

PG&E / Sempra / Edison

The Honorable Josh Becker
California State Senate
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

October 07, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 17 - Support IF Amended

Dear Chairperson (Unknown) and Committee Members,

On behalf of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Sempra, and Edison, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 17, The Clean Grid and Community Energy Resilience Act, If amended.

California has a continuous growing electricity needs that need continued investment in a reliable and resilient electric system. SB 17 Recognizes this specific challenge by establishing the Clean Grid and Community Energy Resilience Grant Program within the California Energy Commission and appropriating \$40 million from the General Fund for clean energy and resilience Projects. The funding from this bill to make energy efficiency improvements, community microgrids. Battery storage and technologies intended to reduce electricity demands during peak use periods is a step in the right direction. PG&E, Sempra, and Edison support the overall goals of SB 17. These investments can strengthen the California electric system while helping communities maintain reliable electricity during periods of extreme weather, emergencies, and other disruptions.

However, SB 17 should take into consideration two amendments, First the funding amount of \$40,000,000 should be altered to a more adequate representation of the General Fund Budget at our disposition. A range of around \$5,000,000 - \$10,000,000 seems more reasonable even if it means cutting the scale of the proposed budget. Next SB 17 should amend to more clearly address the electric infrastructure necessary to connect these projects to the existing grid. Many of the projects authorized under SB 17 will not operate

independently of California's electric distribution system. Solar generation, battery storage, microgrids, and other distributed energy resources may require interconnection studies, upgraded transformers, distribution equipment, or other infrastructure improvements before they can safely and reliably connect to the electric system. California's existing Rule 21 process already governs the interconnection of generation and storage facilities to the distribution systems operated by PG&E, Southern California Edison, and Sempra.

For this reason, we respectfully request that SB 17 be amended to clarify that necessary interconnection and distribution system improvements are eligible project costs and that the California Energy Commission coordinate with the serving electrical corporation when a funded project will connect to or materially affect the distribution system. This amendment would not change SB 17's primary purpose or reduce its commitment to disadvantaged communities and public serving facilities. Instead, it would help ensure that the state considers the complete infrastructure needs of a project before committing grant funds. Clear coordination with the serving utility is particularly important because the success of SB 17 should not be measured only by how many solar panels, batteries, or microgrids receive funding. Projects must ultimately be capable of operating safely and reliably within a larger electric system. Including interconnection and related infrastructure in the program will help avoid a situation in which a community receives funding for clean energy equipment but later encounters delays or additional costs because necessary grid improvements were not considered during project development.

SB 17 also represents an opportunity to strengthen California's electric system while using state resources to support communities that may otherwise struggle to finance resilience projects. The bill's requirement that at least 50 percent of program funding benefit low or moderate income communities or public serving facilities ensure that a significant share of this investment will reach communities where improvements can have substantial public value. PG&E, Sempra, Edison share the Legislature's interest in maintaining a reliable electric system capable of supporting California's changing energy needs. With the amendments described above SB 17 would better integrate community resilience investments with the electric infrastructure necessary to make those investments successful.

For those reasons, PG&E, Sempra, and Edison respectfully support SB 17 if amended to recognize necessary interconnection and distribution system improvements and provide for coordination with the serving electrical cooperation and as well as changing the funds requested to a more sustainable and reasonable amount.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support SB 17.

Sincerely,

Luis Martinez (He/Him) - Lobbyist

PG&E / Sempra / Edison