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June 5, 2023

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
 California State Assembly Member
 1021 O Street, Suite 8120
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1594 (Garcia): Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities. – Orange County Sanitation District SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

On behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San), I write in support of AB 1594 which requires state regulations of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) to support a public agency utility’s ability to maintain reliable service and respond to disasters and provide mutual aid assistance when requested.

AB 1594 requires any such state regulation to recognize the diversity of fleet size, terrain, and climate. It authorizes public agency utilities to purchase replacements for traditional utility-specialized vehicles that are at the end of life. These vehicles are needed to maintain reliable service and respond to major foreseeable events including natural and man-made disasters. In addition, AB 1594 authorizes a public agency utility to request that it be allowed to determine whether a comparable ZEV is available for purchase without regard to the model year of the vehicle being replaced, daily usage capabilities and needs for emergency response and mutual aid assistance.

AB 1594 is a reasonable approach to implementing the Advanced Clean Fleet regulations that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has recently adopted. While the regulations gave little flexibility for local agencies compliance that operate medium- and heavy-duty fleet vehicles that are not currently offered in a ZEV format, this bill makes it clear that exemptions can be made where deployment of ZEV is not feasible right now.

Now, more than ever, is the time to take action to protect public safety and utility operations while debating measures that will preserve the environment. For these reasons, the OC San is pleased to support your AB 1594. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Cabral, Administration Manager at (714) 593-7581 or via mail at JCabral@ocsan.gov.

Sincerely,

Chad P. Wanke
 Board Chairman

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