

2019 Legislative Coup Against Community Choice Energy: 4 Remaining Dangerous Bills



The [California Alliance for Community Energy](http://www.cacommunityenergy.org) exists to support and defend Community Choice energy programs in California that advance local clean energy for the environmental, economic, and social justice benefit of our communities

A portfolio of nine bills was introduced in the 2019 Legislative Session that would together undermine and weaken the core mandate for Community Choice¹ while curbing the innovation and local benefits that Community Choice programs have already begun to achieve.

This "Legislative Coup Against Community Choice" has not yet been defeated. As of August 12, with the resumption of the Legislative Session, **four** bills remain a threat to Community Choice and demand further opposition. These are:

- **AB 1584** -- Creates new authority for the CPUC to levy cost-recovery on Community Choice agencies for resources procured by CPUC mandate, even when those conflict with procurement commitments made by the agencies. As is true of other measures in this portfolio, this bill retains and strengthens the old centralized model of electricity procurement. Decentralized, locally-governed, community-based energy resources are a fundamentally better way to meet the needs of our communities and meet state climate goals.
- **SB 155** -- Requires Community Choice agencies to procure a mandated portion of their resource portfolios from long-term contracts, even when in the judgement of the agencies those long-term contracts are not in the best interests of their customers. This bill also maintains the old centralized model of electricity procurement, forcing Community Choice agencies to pick up the costs of energy they did not choose to procure. Defeating this measure is necessary for Community Choice agencies to have the flexibility to fulfill their core responsibilities to their communities, as mandated by AB 117.
- **SB 520** -- Mandates that the Investor-Owned Utilities be the default "provider of last resort," a role that Community Choice agencies--now with a growing percentage of the customer base--might be better able to fill. The measure further entrenches the old corporatized model of electricity supply, which is now increasingly questionable, given PG&E's filing for bankruptcy protection and SDG&E's application to exit the retail market entirely. The bottom line is that the old model of guaranteeing electricity service, based solely on investor-owned utilities, is both increasingly risky and unsustainable.
- **SB 676** -- Removes from Community Choice agencies the ability to independently design, offer, and support electric vehicle programs--an area that has been a top priority for many agencies. Despite recent amendments, we remain concerned that a bill drafted to undermine the autonomy of Community Choice programs could be further amended on the floor to reinstate the original intent of the bill. We remain opposed.

1 http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/01-02/bill/asm/ab_0101-0150/ab_117_bill_20020924_chaptered.pdf