



CITY OF LAVERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599
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May 12, 2025

Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via the Legislative Position Letter Portal

RE: Support for SB 496 – Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: Appeals Advisory Committee and Emergency Vehicle Exemptions.

Dear Honorable Senate Appropriations Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of La Verne, we express our strong support for Senate Bill (SB) 496, which provides critical improvements to the implementation of the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation while preserving public transparency and essential operational flexibility for local agencies.

As a full-service City, La Verne is committed to advancing sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, we also must maintain the reliability and readiness of our emergency and public service fleets. SB 496 strikes an essential balance between California's ambitious climate goals and the practical operational realities faced by local government fleets tasked with protecting public health and safety.

We strongly support the creation of the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation Appeals Advisory Committee as proposed by SB 496. Establishing a formal, transparent appeal process for denied exemption requests ensures fairness and consistency for local governments seeking compliance flexibility under specific and often urgent operational needs. The committee's structure, reporting requirements, and strict timelines will provide a much-needed avenue for due process and avoid unnecessary delays for critical fleet operations.

In addition, the emergency vehicle exemption expansion and the modifications to the daily usage exemption under SB 496 are essential for cities like La Verne. Local governments must be able to deploy internal combustion engine vehicles in life-safety and emergency response situations without fear of penalty or undue administrative burden. This bill appropriately recognizes that zero-emissions technology, while progressing rapidly, is not yet fully available or viable for all emergency vehicle types and uses.

We further support the provision that prohibits the state board from requiring executed purchase agreements for zero-emission vehicles as a condition of receiving compliance extensions. This practical modification prevents cities from being penalized for supply chain challenges or factors beyond their control.

SB 496 represents thoughtful, common-sense legislation that upholds California's climate leadership while respecting the operational integrity of local public agencies. For these reasons, the City of La Verne is proud to support SB 496 and respectfully urges its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hepburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Hepburn
Mayor