentives that limit the risk and reward of an electrical corporation.

(3) Upfront achievable standards and criteria by which the acceptability and eligibility for rate recovery of a proposed procurement transaction will be known by the electrical corporation prior to the execution of the bilateral contract for the transaction. The commission shall provide for expedited review and either approve or reject the individual contracts submitted by the electrical corporation to ensure compliance with its procurement plan. To the extent the commission rejects a proposed contract pursuant to this criteria, the commission shall designate alternative procurement choices obtained in the procurement plan that will be recoverable for ratemaking purposes.

(d) A procurement plan approved by the commission shall accomplish each of the following objectives:

(1) Enable the electrical corporation to fulfill its obligation to serve its customers at just and reasonable rates.

(2) Eliminate the need for after-the-fact reasonableness reviews of an electrical corporation's actions in compliance with an approved procurement plan, including resulting electricity procurement contracts, practices, and related expenses. However, the commission may establish a regulatory process to verify and assure that each contract was administered in accordance with the terms of the contract, and contract disputes which may arise are reasonably resolved.

(3) Ensure timely recovery of prospective procurement costs incurred pursuant to an approved procurement plan. The commission shall establish rates based on forecasts of procurement costs adopted by the commission, actual procurement costs incurred, or combination thereof, as determined by the commission. The commission shall establish power procurement balancing accounts to track the differences between recorded revenues and costs incurred pursuant to an approved procurement plan. The commission shall review the power procurement balancing accounts, not less than semiannually, and shall adjust rates or order refunds, as necessary, to promptly amortize a balancing account, according to a schedule determined by the commission. Until January 1, 2006, the commission shall ensure that any overcollection or undercollection in the power procurement balancing account does not exceed 5 percent of the electrical corporation's actual recorded generation revenues for the prior calendar year excluding revenues collected for the Department of

Water Resources. The commission shall determine the schedule for amortizing the overcollection or undercollection in the balancing account to ensure that the 5 percent threshold is not exceeded. After January 1, 2006, this adjustment shall occur when deemed appropriate by the commission consistent with the objectives of this section.

(4) Moderate the price risk associated with serving its retail customers, including the price risk embedded in its long-term supply contracts, by authorizing an electrical corporation to enter into financial and other electricity-related product contracts.

(5) Provide for just and reasonable rates, with an appropriate balancing of price stability and price level in the electrical corporation's procurement plan.

(e) The commission shall provide for the periodic review and prospective modification of an electrical corporation's procurement plan.

(f) The commission may engage an independent consultant or advisory service to evaluate risk management and strategy. The reasonable costs of any consultant or advisory service is a reimbursable expense and eligible for funding pursuant to Section 631.

(g) The commission shall adopt appropriate procedures to ensure the confidentiality of any market sensitive information submitted in an electrical corporation's proposed procurement plan or resulting from or related to its approved procurement plan, including, but not limited to, proposed or executed power purchase agreements, data request responses, or consultant reports, or any combination, provided that the Office of Ratepayer Advocates and other consumer groups that are nonmarket participants shall be provided access to this information under confidentiality procedures authorized by the commission.

(h) Nothing in this section alters, modifies, or amends the commission's oversight of affiliate transactions under its rules and decisions or the commission's existing authority to investigate and penalize an electrical corporation's alleged fraudulent activities, or to disallow costs incurred as a result of gross incompetence, fraud, abuse, or similar grounds. Nothing in this section expands, modifies, or limits the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission's existing authority and responsibilities

as set forth in Sections 25216, 25216.5, and 25323 of the Public Resources Code.

(i) An electrical corporation that serves less than 500,000 electric retail customers within the state may file with the commission a request for exemption from this section, which the commission shall grant upon a showing of good cause.

(j) (1) Prior to its approval pursuant to Section 851 of any divestiture of generation assets owned by an electrical corporation on or after the date of enactment of the act adding this section, the commission shall determine the impact of the proposed divestiture on the electrical corporation's procurement rates and shall approve a divestiture only to the extent it finds, taking into account the effect of the divestiture on procurement rates, that the divestiture is in the public interest and will result in net ratepayer benefits.

(2) Any electrical corporation's procurement necessitated as a result of the divestiture of generation assets on or after the effective date of the act adding this subdivision shall be subject to the mechanisms and procedures set forth in this section only if its actual cost is less than the recent historical cost of the divested generation assets.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the commission may deem proposed procurement eligible to use the procedures in this section upon its approval of asset divestiture pursuant to Section 851.

SEC. 16. The amendments made to Section 25751 of the Public Resources Code made by Section 9 of this act shall become operative on July 1, 2008.

Approved _____, 2007

Governor