Dr. LaShae Sharp- Collins
79th Assembly District

AB 2518: Energization Pilot Program

SUMMARY

AB 2518 creates a three-year energization pilot program in San Diego County that establishes clear category specific timelines to ensure timely utility connections of essential projects that otherwise sit empty waiting for energization by the local utility.

BACKGROUND

California's affordable housing shortage is not just the result of zoning or financing barriers but also systemic infrastructure delays that prevent approved and constructed affordable housing developments from being utilized.

Even after securing entitlements and public funding, many affordable housing projects face lengthy wait times for electricity service connections putting state-subsidized developments at risk.

Unlike market rate projects that can often absorb unexpected delays, 100 percent affordable housing developments operate within rigid public financing deadlines tied to tax credits and state investments.

Beyond affordable housing, other essential infrastructure projects such as hospitals, government buildings, and electric vehicle chargers have reported similar energizing delays, leaving key public services vacant and unused for days, and sometimes months, after they are ready to begin operation.

When electricity interconnection is delayed, projects can lose funding, incur increased construction costs or fail to move forward altogether wasting scarce public resources and slowing urgently needed production.

To better understand how these infrastructure barriers undermine the delivery of timely utility connection, this bill establishes a three-year pilot program and requires participating utilities and relevant agencies to collect and report data on connection timelines, project completion rates, and cost impacts.

This will allow the Legislature to evaluate whether staggered energization timelines help accelerate connectivity and maximize the impact of construction ready projects.

THIS BILL

AB 2518 authorizes electricity utilities in the County of San Diego to follow category specific timelines for service connection of projects through a three-year pilot program. This bill ensures Californians can make use of affordable housing, hospitals, electric chargers, and all other public goods without unnecessary infrastructure delays that drive up costs and stall projects.

SUPPORT

San Diego Housing Commission (Sponsor)

San Diego Gas & Electric Company

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