

April 4, 2023

The City of Eureka urges the California Legislature to address the state's interconnection crisis and ensure timely and equitable access to the electrical grid.

Eureka urges California policy makers to address unacceptable delays in connecting new construction, critical services, renewable energy, building decarbonization, and other projects to the state's distribution and transmission grids.

California is facing an unprecedented climate crisis and is pursuing bold efforts to transition to zero-carbon energy. At the same time, California has a housing availability and affordability crisis which demands the rapid construction of new buildings. These goals cannot be realized because many projects cannot connect to the power grid. This results in long delays, ranging from months to years, that harm residents, businesses, and the state and local economies.

Severely delayed and abandoned electrical projects are a growing problem in communities throughout California. Hundreds of local projects have been delayed or cancelled, including service extensions to new affordable housing units and critical service sites ranging from hospitals to police/fire stations. Hook ups for new electric vehicle charging stations and utility-scale and residential renewable energy projects are also in peril. Examples of impacted projects are listed below.

Interconnection delays and resulting project cancellations threaten California's ability to respond to the climate and housing crises; prevent Californians from accessing important critical services; and harm communities by increasing project costs and reducing job opportunities.

On behalf of the City Council for the City of Eureka, I respectfully urge California policy makers to take immediate and decisive action. We must ensure interconnection and service extensions to new construction, renewable energy, building decarbonization, and other electrical projects are completed in a timely manner in order to achieve our state's ambitious climate, housing, equity, and economic development goals and mandates.

Thank you for considering our request. We stand ready to work with you to build our state's future.

Sincerely,

Kim Bergel
Mayor

