



# COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

*Established in 1918 as a public agency*

GENERAL MANAGER  
Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
Robert Cheng

CLERK OF THE BOARD  
Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
Dan Charlton

March 17, 2025

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
40th Senate District  
1020 O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 496 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hurtado:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), which serves approximately 300,000 residents in its service area ranging from the San Geronio Pass to the Salton Sea, is pleased to support your bill SB 496, which would provide greater flexibility and transparency to the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulations applicable to public agencies.

Cal/OSHA's Heat Illness Prevention laws require employers to protect workers from heat-related illnesses by providing shade or cool-down areas. In the Coachella Valley, where extreme heat prevails for several months, CVWD employees are often instructed to keep their vehicles running while out in the field, which results in increased energy consumption. However, during emergencies involving electric vehicles, there is a significant risk of power loss, potentially leaving workers stranded in hazardous conditions, further exacerbating safety concerns in extreme heat.

The CVWD service area is over 1,000 square miles, including difficult terrain, unimproved roads, and areas prone to severe flooding and earthquakes. As such, many of our vehicles must be able to remain in the field for extended periods during emergencies. SB 496 will expand the definition of an emergency vehicle for purposes of the ACF program and ensure that both our emergency response trucks and support vehicles will qualify for the ACF exemption.

For these reasons, CVWD appreciates your efforts and is pleased to support SB 496.

Sincerely,

J. M. Barrett  
General Manager  
Coachella Valley Water District

Cc: