

Orange County Sanitation District

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June 8, 2020

The Honorable Rudy Salas
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Room 4016
Sacramento, CA 94249-0050

Re: Support AB 3163 (Salas) – Energy: biomethane: procurement

Dear Assemblymember Salas:

On behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), I am writing in support of AB 3163 which would expand the definition of biomethane to include methane produced from the non-combustion thermal conversion of certain organic materials.

OCSD is a public agency that provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County. OCSD is a special district that is governed by a 25-member Board of Directors comprised of 20 cities, four special districts, and one representative from the Orange County Board of Supervisors. OCSD has two operating facilities that treat wastewater from residential, commercial and industrial sources.

The breakdown of organic waste in landfills releases methane into the atmosphere, which is damaging short-lived climate pollutant. However, as part of the wastewater treatment process, OCSD produces biogas by the anaerobic digestion process of sludge. OCSD has always been a steward of public health and strives to find environmentally conscious methods to use biogas as a renewable energy.

Specifically, AB 3163 would redefine biomethane to include methane produced from organic waste feedstock including sludge and food waste digestion. This change would allow this product to be eligible for gas utility procurement, expanding its value to OCSD.

For the above reasons, OCSD is pleased to support AB 3163.

Sincerely,



David John Shawver
Board Chairman

cc: Orange County Legislative Delegation
California Association of Sanitation Agencies



Our Mission: To protect public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling