

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

**WHEREAS**, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, energy storage projects can generally provide a benefit to the power grid by complementing intermittent renewable resources such as wind and solar; and

**WHEREAS**, California is a world leader in innovative energy storage and renewable energy projects; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) System Reference Plan for 2030 does not call for any pumped storage hydro projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the CPUC has found that pumped hydro increases costs for ratepayers, compared to other grid integration solutions such as greater access to regional renewable, battery storage, or strategic curtailment; and

**WHEREAS**, State Bill 772 has been introduced which would force the California Independent System Operation (CAISO) to procure large scale pumped hydro energy storage; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 772 would allocate costs to ratepayers through the transmission access charge (TAC); and

**WHEREAS**, SB 772 essentially rejects the current conclusion of the CPUC to look to other grid solutions and would force CAISO to procure storage projects totaling between 1,000 and 2,000 megawatts (MW) and shift project costs to ratepayers by categorizing these projects as a transmission asset; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 772 could jumpstart the controversial \$2.5 billion Eagle Mountain hydropower project that would harm Joshua Tree National Park, draining desert groundwater aquifers and sapping above-ground springs that nourish wildlife in and around the park; and

**WHEREAS**, due to its abundant wildlife, including bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and desert tortoises, conservationists have campaigned for years for the Eagle Mountain area to be added to the national park; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 772 could invite the federal government to interfere in California's energy policies at a time when Donald Trump and his administration is actively hostile to environmental concerns, as CAISO is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION to SB 772, which will cost ratepayers unnecessarily without providing sufficient grid integration benefits, and jumpstart an environmentally-troubling and unnecessary hydro power project that will destroy wild lands adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park which should, instead, be adopted into the Park's boundaries.

PRESENTED BY:

*Paul Koretz*  
PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

*[Signature]*

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MAY 29 2019

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