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.*