

DOCKETED

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Filer:	Ryan Eggers
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Energy Data Collection – Phase 3 for Natural Gas and Renewable Natural Gas Data Collection

Title 20, California Code of Regulations

Amendments and Adoptions to Sections 1302, 1308, 1309, 1314, 1353, 1382, 1383,
1384.5 in Title 20, Division 2, Chapter 3, Articles 1, 2, and 4

Docket No. 25-OIR-02

Notice Published on December 19, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The California Energy Commission (CEC) proposes to adopt changes to Energy Data Collection – Phase 3 for Natural Gas and Renewable Natural Gas Data Collection in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 20, Article 1, 2, and 4, after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed regulation.

The purpose of the proposed regulations is to enable the CEC to meet its statutory and analytical requirements to support the reliable operation of the state's energy systems and assess progress of energy transitions to develop recommendations for meeting state energy goals.

This rulemaking will expand the CEC's analysis and forecasting capabilities by requiring reporting of key information related to:

- Natural Gas System and Metered Consumer Usage.
- Renewable Natural Gas.
- Metered Electricity Use.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Interested persons or their authorized representatives may submit written comments during the written public comment period for the proposed regulation that will be held from December 19, 2025, through 5:00 p.m. on February 3, 2026. The CEC will consider all comments received by 5:00 p.m. on February 3, 2026. The CEC appreciates receiving written comments at the earliest possible date. Comments submitted outside this comment period are considered untimely.

Written comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine.

The CEC encourages use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page on the [CEC website at Docket 25-OIR-02](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=25-OIR-02), <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=25-OIR-02>, which links to the comment page for this docket. Enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s). Comments may be included in the “Comment Text” box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document consistent with Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1208.1. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include the docket number 25-OIR-02 in the subject line and email your comment to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be sent to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit
Docket No. 25-OIR-02
715 P Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

To ensure you receive notice of any changes to the proposed regulations in this proceeding, please follow the instructions provided at the end of this notice to join the proceeding contact list or provide a valid email or mailing address with your comments.

A public hearing is not scheduled. However, any interested person or their authorized representative may request, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written public comment period specified above, a public hearing pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.8.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 25213, 25216.5, 25218(e), and 25320 authorize the CEC to adopt or amend rules or regulations, as necessary to implement, interpret, and make specific Public Resources Code Sections 25005.5, 25100-25141, 25216, 25216.5, 25223, 25300, 25301, 25302, 25302.5, 25303, 25303.5, 25305, 25305.1, 25310, 25322, 25324, 25330 et seq., 25400, 25401, 25401.2, 25403, 25403.5, 25602, 25604, 25700, and 25704.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST AND POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Summary of existing laws and regulations:

The CEC is mandated by statute to “conduct assessments and forecasts of all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery and distribution, demand, and prices” (PRC section 25301(a)). These forecasting and assessment activities are developed as part of the Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) that is mandated every

two years (PRC section 25302). As part of this comprehensive energy assessment, the CEC conducts an electricity demand forecast, a natural gas demand forecast, a transportation energy demand forecast, and performs various energy market assessments and tracking assessments that evaluate energy supply constraints, system performance, and progress towards policy goals (PRC sections 25301(a); 25303(a)(2), (a)(5), and (a)(7); 25304(a), (c), (d), (f), and (g)).

Pursuant to PRC section 25216.5(d), the CEC “[s]erve[s] as a central repository within the state government for the collection, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of data and information on all forms of energy supply, demand, conservation, public safety, research, and related subjects.” This responsibility is further codified in PRC section 25320(a), which directs the CEC to “manage a data collection system for obtaining information necessary to develop the policy reports and analyses required by sections 25301 to 25307, inclusive, the energy shortage contingency planning efforts in Chapter 8 (commencing with section 25700), and to support other duties of the commission.”

Existing regulations provide natural gas supply and price information that describes the changes in inventory between different sources and hubs that hold that energy source. Currently, information is collected in monthly, quarterly, and annual time periods, but lacks the frequency needed to make high quality projections or analyze data granularly.

Effect of the proposed regulations:

The proposed regulations will increase the reporting frequency of several existing reporting requirements to more frequent intervals, while also expanding the data collection to fuels that substitute for natural gas that could displace current natural gas supply or impact the CEC’s ability to identify trends in gas consumption across different economic sectors.

Such projections are the analytical core of the IEPR, which serves two fundamental purposes: 1) to identify actions needed to ensure the reliable operation of the state’s electricity, natural gas, and transportation energy supply systems; and 2) to develop recommendations to the Legislature and Governor’s office and assess progress toward meeting state energy goals. The CEC is proposing to implement data reporting requirements related to three separate data subject collection areas to ensure that it has access to sufficient information for its analytical mandates:

1. Natural Gas Data Reporting and Analysis

- Evaluate and understand the magnitude of these resources on the broader energy needs.
- Improve demand forecasts, particularly the peak demand load forecasts.
- Assess the need for future gas delivery infrastructure in light of changes to gas demand.
- Improve price forecasting.

- Improve assessments of gas system reliability.
- Track the success or failures of specific policies and programs.

2. Renewable Natural Gas and Hydrogen Data Reporting and Analysis

- Assess the role of hydrogen and renewable natural gas in the electric generation, industrial, transportation, and gas utility sectors particularly as California's energy system transitions to lower carbon fuels.
- Better understand the types and quantities of feedstocks used to produce hydrogen and renewable natural gas.
- Better understand costs and available quantities of renewable natural gas and hydrogen to be used as a substitute for natural gas. This includes understanding the cost of the fuels themselves along with the costs of the delivery infrastructure for these fuels, as well as tracking the success or failures of specific policies and programs.

3. Metered Electricity Use Data Reporting and Analysis

- Changes to the specification of the regulatory language to better match the informational structure that utilities provide to the CEC.

Difference from existing comparable federal regulation or statute:

The proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing federal regulations or statutes. The proposed regulations adopt or amend requirements for consistency with existing federal regulations or statutes and other definitions to ensure ease of reporting and consistency of reported information.

Broad objectives of the regulations and the specific benefits anticipated by the proposed amendments:

The proposed regulations will benefit: CEC energy analyses; the health, welfare, and safety of California residents; and the state's environment by improving the breadth of data the CEC can use for its analysis. Specifically, collection of natural gas and alternative fuel data will improve CEC's modeling and analytical work and provide a better understanding of key energy supply and consumption trends that could significantly impact Load Serving Entities' (LSE) short-term electricity procurement obligations, as well as inform long-term investment decisions related to the transmission and distribution systems made by California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and Utility Distribution Companies (UDCs).

Consistency or compatibility with existing state regulations:

The CEC has determined that there are no existing comparable state regulations or statutes. Therefore, the CEC has determined that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

None.

MANDATED BY FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATIONS

The proposed regulations are not mandated by federal law or regulations.

OTHER STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The CEC is not aware of any other statutory requirements that are relevant to the proposed regulations.

LOCAL MANDATE DETERMINATION

The proposed regulations do not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts that requires state reimbursement pursuant to Government Code Sections 17500 *et seq.*

FISCAL IMPACTS

The CEC has made the following initial determinations:

- Cost or savings to any state agency: None.
- Cost to any local agency or school district that is required to be reimbursed pursuant to Government Code Sections 17500 *et seq.*: None.
- Other nondiscretionary cost or savings imposed on local agencies: None.
- Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: None.

SIGNIFICANT STATEWIDE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT DIRECTLY AFFECTING BUSINESS, INCLUDING ABILITY TO COMPETE

The CEC has made an initial determination that the proposed regulations will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

COST IMPACTS ON REPRESENTATIVE PERSON OR BUSINESS

The CEC concludes that the proposed regulations will have minimal economic impact on reporting businesses as the required information is already gathered by industry through normal business operations and the only extra effort required by the regulations is to compile it in a report. As such, the annual per-business economic impact of the proposed regulation is \$31,412 per business, or a total economic impact to all affected businesses of \$14,575,168.

STATEMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The CEC concludes that: (1) the proposal will not create jobs within California, (2) the proposal will not eliminate jobs within California, (3) the proposal will not create new businesses in California, (4) the proposal will not eliminate existing businesses within California, and (5) the proposal will not result in the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state.

The proposed regulations will benefit CEC energy analyses, the health, welfare, and safety of California residents, and the state's environment by improving the breadth of data used in CEC analyses. Collection of natural gas and substituting alternative fuel data will reduce error in the CEC's modeling and provide a better understanding of key energy supply and consumption trends that impact LSEs' short-term electricity procurement obligations. It will also inform long-term investment decisions related to transmission and distribution systems.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As explained in detail above, the purpose of the regulations is to implement reporting requirements that exist in statute, and it is necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the people of the state that the regulations apply to businesses. The CEC estimates that approximately 464 businesses may be impacted by the regulations.

The proposed regulations consist of updates to the data collection regulations that assist the CEC in meeting its statutory and analytical responsibilities supporting the reliable operation of the state's natural gas, electrical, and alternative fuel supply systems and assessing progress in, and developing recommendations for, meeting state energy goals. Previous data collection regulations did not track new trends and the proposed changes to regulations will assist the CEC in analyzing new patterns of energy demand.

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The proposed regulations will impact natural gas utilities and marketers, electricity utilities, hydrogen producers, and renewable natural gas producers. CEC staff estimates that there are no impacted businesses that are small businesses. The CEC reaches this conclusion using the definition of small business contained in Government Code section 11346.3, subdivision (b)(4)(B), which defines a small business as one that is independently owned and operated, not dominant in its field of operation, and has fewer than 100 employees. None of the impacted businesses meet this definition. Rather, all impacted businesses are dominant in production of the energy source they produce, with many of them having 100 plus employees. As such, the CEC is not aware of any cost a small business would incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed regulations.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON HOUSING COSTS

None.

ALTERNATIVES STATEMENT

In accordance with Government Code Section 11346.5, subsection (a)(13), the CEC must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the agency, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the agency, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed; would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation; or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

No reasonable alternatives to the proposed regulation have been proposed that would lessen any adverse impact on small business or that would be less burdensome and equally effective in achieving the purposes of the regulation in a manner that achieves the purposes of the statute being implemented.

The CEC considered two alternatives to the proposed regulations:

Under alternative one, the CEC considered not updating the data collection regulations. However, not updating the standards would not help attain California's climate and energy efficiency goals by denying the CEC information on the influences of new technologies on the energy markets and systems and prevent accurate forecasting and analysis of climate and energy efficiency policy.

Under alternative two, the CEC considered estimating energy information and creating simulated data to perform policy analysis and forecasting. In many cases, this estimated and simulated data has been used in past reports and analyses to complete CEC tasks. Yet over the years, this type of information has been routinely criticized as inaccurate and misleading, calling into question policy recommendations by the CEC. While the CEC continues to improve its data analysis techniques, it has concluded that best practice is to obtain point specific information where possible to avoid the accuracy challenges of simulated data and improve analysis when possible.

CONTACT PERSONS

Questions should be addressed to:

Ross Daley, Rulemaking Coordinator
Executive Office
Ross.Daley@energy.ca.gov
+1 916 980 7949

OR

Max Solanki, Fuels Analysis Branch Manager
Energy Assessment Division
Max.solanki@energy.ca.gov
916-840-4682

COPIES OF THE INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS, THE EXPRESS TERMS, AND RULEMAKING FILE

The CEC will have the entire rulemaking file available for inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at its office at the above address. As of the date this notice is published in the Notice Register, the rulemaking file consists of this Notice, the Express Terms, the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) and any documents relied upon or incorporated by reference. Copies may be obtained by contacting the contact persons listed above or by visiting the [CEC website at Docket 25-OIR-02](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-OIR-02), <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-OIR-02>.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGES TO ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR AT LEAST 15 DAYS PRIOR TO AGENCY ADOPTION/REPEAL/AMENDMENT OF RESULTING REGULATIONS

Participants should be aware that any of the proposed regulations could be changed because of public comment, staff recommendation, or recommendations from Commissioners. Moreover, changes to the proposed regulations not indicated in the Express Terms could be considered if they improve the clarity or effectiveness of the regulations. If the CEC considers changes to the proposed regulations pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.8, a full copy of the text will be available for review and comment at least 15 days prior to the date on which the CEC adopts or amends the resulting regulations.

COPY OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

At the conclusion of the rulemaking, persons may obtain a copy of the Final Statement of Reasons once it has been prepared by visiting the [CEC website at Docket 25-OIR-02](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-OIR-02), <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-OIR-02>.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET

The CEC maintains a website to facilitate public access to documents prepared and considered as part of this rulemaking proceeding. Documents prepared by the CEC for this rulemaking have been posted on the [CEC website at Docket 25-OIR-02](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-OIR-02), <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-OIR-02>.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECEIVING NOTICES AND DOCUMENTS IN THIS PROCEEDING

To stay informed about this proceeding and receive documents and notices of upcoming workshops and hearings as they are filed, please subscribe to the “[Increase Access to Energy Data](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31719)” subscription, which can be accessed at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31719>.