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*Comment Received From: Carson Wilcox
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Docket Number: 24-OIIP-03*

Non-Energy Impacts and Benefits

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

October 24, 2024

The Honorable David Hochschild, Chair
California Energy Commission
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Commissioner Gunda,

On behalf of Sierra Energy, I would like to express our strong support for the Bioenergy Association of California's (BAC) comments on Non-Energy Impacts and Benefits (Docket No. 24-OIIP-03). As a company dedicated to advancing waste and biomass gasification technologies, we recognize the critical role these technologies can play in addressing California's pressing environmental and public safety challenges.

The transition to a cleaner, more resilient energy system requires innovative solutions that not only meet California's climate goals but also provide tangible benefits for public safety, health, and the economy. Gasification technology aligns closely with the priorities outlined by BAC and offers several key advantages that should be central to the Commission's analysis of Non-Energy Impacts (NEIs) and Non-Energy Benefits (NEBs):

- 1.Reduction of Methane Emissions from Landfills:** Gasification offers an effective pathway to reduce methane emissions from landfills, which are a major source of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs). By converting organic waste into renewable products like hydrogen and other zero-emission fuels, gasification can significantly contribute to achieving California's methane reduction targets under SB 1383.
- 2.Wildfire Mitigation and Forest Health:** Gasification can play a pivotal role in reducing the risks of catastrophic wildfires by utilizing forest and agricultural waste that would otherwise be open-burned or left to decompose. By converting this waste into clean energy, gasification not only mitigates fire risk but also reduces air pollution and emissions associated with open burning.
- 3.Advancement of Clean Hydrogen Production:** At Sierra Energy, we are committed to producing renewable hydrogen through our gasification processes. Hydrogen is a key component of California's carbon-free energy future, providing clean firm power for grid reliability and enabling the transition to zero-emission transportation and industrial processes.
- 4.Economic Development and Job Creation:** Gasification technologies create high-paying, skilled jobs and support local economies, particularly in rural and forested communities that are heavily impacted by wildfires and economic challenges. Expanding these technologies can bring lasting economic benefits to areas that are often overlooked.

1655 Da Vinci Court, Davis, CA 95618
530.759.9827 | 530.759.9872 fax
SierraEnergy.com

In addition to these benefits, gasification aligns with California's goals to improve energy reliability, enhance resilience, and achieve carbon-neutrality. We strongly encourage the Commission to consider the comprehensive benefits of diverse technologies like gasification in its assessment of NEIs and NEBs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. We stand ready to work with the Commission and other stakeholders to advance innovative solutions that contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more prosperous California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MH', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Hart
CEO