

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2004

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 14, 2004

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2685

Introduced by Assembly Member Oropeza

February 20, 2004

An act to add Section 65040.15 to the Government Code, relating to energy resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2685, as amended, Oropeza. Energy resources: State Clearinghouse.

Existing law provides for the restructuring of California's electric power industry so that the price for the generation of electricity is determined by a competitive market. Under existing law, the Office of Planning and Research is required to coordinate, in conjunction with appropriate state, regional, and local agencies, the development of objectives, criteria, and procedures for the orderly evaluation and report of the impact of public and private actions on the environmental quality of the state and as a guide to the preparation of environmental impact reports.

This bill would require, upon request, the State Clearinghouse within the Office of Planning and Research to facilitate the development of renewable electricity generation facilities, as defined. The bill would authorize the clearinghouse to convene appropriate state, regional, or local agencies for the purpose of streamlining regulatory requirements

and processes. The bill would not authorize the clearinghouse to reduce existing environmental or other regulatory requirements.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 65040.15 is added to the Government
2 Code, to read:

3 65040.15. (a) The State Clearinghouse, consistent with the
4 authority granted pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 65040
5 shall, upon request, facilitate the development of renewable
6 electricity generation facilities by coordinating the orderly
7 evaluation of the impact of public and private actions on the
8 environmental quality of the state.

9 (b) For purposes of this section, “renewable electricity
10 generation facilities” includes all renewable energy facilities
11 ~~except geothermal energy facilities.~~

12 (c) To accomplish the purpose of this section, the State
13 Clearinghouse may convene appropriate state, regional, or local
14 agencies for the purpose of streamlining regulatory requirements
15 and processes. Where possible, agencies, boards, and
16 commissions shall work together to develop project specific
17 timelines, processes, and mitigation measures. A mitigation
18 measure recommended by one regulatory agency, board, or
19 commission shall not negate a recommendation of another
20 regulatory agency, board, or commission.

21 (d) State agencies, departments, commissions, or boards shall
22 staff meetings with staff of sufficient background, knowledge, and
23 authority for the meeting to accomplish its goals.

24 (e) Appropriate federal regulatory agencies, departments, and
25 commissions shall be invited to participate in meetings.

26 (f) Nothing in this section reduces, or authorizes the State
27 Clearinghouse to reduce, existing environmental or other
28 regulatory requirements.

