



March 26, 2026

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: WSPA Comments on Proposal to Permanently Adopt Emergency Vehicle Emissions Regulations (Consent Item 26-2-3)

The Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) proposal to permanently adopt the Emergency Vehicle Emissions Regulations. WSPA is a non-profit trade association that represents companies that safely explore for, produce, refine, transport and market petroleum, petroleum products, natural gas and other energy supplies in California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona. WSPA has been an active participant in air quality planning issues for over 30 years. WSPA's members produce approximately 42 million gallons of gasoline and 10 million gallons of diesel a day to support California's 35 million registered vehicles. WSPA previously submitted comments opposing both CARB's original adoption of these regulations and the proposed 90-day extension.

There are procedural concerns regarding CARB's handling of the public comment process. CARB posted a notice postponing the action on November 7, 2025—just three days before the original comment period was set to close. Because many stakeholders submit comments near the close of comment periods, this timing suppressed public participation from those who reasonably believed another opportunity to comment would be provided. CARB's subsequent position that comments submitted outside the original period are untimely further compounds this issue and reflects an irregular process that discouraged meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Additionally, CARB's analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is deficient. As highlighted in multiple comment letters submitted during the Fall 2025 comment period, CARB improperly relies on the common sense exemption and the Class 7 and Class 8 categorical exemptions. These exemptions do not apply here, and CARB has not met its burden to justify their use. The agency's environmental analysis is conclusory and lacks supporting data, emissions modeling, or differentiation across vehicle classes. Moreover, CARB has not demonstrated the level of certainty required to invoke the common sense exemption, nor can it rely on categorical exemptions where the action may reduce environmental protections.

For these reasons, WSPA respectfully urges the Board to reject Staff's proposal to permanently adopt the Emergency Vehicle Emissions Regulations and instead direct Staff to comply fully with CEQA and applicable procedural requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sophie Ellinghouse".

Sophie Ellinghouse
Vice President, General Counsel &
Western States Petroleum Association