



County Executive  
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and  
Legislative Officer  
Elisia De Bord

## County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors  
Phillip R. Serna, District 1  
Patrick Kennedy, District 2  
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Patrick Hume, District 5

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Chair  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Capitol Office  
1021 O Street, Suite 7720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 496 (Hurtado). Advance Clean Fleets. Support  
Hearing: April 2, 2025

Dear Senator Blakespear:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I write to support SB 496 (Hurtado), which ensures that workers can effectively respond to emergency situations, creates an Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Appeals Advisory Committee, and more.

Local agencies work diligently to reduce the carbon intensity of fleet operations and provide critical services essential for our state. The ACF sets ambitious compliance deadlines for fleets to transition to an increasing proportion of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs). **The ACF's ZEV transition requires access to adequate utility infrastructure** for alternative fueling, such as EV charging and access to ZEVs that deliver the full spectrum of services that fleets provide. While the ACF allows exemption requests for compliance flexibility, the ACF does not clarify how such exemption requests are evaluated. It also does not provide a process for administrative review of exemption request denials by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

SB 496 establishes an Appeals Advisory Committee by which local agencies may request a review of exemption request denials. A formal appeals process ensures transparency and protects due process for those seeking further review. SB 496 updates the emergency vehicle exemption, allowing those vehicles that respond to and support critical operations related to emergencies and disasters to continue to protect communities. This measure also modifies the requirements of the daily usage exemption, which removes barriers for the applicant to comply with the mandate. SB 496 promotes affordability because it allows for the ZEV infrastructure to be in place before purchasing the vehicles.

March 14, 2025

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For these reasons, Sacramento County supports SB 496. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or [deborde@saccounty.gov](mailto:deborde@saccounty.gov).

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord  
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Sacramento County Delegation  
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies