



January 24, 2025

The Honorable Steven S. Cliff
Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on Landfill Methane Regulation and Need for Biomethane Procurement

Dear Dr. Cliff:

I am writing on behalf of the Bioenergy Association of California (BAC) to comment on CARB's staff workshop on potential changes to the Landfill Methane Regulation (LMR). BAC supports measures to better capture landfill methane emissions, which recent monitoring by NASA has shown to be much higher than previously estimated. BAC urges CARB, however, to adopt additional options for biomethane procurement as part of the LMR to encourage beneficial use of landfill gas. Including additional procurement options would greatly increase the climate and public health benefits of the LMR by encouraging the use of landfill gas in place of fossil fuels. Adding procurement pathways for captured landfill gas will also further the Governor's goals in the *California Jobs First* plan to promote the circular bioeconomy and increase clean energy production.¹

BAC represents about 100 members that are converting organic waste to energy to meet the state's climate change, air quality, clean energy, wildfire reduction, landfill reduction, and circular economy goals. BAC's public sector members include Tribes, cities and counties, air quality and environmental agencies, waste and wastewater agencies, public research institutions, environmental and community groups, and a publicly owned utility. BAC's private sector members include energy and technology companies, waste haulers, agriculture and food processing companies, investors and consulting firms, and an investor-owned utility.

As part of the LMR, BAC urges CARB to include options or requirements for landfill gas or biomethane procurement. CARB recognized the need for additional biomethane procurement mechanisms in the Board's Resolution on Advanced Clean Fleets

¹ See, ie, <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/01/06/governor-newsom-continues-delivering-a-new-bold-economic-vision-for-california-previews-balanced-2025-26-state-budget/>.

(adopted in 2023). That resolution stated that the Board recognized that multiple, reliable markets for biomethane would be needed to meet the methane reduction and waste diversion requirements of SB 1383. The LMR provides an excellent opportunity to adopt additional procurement options for landfill gas.

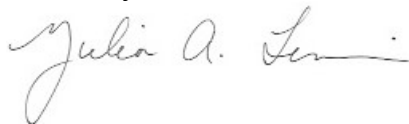
CalRecycle's regulations to implement the waste diversion requirements of SB 1383 provide an excellent example of coupling waste regulations with procurement pathways. Instead of merely requiring diversion of organic waste, CalRecycle's regulations require procurement of one or more beneficial products that are produced from the diverted organic waste. This helps to ensure compliance with the regulations and ensures that local jurisdictions convert the diverted organic waste to beneficial uses while leaving it up to those jurisdictions to decide which is the best pathway to meet its local needs and circumstances.

As CARB recognized in the ACF resolution, California needs additional long-term and reliable markets for biomethane to meet the state's climate targets. Providing markets for landfill gas that reduce the need for flaring will also benefit air quality, particularly when the landfill gas is used in place of diesel or other fossil fuels. And coupling procurement pathways with the updated LMR will also further the Governor's goals to build the circular bioeconomy in California, provide good paying and long term jobs, and provide clean energy.

BAC urges CARB, therefore, to include landfill gas procurement pathways as part of the updated LMR. Doing so will provide additional climate and air quality benefits by reducing the need for fossil fuels and flaring of landfill gas.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Julia A. Levin".

Julia A. Levin

cc: the Honorable Zoe Heller, Director, CalRecycle