



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



EARTHJUSTICE
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FLOOR ALERT OPPOSE: SENATE BILL 772

SB 772 undermines CA’s energy and transmission planning processes for the singular purpose to create a market for one environmentally damaging energy project in the California desert: The Eagle Crest Pumped Storage Project.

SB 772 would **directly override the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) process** just recently implemented through the passage of **SB 350** and mandate that the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) procure long-term bulk energy storage even though the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) found that long-term bulk energy storage, as defined by SB 772, would **increase costs for ratepayers “in the hundreds of millions, if not, billions of dollars”** compared to other grid integration solutions such as greater access to regional renewables, battery storage, or strategic curtailment.

SB 772’s forcing of procurement for long-term bulk energy storage is being driving by **one lame duck project: Eagle Crest Pumped Storage Project**. This project has **no buyers** because the CAISO’s 2017 Transmission Policy Plan (TPP) found that **this project was in the wrong place** to provide locational transmission benefits or help to relieve transmission congestion.

SB 772 **threatens Joshua Tree National Park and surrounding lands and wildlife** because the Eagle Crest Project has been shown through groundwater studies commissioned by the National Park Service that it **“would cause damaging overdraft conditions”** by pumping thousands of acre feet of water from this desert aquifer.

SB 772 represents **a blank check to project developers from ratepayers**, with no requirement for cost-benefit analysis or ratepayer accountability.

For these reasons, we strongly urge a “NO” vote on SB 772.