



April 25, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Suite 390
Sacramento, CA 95814-0007

RE: AB 50 (Wood) Public utilities: timely service: timely electrical interconnecting – Support (As Amended April 17, 2023)

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I write to express our support for your Assembly Bill (AB) 50, which would improve interconnectivity timelines for new and existing electric customers, promote more efficient distribution planning, and increase communication between large electric corporations, local governments, and the state government.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

Interconnectivity delays are increasingly becoming a severe impediment to growth across California. Existing customers requesting system upgrades to meet increased demand and customers seeking new connections to developments are seeing significant spikes in their wait-times for interconnectivity. Large electric corporations are issuing written commitments to serve – also known as “will-serve letters” – only to later inform developers after they have paid the corporation that it may be several months or even years before interconnectivity will be completed. These delays do not discriminate by sector: residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural customers have all been impacted. Not only do these timelines pose a serious obstacle to business development—they make it incredibly challenging for local agencies to effectively plan for timely housing development when undergoing our Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

AB 50 would address this complex issue by promoting transparency and accountability in the process of applying for electric interconnectivity by requiring electric corporations to communicate with local governments, the Energy Commission, and other state agencies regarding capacity constraints for purposes of more efficient planning, and whether existing capacity either exists or could be easily added within the distribution system to meet those objectives.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support your AB 50 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Dane Hutchings with Renne Public Policy Group at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor