



Williams **E**ngineering **A**ssociates

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September 12, 2018

Dear Chairwoman Nichols,

I have been consulting on dairy methane capture projects for over 30 years and am a retired professor from Cal Poly, San Louis Obispo. California dairies that have installed digesters to capture fugitive methane, produce milk protein with the lowest carbon intensity in the world! Dairy is the most valuable agricultural product produced in California and when our dairies are coupled with digesters they not only help feed a hungry planet with low carbon milk protein but also prevent global warming (versus consumption of high carbon milk produced in other States or countries), protect California's family farms, economy and jobs.

I would like to express my strong support for the Aliso Canyon Methane Leak Climate Impacts Mitigation Program which corrects for the Aliso Canyon methane emissions and promotes these path breaking projects that inject captured dairy biomethane into the pipeline for use as a vehicle fuel.

One of the most innovative requirements of this mitigation plan is requiring the use of the dairy methane to displace diesel as a vehicle fuel. As a result, in addition to reducing GHGs, the projects also substantially improve local air quality (less dirty diesel emissions). One dairy cow's methane, if captured this way, can displace over 100 gallons of diesel fuel. One hundred cows will fuel a heavy-duty truck for a year. This dairy biogas-to-vehicle fuel plan would not be possible without this mitigation loan which absorbs some of the technology risk and thus will prove the pathway for future use of dairy methane in this beneficial way.

Since SoCalGas will guarantee that 100% of the dairy mitigation project capacity comes on line and produces vehicle fuel, I understand they performed significant due diligence prior to selecting the specific dairy projects and the technology vendors for this program. I observe they have picked a diverse array of excellent dairy projects spread over three geographic regions in the Central Valley and made a solid and wise decision to replicate a proven digester system that has been vetted by CDFA's scientists and digester selection process.

A rejection of the settlement would set back California's fight against climate change for many years. A rejection would also turn the focus back to electricity - polluting the air in the San Joaquin Valley.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Douglas W Williams, P.E.