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Comment Received From: Teresa Bui
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Need for Inclusion of Maritime in Transportation Decarbonization Investments

Please see my comments attached. Thank you.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT

July 7, 2026

California Energy Commission
Docket No. 26-ALT-01
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2026-2027 Investment Plan Update for the Clean Transportation Program – Need for Inclusion of Maritime in Transportation Decarbonization Investments

To the California Energy Commission (CEC),

Pacific Environment appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the CEC's 2026-2027 Investment Plan Update for the Clean Transportation Program. We appreciate your hard work to support innovation and accelerate the development and deployment of zero-emission transportation and fuel technologies.

Pacific Environment is an environmental non-profit headquartered in San Francisco dedicated to protecting communities and the environment around the Pacific Rim. We work to get ships off fossil fuels and have consultative status at the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations entity that sets global shipping laws.

Maritime is one of the largest and most polluting sectors in the transportation space. Shipping pollution is a significant threat to public health and the environment. Globally, shipping accounts for around 265,000 premature deaths and 6.4 million cases of childhood asthma annually. International shipping accounts for about 3% of global emissions, which is roughly equivalent to the emissions of a major industrialized country. In California, shipping is now the state's largest remaining source of transportation emissions, surpassing passenger vehicles in several major air basins. Ocean Going Vessels (OGV's) are a leading source of cancer-causing diesel particulate matter at our major ports, and these emissions disproportionately impact lower-income communities and communities of color like San Pedro, Wilmington, and West Long Beach, **where the average life expectancy falls up to eight years shorter than the Los Angeles County average.**

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We urge the CEC to include funding for maritime in their Investment Plan for the Clean Transportation Program. The goal of the Clean Transportation Program is to reduce petroleum dependence in California, yet the maritime sector still relies almost entirely on heavy fuel oil and other petroleum-based fuels that make up some of the dirtiest fossil fuels in use today. Without targeted investment, California risks locking in decades of continued dependence on imported fossil fuels through its port system while falling behind other leading maritime jurisdictions that are investing in zero-emission shipping technologies.

The Clean Transportation Program also directs the CEC to expand low carbon fuel production, deploy fueling infrastructure, and support workforce development. We urge the CEC to recognize maritime as an eligible and essential component of the Clean Transportation Program's goals by prioritizing investments to expand the production of clean marine fuels like green methanol and green hydrogen, deploy infrastructure for the storage and bunkering of these clean fuels, and support workforce development programs for electricians, mechanics, and fuel technicians to install and maintain these clean energy technologies. Maritime investments- whether in clean marine fuels, shore power expansion, or zero-emission harbor craft- help California achieve its broader climate goals, as the state has committed to economy-wide carbon neutrality by 2045.

Beyond the public health crisis, failing to act swiftly on shipping emissions presents a missed economic opportunity. Early investment is required, and maritime vessels and port infrastructure are long-lived assets that remain in service for decades. Waiting to direct investments to the maritime sector will only increase transition costs and delay progress on the state's climate and public health goals. We recognize that funding is limited, but excluding the maritime sector entirely is inconsistent with the program's statutory purpose and overlooks a key opportunity for California to reduce petroleum use, improve air quality, and accelerate the transition to zero-emission transportation.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We would be pleased to answer any questions or provide further information.

Sincerely,

Teresa Bui

Teresa Bui
Senior Director, Climate Campaign

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