

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY DAILY JOURNAL

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH SESSION DAY
TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHTH CALENDAR DAY
AT SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**



NOTE: Official record of rollcall votes. All amendments considered by the Assembly on this day are on file with the Chief Clerk of the Assembly and available on request. All Senate amendments to Assembly measures considered by the Assembly on this day are on file with the Secretary of the Senate and available on request. A list of all measures amended and on which amendments were offered in the Assembly is shown on the final page of this day's Assembly Journal.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

IN ASSEMBLY

Assembly Chamber, Sacramento
Tuesday, August 29, 2023

The Assembly met at 7 a.m.

Hon. Gregg Hart, Assembly Member, 37th District, presiding.

Chief Clerk Sue Parker at the Desk.

Assistant Clerk Taylor Martin reading.

ROLLCALL

The following were placed upon the morning rollcall—75:

Addis	Dixon	Lackey	Rodriguez
Aguiar-Curry	Essayli	Lee	Rubio
Alanis	Flora	Low	Santiago
Alvarez	Fong, M.	Lowenthal	Schiavo
Arambula	Fong, V.	Maienschein	Soria
Bains	Friedman	Mathis	Ta
Bauer-Kahan	Gabriel	McKinnor	Ting
Bennett	Gallagher	Muratsuchi	Valencia
Berman	Garcia	Nguyen	Villapudua
Boerner	Gipson	Ortega	Waldron
Bonta	Grayson	Pacheco	Wallis
Bryan	Haney	Papan	Ward
Calderon	Hart	Patterson, Jim	Weber
Carrillo, J.	Holden	Patterson, Joe	Wicks
Carrillo, W.	Hoover	Pellerin	Wilson
Chen	Irwin	Petrie-Norris	Wood
Connolly	Jackson	Ramos	Zbur
Dahle	Jones-Sawyer	Reyes	Mr. Speaker
Davies	Kalra	Rivas, L.	

Quorum present.

At 11:31 a.m., Hon. Marc Berman, 23rd District, presiding

REGULAR BUSINESS DISPENSED WITH

By unanimous consent, the regular order of business of the Assembly was dispensed with for this legislative day.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE FOR THE DAY

By unanimous consent, the following Assembly Members were granted leaves of absence for the day:

On legislative business: Assembly Member Sanchez.

On personal business, and waiving per diem: Assembly Member Rendon.

Because of illness: Assembly Members Cervantes, McCarty, and Quirk-Silva.

EXPLANATIONS OF ABSENCE

Pursuant to the Assembly Rules, the following explanation of absence was ordered printed in the Journal:

August 24, 2023

*The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, California*

Dear Mr. Speaker: I respectfully request permission to be excused from Check-in Session on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, and Wednesday, August 30, 2023, in order to travel to my district to participate in a tour of Mission Viejo with the city manager of Mission Viejo and to discuss e-bike legislation with local leaders.

Thank you for your assistance. Please contact Matt Julian in my office, should any questions arise.

Sincerely,

KATE A. SANCHEZ, Assembly Member
Seventy-first District

REPORTS

The following letter of transmittal was presented by the Chief Clerk and ordered printed in the Journal:

California State Auditor

2022-115
August 29, 2023

*The Honorable Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Members of the Assembly
of the Legislature of California
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, California*

Members of the Assembly: As directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, my office conducted an audit of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Public Advocates Office (Cal Advocates). Our assessment focused on electricity and natural gas rate increases, and we determined that the CPUC and Cal Advocates need to strengthen their monitoring of utilities' costs, and the CPUC needs to provide greater transparency when authorizing rate changes.

We reviewed the rates of four large utilities: Pacific Gas & Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Southern California Edison, and Southern California Gas Company. The rates for all four utilities have been rising, and their electricity rates are among the highest in the nation. The operating expenses for the four utilities increased by 5 percent to 37 percent between their two most recently approved general rate cases. However, some of the most significant reasons for the unexpected rate increases in 2022 were because utilities' actual costs were higher than those previously forecasted, and they needed to increase their rates to recover the difference. Wildfire mitigation expenses have also contributed to the rising electricity rates, as has greater solar power adoption by customers, which has reduced electricity sales and consequently resulted in higher rates to recover utilities' fixed costs. Factors contributing to higher natural gas rates

since January 2022 included the war in Ukraine, an unusually cold winter in California, and natural gas pipeline disruptions; however, these rates have come down in recent months.

Moreover, the CPUC and Cal Advocates lack processes to ensure that utilities' projected costs are not overstated. For nine out of the last 10 years, SDG&E earned more than the CPUC-authorized rate of return. Reviewing how much the utility earned compared to the authorized rate of return and identifying where the utility was able to gain efficiencies should be a critical first step in ensuring that the utility's projected costs were appropriate. However, the CPUC and Cal Advocates lack a process to identify areas in which the utilities achieved cost savings. Similarly, the agencies could strengthen their processes to ensure that utilities have actually completed the work for which the utilities are seeking reimbursement through rates, such as wildfire mitigation efforts. The CPUC also lacks transparency when authorizing rate changes, because currently available documents do not readily or sufficiently explain the reasons for rate increases. Finally, we found that Cal Advocates reviews an insufficient number of balancing accounts—the mechanism by which utilities track their authorized and actual costs and revenues—to ensure that rate adjustments are supported.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANT PARKS
California State Auditor

Above report referred to the Committee on Utilities and Energy.

ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT REPORTS

Assembly Chamber, August 29, 2023

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to your instructions, the Chief Clerk has examined:

House Resolution No. 52

And reports the same correctly engrossed.

SUE PARKER, Chief Clerk

Above resolution re-referred to committee.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution was offered:

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 57—Haney (Principal coauthors: Lee and Wilson) (Coauthors: Cervantes, Jackson, Low, Ward, and Zbur). Relative to Transgender History Month.

ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT REPORTS

Assembly Chamber, August 29, 2023

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to your instructions, the Chief Clerk has examined:

Assembly Bill No. 451

Assembly Bill No. 1354

Assembly Bill No. 630

Assembly Bill No. 1557

Assembly Bill No. 932

Assembly Bill No. 1605

Assembly Bill No. 1139

Assembly Bill No. 1731

Assembly Bill No. 1279

Assembly Bill No. 1759

And reports the same correctly enrolled, and presented to the Governor on the 29th day of August, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.

SUE PARKER, Chief Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:30 p.m., the Assembly adjourned until 7 a.m., Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

ROBERT RIVAS, Speaker

DANIEL ALVAREZ, Assistant Minute Clerk

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