



CSET

Community Services
Employment Training

12 September 2018

Mary Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for the Aliso Canyon Mitigation Program as part of the Settlement Agreement

Dear Chair Nichols,

Community Services & Employment Training, Inc. (CSET) is writing to express its strong support for the Aliso Canyon Methane Leak Climate Impacts Mitigation Program which is part of the Aliso Canyon Settlement Agreement.

The Mitigation Program is providing important loan funding that will result in the launch of three clusters of dairy digester projects in the San Joaquin Valley. These clusters in turn will provide the road map for future project development. The projects will capture vented dairy biogas, clean it, inject it into the pipeline and use it for vehicle fuel. In the process, while reducing potent greenhouse gas emissions and protecting local air quality, they are creating green, renewable energy job opportunities.

As the Community Action Agency for Tulare County, CSET is an anti-poverty organization that works primarily in disadvantaged communities and among the County's large underprivileged population. Census data (American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2012-16) indicate Tulare County has a very high rate of poverty, 28.3%, compared to California as a whole (15.8% poverty rate). Just 68.2% of Tulare County adults have finished high school, compared to 82.1% statewide. The county's unemployment rate is persistently high; the California Employment Development Department (EDD) reported 9.3 % in July 2018, compared to the state rate of 4.3%.

We are working with California Bioenergy and its partner companies in developing employment training programs. These efforts include CSET's Sequoia Community Corps program, which is a state-certified local Conservation Corps federally recognized as a 21CSC (21st Century Service Corps) member. The program targets at-risk youth ages 18-24 and green jobs.

These Mitigation loan funds are enabling these important projects that have the promise to create significant local opportunity and as a result we strongly express our support.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Escarsega-Fechner
Executive Director

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