

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 12/14/2023

LRB Number	23-2233/1	Introduction Number	AB-0738	Estimate Type	Original
Description solar and wind energy projects on prime farmland					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

2023 AB 738 adds a requirement that the Public Service Commission (Commission) not issue authorization for a solar or wind project seeking either a certificate of public convenience or necessity (CPCN) or certificate of authority (CA) unless it determined that no more than 35 percent of project land is classified as prime farmland. The bill provides definitions of "solar project" and "wind project" to which this requirement applies and indicates the areas of state and federal rules where definition of prime farmland can be identified. The Commission currently requires that applicants provide information on agricultural land impacts as part of the application filing requirements for both wind and solar projects. The Commission may need to spend staff time updating these documents to ensure the information provided by applicants is sufficient to allow for a quantitative review of acreage amounts for the project overall and any prime farmland percentages that would be occupied by project facilities. Commission staff currently access geographic information systems (GIS) data that shows areas of prime farmland across the state to confirm during project review the status of the land that the projects would occupy. Commission staff would continue to perform this analysis under 2023 AB 738.

The work associated with this legislation can be absorbed with existing staff resources. There would be no fiscal effects to the Commission as a result of this bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications