

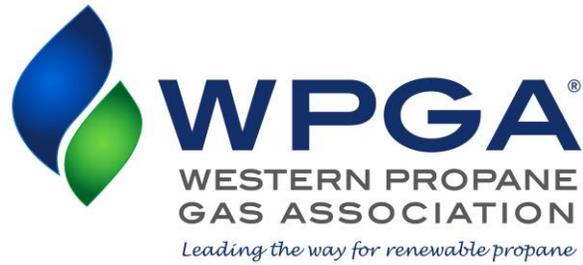
DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Western Propane Gas Association
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**WPGA Letter 19-ALT-01 Draft Staff Report of the 2020-2023
Investment Plan for the Clean Transportation Program - 3.23.20**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



March 23, 2020

David Hochschild, Chair
California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL

RE: Docket No. 19-ALT-01 Draft Staff Report of the 2020-2023 Investment Plan for the Clean Transportation Program

Dear Chair Hochschild and Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Staff Report of the 2020-2023 Investment Plan for the Clean Transportation Program (Staff Report). The Western Propane Gas Association (WPGA) seeks to be a valuable contributor in both the development of this plan and the policies and procedures that may emerge as a result of these discussions.

While each fuel source has its own advantages, many fleets across California and the nation choose propane to power their trucks. Propane provides fleet owners with a low emission, low cost, and high-energy fuel without compromising performance, range or engine life. We advocate supporting all low carbon solutions, based on the full fuel cycle carbon footprint to address environmental challenges. Propane provides reliability, affordability, stability and resiliency, all key when looking to transition California's transportation sector to cleaner fuels.

WPGA understands the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) and NOx emissions and the complex nature of finding solutions that balance diverse stakeholder needs in the transportation sector. While WPGA believes the development of zero-emission technology is an important strategy, we also believe that near-zero (e.g., engines that meet the 0.02 g/bhp-hr NOx levels) technologies are an overlooked and important pathway to achieving the goals outlined in the Staff Report.

When looking toward the future, the propane industry is investing heavily in renewable propane, derived from waste-based feedstocks. The carbon intensity for renewable propane is on par with that of electric and including funding for renewable propane in the proposed Investment Plan can play an important role by sending a signal to the market of the importance of in-state production of renewable propane and the continued production of low-NOx engines to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions for decades to come.

The use of renewable propane, for example, in near-zero propane trucks significantly reduces carbon emissions and NOx emissions that remain to be an important focus in many areas of California. Furthermore, near-zero propane technology is the most cost-effective and versatile replacement to diesel currently available.

Climate change and decarbonization is a complex challenge that requires deployment of all clean energy sources. Wind, solar, and other renewable fuels – like renewable propane – all have to factor in the equation of how to combat one of the most critical issues of our time.

The Western Propane Gas Association appreciates your work on the proposed Investment Plan and hope the Commission and staff take a more holistic view of the complementary role propane and renewable propane play alongside decarbonization efforts including solar, wind and other renewable fuels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Granholm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Ben Granholm
Regulatory Affairs Specialist

cc: Patrick Brecht