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April 7, 2026

Clerk of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

via email

RE: Advanced Clean Fleets 15-Day Comment Period Response

Chair Lauren Sanchez and Members of the California Air Resources Board:

We greatly appreciate the time and effort that has gone into the 15-day comment draft that has been published for public comment. While the goals of these regulations are laudable, the reality remains that responding timely to water leaks, service interruptions or other water related emergencies in the disadvantaged communities we serve will pose a serious challenge, unless emergency support vehicles (including water-utility vehicles) are exempted.

West Kern's service area spans approximately 315 square-miles in varying topography. Our system includes nearly 250 miles of pipelines, 25 above ground storage tanks and 11 pumping plants, most of which are in remote locations. The disadvantaged communities we serve rely on the reliable potable water source we provide. We must respond to emergencies in a timely manner; in any weather conditions; and our response vehicles must be reliable with the ability to operate for hours on end.

To prevent unnecessary water loss, service interruptions and health and safety issues in the communities we serve, please reconsider the amendments respectfully requested in the October 7th letter submitted by the California Special Districts Association, League of California Cities, and California State Association of Counties, collectively representing our state's 5,000 local agencies and 40 million residents.

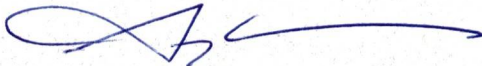
Local agencies like ours continue to do our part in achieving the State's climate and emissions goals. Our proposed amendments will enable us to better meet this challenge and effectively navigate the current Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) mandates and their associated ambitious compliance deadlines. Of critical concern to West Kern, the ACF mandates on local agencies are creating unnecessary challenges in complying while maintaining the many critical services

Californians rely upon for their most essential daily needs as well as during emergencies and disasters.

Vehicles that that need to be categorically exempted from the regulations the same manner as those found in **part (c) of § 2013 of title 13 of the California code of regulations** to include those vehicles that respond to, assist in and recover from disasters and emergencies to include: water utility vehicles, flood protection vehicles, sewer utility vehicles, electric utility vehicles, fire prevention vehicles, fire protection vehicles, search and rescue vehicles, and disease and vector control vehicles.

We respectfully request that you amend the ACF exemptions and allow our vehicles that support critical services to continue serving our communities when we need them most.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Hammett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg A. Hammett
General Manager