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July 9, 2018

The Honorable Ben Hueso
California State Senate
State Capitol Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1440 (Hueso) – Biomethane Procurement Program - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hueso:

On behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (Sanitation District), I am writing in support of your Senate Bill (SB) 1440, which would establish a biomethane procurement program. This procurement program establishes goals for certain gas corporations to collectively procure up to 32 billion cubic feet of biomethane from a variety of in-state resources and adds a requirement to execute procurement contracts for biomethane – creating much needed, longer-term market certainty that current credit driven programs do not provide.

The Sanitation District is a leader in renewable energy and resource recovery. As regulatory demands on our community to divert organics from landfills and to reduce short-lived climate pollutant emissions increases, the Sanitation District is upgrading and improving its organic waste process facilities to include a food waste receiving station to help meet these increased demands. The addition of this unit process is expected to facilitate the production of significantly more biogas in the future. This bill would give the Sanitation District increased flexibility to sell excess renewable energy such as biogas to gas corporations.

By creating a procurement program for renewable natural gas (RNG, biomethane or upgraded biogas), SB 1440 will support California's organic waste diversion and methane reduction goals by developing a market for the products created from the diverted organic waste and captured methane. Redeeming refuse (waste-streams) for productive end-use epitomizes sustainability, which will lead to greater integration of renewables, ensures the reliability of our electric grid, and helps decarbonize our gas distribution system in both the residential and commercial sectors of our economy.

For these reasons, the Orange County Sanitation District supports SB 1440.

Sincerely,



Gregory C. Sebourn, PLS
Board Chairman



Our Mission: To protect public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling.