

Orange County Sanitation District

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September 16, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Signature Request for AB 3163 (Salas) – Energy: biomethane: procurement

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), I am writing to request that you sign 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 urges you to sign AB 3163.

Sincerely,



David John Shawver
Board Chairman



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