



**CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
AGENDA REPORT**

CONSENT CALENDAR

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: Ken Stripling

DATE: March 9, 2021

SUBJECT: STATE LEGISLATION: SENATE BILL 341

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

PRESENTER: Masis Hagobian

RECOMMENDED ACTION

City Council adopt the City Council Legislative Committee recommendation to support Senate Bill 341 (McGuire) and transmit position statements to Senator Mike McGuire, Santa Clarita’s state legislative delegation, appropriate legislative committees, Governor Newsom, League of California Cities, and other stakeholder organizations.

BACKGROUND

Authored by Senator Mike McGuire (D-2-Healdsburg), Senate Bill 341, among other things, requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to develop and implement regulations that require telecommunication service providers to maintain at least 72 hours of back-up power to telecommunication infrastructure.

During a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event, cell service has been significantly disrupted in some areas, leaving many residents and businesses with limited or no options to communicate by phone. This circumstance creates even greater health and safety concerns for vulnerable populations that depend on power for medical purposes or may need to use their phone to call for emergency services.

In requiring the CPUC to develop and implement back-up power regulations for telecommunication infrastructure, this legislation supports the City’s efforts in mitigating PSPS events and advocating for greater electrical service reliability.

Additionally, the recommendation to support is consistent with the City of Santa Clarita 2021 Executive and Legislative Platform. Specifically, Component 3 under the “State” section advises that the City Council “Support legislation, regulatory proposals, or administrative actions to accelerate the development and implementation of enhanced electrical utility infrastructure, including undergrounding of utility equipment, that ensures reliable utility service and public

safety and prevents the use of public safety power shutoffs.”

Senate Bill 341 is pending its first hearing in the Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee.

The City Council Legislative Committee met on February 26, 2021, and recommends that the City Council adopt a “support” position on Senate Bill 341.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

1. Adopt an “oppose” position on Senate Bill 341
2. Adopt a “neutral” position on Senate Bill 341
3. Take no action on Senate Bill 341
4. Refer Senate Bill 341 back to the Legislative Committee
5. Other action, as determined by the City Council

FISCAL IMPACT

The resources required to implement the recommended action are contained within the City of Santa Clarita's adopted FY 2020-21 budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Senate Bill 341 - Bill Text