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June 22, 2020

Board of Directors
Triunfo Water & Sanitation District
Ventura County, California

DISTRICT SUPPORT FOR STATE OF CALIFORNIA SB 1099 – REGULATIONS ON EMERGENCY BACKUP GENERATORS

Summary

California Senate Bill 1099 (SB 1099) is a proposal to provide essential flexibility for owners of critical facilities, such as utilities for water and wastewater services, to operate and maintain their emergency backup generators. Current regulatory standards for air quality hamper Triunfo Water & Sanitation District (TWSD) ability to operate and maintain its emergency generators in preparation for and during emergencies. Older generators are restricted to 20 hours per year for maintenance and testing purposes and to only 200 hours per year for actual emergency events or public safety power shutoffs (PSPS). Adequate testing requires more time to ensure that the generators will operate and function properly during an actual emergency. And, the duration of emergencies or PSPS events cannot be predicted. The proposed legislation strives for a proper balance to support our region's preparedness for emergencies.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) has co-sponsored SB 1099 and as TWSD's partner with the JPA, is asking for the District to support this regulatory change for emergency backup generators. Additional information will be forthcoming but staff is requesting the TWSD Board approve moving forward and supply the District's logo to be included in a multi-agency letter in support of the legislation.

Please contact me at 805-658-4621 or email marknorris@triunfowsd.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

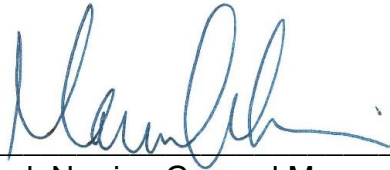
Fiscal Impact

There is no immediate financial impact associated with supporting SB 1099. However, if denied, SB 1099 could have cost impacts to the District in terms of its emergency generation capabilities.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve support of SB 1099 and direct staff to provide the District's logo to the pending multi-agency letter.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED



Mark Norris - General Manager

Attachment: SB 1099 – Fact Sheet



SB 1099 – DODD BACKUP GENERATION – CRITICAL FACILITIES – AIR QUALITY

Summary

SB 1099 would allow critical facilities, including water and wastewater agencies, to operate existing emergency backup generators during Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) or other losses of power without being out of compliance or subject to penalties from local air districts. This flexibility would ensure water continues to flow and wastewater continues to be treated during power outages, protecting public health and safety.

Background

Reliable backup power is critical for the protection of life and property during emergencies, including PSPS. For example, water and wastewater agencies need reliable power to support essential operations including maintaining pressure in their systems for water quality and fire flows. When electricity is not available due to a PSPS or another emergency loss of power such as a wildfire, water and wastewater agencies must employ their emergency standby generators.

Existing Law

Existing air quality regulations restrict the testing, use and operation of some standby generators during an emergency. In the South Coast Air Quality Management District, owners/operators of these generators are

limited to a runtime of 200 hours per year for emergencies and the Air Resources Board limits annual maintenance and testing for certain generators to 20 hours pursuant to the Airborne Toxics Control Measure (ATCM). These testing and maintenance restrictions conflict with national standards.

This Bill

SB 1099 directs local air districts to adopt a rule, or revise existing rules, to allow critical facilities with a permitted emergency backup generator to continue to provide essential public services during a power outage without those hours counting toward the limits. Specifically, SB 1099 allows critical facilities to do the following:

- operate the generator during a PSPS or other emergency loss of power
- test or maintain the generator in accordance with NFPA Standard 110 or relevant best management practices

Support

California Municipal Utilities Association
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Opposition

None on File

Contact

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