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Production of Renewable Hydrogen for a SMR Project

Dear CEC,

Our company H2 Renewables LLC that is developing a hydrogen plant for the transportation market is writing this comment to determine the renewable content of hydrogen produced by steam reforming. Our view is that to the extent that the inputs to the production of hydrogen are decarbonized, subject to the requirements of SB 1505, then the percentage of hydrogen that is renewable is equal to the amount of H2 actually coming from an input. For example, if you take the energy balance of a SMR and green the methane, you have greened the H2. If you look at just greening the steam (H2O) feedstock by using a renewable energy source to produce the steam, you can declare that the H2 leaving the SMR is 50% renewable since 50% of the actually hydrogen produced in the SMR is directly sourced from H2O and the remaining 50% comes from the methane (NH4) that can be either be greened or not. This is similar to looking at an electrolyzer where the percentage of renewable power splitting H2O determines the renewable content of the H2 exiting the electrolyzer.