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AB 965 (Levine) Building standards: electric vehicle charging infrastructure FACT SHEET

Sponsor: Assemblymember Marc Levine

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ISSUE

Combustion powered vehicles are the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in California. In September 2020, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order to phase out the sale of new internal combustion engine vehicles by 2035. To accomplish this goal, the California Energy Commission (CEC) has estimated that California will need 1.5 million electric vehicle (EV) chargers to support driver transition to EVs in the coming decade.

Requiring EV-ready parking spaces at multi-family housing developments is one of the most cost-effective methods to facilitate broad deployment of EV charging infrastructure. In 2019, Assemblymember Levine authored AB 684, which would have required the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the California Building Standards Commission (BSC) to develop building standards for EV charging infrastructure at multi-family housing and non-residential developments. That legislation received bi-partisan support but was vetoed by the governor stating that the, “issue is best addressed administratively.” Later that fall, in a public hearing on EV charging infrastructure, HCD stated that it did not have the authority to develop standards on their own without legislative authorization.

SOLUTION

AB 965 authorizes HCD and the BSC to develop and implement building standards for EV charging stations at existing multi family housing and non-residential building developments. With ongoing confusion between public agencies, housing developers and the EV industry, this measure is necessary to provide clear guidance to ensure the equitable deployment of EV charging infrastructure across California.

SUPPORT
