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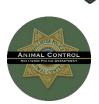


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Public Comment - Clean Fleet Regulations Exemption Request for Animal Control Vehicles Submitted on behalf of the Undersigned California Animal Care and Control Agencies

September 15, 2025

To the Members of the California Air Resources Board:

On behalf of animal control agencies across California, CalAnimals respectfully petitions your Board to recognize the essential role Animal Control Officers (ACOs) and Humane Law Enforcement Officers



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(HLEOs) play in preserving our communities' public safety and include the vehicles used by these officers alongside other emergency response and law enforcement vehicles as exempt from the Clean Fleet standards.

Our fleets overwhelmingly rely on vehicles categorized as Class 2b or larger which, under current regulations, must be Zero-Emission(ZEV) or Near-Zero Emission (NZE) vehicles if purchased new. While we appreciate the temporary flexibility provided by the existing vehicle credit program, the termination of that program in January 2027 presents very serious challenges with regard to the ability of these fleets to continue to fulfill their essential public safety role.

We urge you to consider the following factors:

- Public Safety and Emergency Response Role of ACOs & HLEOs: While ACOs and HLEOs are not classified as peace officers, and hence vehicles utilized by them are not exempt from Clean Fleet requirements, they are vested by State law with many of the same authorities including the power of arrest, the authority to serve search warrants and carry firearms. ACOs and HLEOs often work in coordination with traditional law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency services agencies to respond to public safety incidents, rescue scenarios, and community disaster events.
 - We are frontline responders during wildfires, floods, and evacuations. In many jurisdictions our vehicles routinely cover hundreds of miles in a single shift. They must be able to traverse difficult terrain and remain in continuous operation in order to provide a safe and humane environment and uninterrupted ventilation for transported animals.

 Critically, ACO & HLEO vehicles must be dependable and able to operate throughout the
 - Critically, ACO & HLEO vehicles must be dependable and able to operate throughout the duration of emergencies or disasters which may disrupt electrical service.
- Lack of Viable Alternatives: Despite rapid advances in clean vehicle technology, there remain no viable ZEV/NZE models in the Class 2b and Class 3 categories that fully meet the operational needs of animal control agencies. Similarly, reducing to a lower class vehicle is not an option for most agencies since standard animal containment boxes are not manufactured to fit on those smaller vehicle frames, nor do those vehicles have an equivalent carrying/tow capacity.
- Unintended Operational and Fiscal Impacts: The inability to procure compliant vehicles that
 meet operational requirements will limit our capacity to respond effectively to both routine
 service and emergency calls. It is likely that agencies would need to purchase multiple vehicles
 just to replace the functional capabilities of a single ACO or HLEO unit currently in service;
 maintaining those additional vehicles at the same level of response readiness would also require
 additional personnel.

Animal control agencies are committed to sustainability and reducing our environmental footprint. However, the current regulatory framework does not yet reflect the operational realities of our profession. We therefore urge CARB to formally classify animal control and humane law enforcement vehicles as exempt under the same provisions that currently apply to other law enforcement and



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emergency response vehicles, until such time as viable ZEV/NZE alternatives meeting both performance and safety standards for our work are available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Tucker, CAWA

€FO

California Animal Welfare Association

jill@calanimals.org

Jessica Wiebe

Executive Director

ASAP Cats

Linda Glaudel

Shelter Manager

Barstow Humane Society

Sarah Humlie

Animal Services Manager

City of Elk Grove

Tabatha Barefield

Code Enforcement/ACO

City of Grand Terrace

Virginia Penaloza

City Manager

ngma

City of Huron

Shad Boone

Supervisor

City of Shasta Lake

Jennifer Stinett

General Manager

Coastal Animal Services Authority

Eric Anderson, DVM

Animal Services Manager

County of San Luis Obispo

Allison Lindquist

President/CEO

East Bay SPCA

Mike Mazouch

Manager

El Dorado County Animal Services



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Lori Anderson VP and Director

Gimme Love Animal Shelter

Kurt Krukenberg President

Humane Society of Silicon Valley

Alyssa Carrillo

Alyssa Carrillo **Animal Care and Services Supervisor** Hollister Police Animal Care & Services

Amber Tadena

Executive Director

House Rabbit Society

Deborah Dillon

Executive Director

Humane Animal Services

Jenny Hanzlik

Shelter Director

Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County

Devon Apodaca

Executive Director

Humane Society of Imperial County

Jill Henderson

Executive Director

Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley

Nikole Bresciani

President/CEO

Inland Valley Humane Society and SPCA

Susan Lee Vick

CEO

Joybound People and Pets

Nicholas Cullen

Director

Kern County Animal Services

Melanie Wagner

Melanie Wagner

Bureau Manager

Long Beach Animal Services

Marcia Mayeda

Director

Los Angeles County Dept of Animal Care and

Control



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Enforcement since 1909

Nancy & Mekenney Nancy McKenney

CEO/President Marin Humane

Stefanie Geckler Supervisor

Nevada County Animal Control

aura Toller Gardner Laura Toller Gardner

Chief Executive Officer

Pets In Need

Cynthia Kigney Board President

San Gabriel Valley Humane Society

Cody Macartney Superving ACO

Palo Alto Police Department

Anthony Tansimore

President

Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA

Supervisor

Ridgecrest Animal Services

George Harding, IV Chief of Animal Care

San Bernardino County Animal Care

Vaughn Maurice

Director

San Diego County Animal Services

Evelyn Hopkins

Evelyn Hopkins

Animal Care Manager

Solano County

Julianna Tetlow

Senior Director of Government Relations

San Diego Humane Society

Virginia Donahue

Executive Director

San Francisco Animal Care and Control

Amber Rowland

General Manager

Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

Brian Whipple Brian Whipple

Director of Animal Services

Sonoma County Animal Services



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Denise Woodside

Denise Woodside **Executive Director** Southeast Area Animal Control Authority

Scott Delucchi President & CEO **SPCA Monterey County**

Esteban Rodrigue

Director

Ventura County Animal Services

Crystal Sheldon

Animal Control Officer

Westminster Animal Control

Woods Humane Society