

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 20, 2004

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~~ *Office of Planning* and Research to facilitate the ~~development of renewable electricity generation facilities, as defined~~ *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process for renewable energy generation facilities*. The bill would authorize the

~~clearinghouse~~ *Office of Planning and Research* to convene appropriate state, regional, or local agencies for the purpose of streamlining regulatory requirements and processes the CEQA review process. The bill would not authorize the ~~clearinghouse~~ *Office of Planning and Research* 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~~ *Office of Planning*
4 *and Research*, consistent with the authority granted pursuant to
5 subdivision (g) of Section 65040 shall, upon request, facilitate the
6 ~~development of renewable electricity generation facilities by~~
7 ~~coordinating the orderly evaluation of the impact of public and~~
8 ~~private actions on the environmental quality of the state.~~
9 ~~(b) For purposes of this section, “renewable electricity~~
10 ~~generation facilities” includes all renewable energy facilities.~~
11 ~~(c) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Div. 13~~
12 ~~(commencing with Sec. 21000) P.R.C.) review process for~~
13 ~~renewable energy generation facilities.~~
14 ~~(b) To accomplish the purpose of this section, the State~~
15 ~~Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research~~ may convene
16 appropriate state, regional, or local agencies for the purpose of
17 streamlining regulatory requirements and processes the CEQA
18 review process. Where possible, agencies, boards, and
19 commissions shall work together to develop project specific
20 timelines, processes, and mitigation measures. A mitigation
21 measure recommended by one regulatory agency, board, or
22 commission shall not negate a recommendation of another
23 regulatory agency, board, or commission.
24 ~~(d)~~
25 (c) State agencies, departments, commissions, or boards shall
26 staff meetings with staff of sufficient background, knowledge, and
27 authority for the meeting to accomplish its goals.
28 ~~(e)~~

- 1 (d) Appropriate federal regulatory agencies, departments, and
- 2 commissions shall be invited to participate in meetings.
- 3 ~~(f)–~~
- 4 (e) Nothing in this section reduces, or authorizes the State
- 5 ~~Clearinghouse~~ *Office of Planning and Research* to reduce, existing
- 6 environmental or other regulatory requirements.

