



COACHELLA VALLEY  
WATER DISTRICT

March 18, 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 [As Introduced]**

Dear Senator Hurtado:

The Coachella Valley Water District is pleased to support your Senate Bill 496, related to the Advanced Clean Fleets mandates. Local agencies like ours continue to do our part in achieving the State's climate and emissions goals. SB 496 will enable us to better meet this challenge and effectively navigate the current Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) mandates and their associated ambitious compliance deadlines. Of critical concern to our community, the ACF mandates on local agencies are creating unnecessary challenges in complying while maintaining the many critical services Californians rely upon for their most essential daily needs as well as during emergencies and disasters.

SB 496 will provide some relief to local agencies by establishing an Appeals Advisory Committee by which local agencies may request a review of exemption request denials. This ensures transparency while protecting due process for those seeking further review.

Additionally, SB 496 would update the emergency vehicle exemption, allowing those vehicles that respond to and support critical operations related to emergencies and disasters, often under austere conditions, to continue to protect our communities.

SB 496 also modifies the requirements of the daily usage exemption, removing barriers for the applicant to comply with the mandate. Moreover, the legislation promotes affordability amid rapidly rising cost pressures on essential local services by averting the costly acquisition of ZEVs before it is possible to install the infrastructure required to use them.

These improvements to the ACF will protect the health and safety of Californians, avoid unnecessary costs detrimental to our shared long-term goals, and ensure that local agencies can continue to work diligently to decarbonize their fleet operations and comply with the ACF without being penalized for factors beyond their control. For these reasons Coachella Valley Water District is pleased to support your Senate Bill 496. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

J.M. Barrett  
General Manager  
Coachella Valley Water District

CC: Anthony Tannehill, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association [advocacy@cdda.net]