



April 4, 2025

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6510
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Senate Bill 496 (Hurtado): Advanced Clean Fleets – Support

Dear Senator Hurtado:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) supports Senate Bill 496 (SB 496), which addresses the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation. SB 496 proposes the establishment of an Appeals Advisory Committee to review denied exemption requests and includes provisions to enhance the regulation's flexibility for local agencies. OCWD is committed to legislation that enhances the reliability, affordability, and security of water supplies in Orange County. Therefore, we endorse SB 496.

Our fleet managers have identified challenges with the ACF regulation, particularly the limited availability of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) for specialized work trucks. Obtaining exemptions from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to purchase internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles has proven nearly impossible.

As a special district managing the Orange County Groundwater Basin—which supplies approximately 85% of the water to 2.5 million residents—OCWD plays a crucial role in providing cost-effective water solutions. Our collaboration with the Orange County Sanitation District has led to the development of the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), the world's largest potable reuse facility, recycling 100% of reclaimable wastewater flows.

We invite you and your staff to tour the GWRS to observe our operations firsthand. Please contact me or Alicia Harasty, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at aharasty@ocwd.com or 714-477-3750 to schedule a visit or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denis R. Bilodeau".

Denis R. Bilodeau, P.E.
President