



June 30, 2023

The Honorable Benjamin Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1021 O Street Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1594 (Garcia): Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities— Support (As Amended on May 18, 2023)

Dear Chair Allen,

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to express support for AB 1594, which would require that any State regulation applicable to essential public agency utility vehicles ensures that those vehicles can support a public agency utility's ability to maintain reliable water and electric service, respond to disasters in an emergency capacity, and provide mutual aid assistance statewide and nationwide. AB 1594 would also require the development of a list of vehicle vendors and suppliers that meet zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) standards and the public agency utility's technical and performance requirements.

The City of Santa Rosa, located in Sonoma County, has a long-standing commitment to environmental protection and working to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from community activities and those associated with municipal facilities and operations, including the city's vehicle fleet, water distribution, sewer collection, wastewater treatment, and reuse. The City of Santa Rosa Water Department (Santa Rosa Water) delivers approximately six billion gallons of drinking water, each year, to over 53,000 customer accounts with a population of 175,000. Santa Rosa Water also operates the Santa Rosa Regional Water Reuse System, which services approximately 230,000 residents in Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol, and unincorporated portions of Sonoma County. Santa Rosa Water currently produces 40% of our energy needs via digester gas co-generation at our wastewater treatment facility and in 2018, transitioned to using 100% renewable energy for our operations. The City of Santa Rosa is committed to ongoing efforts related to climate change and GHG reductions and is supportive of the state's climate initiatives, however public health and safety should remain the number one priority as we continue to plan for our climate future.

The California Air Resource Board (CARB) recently adopted the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation (ACF) to accelerate the market for ZEVs by requiring fleets to transition to ZEVs where feasible. The ACF requires California Fleet owners and operators to start purchasing ZEVs in 2024, with the goal to move California's medium- and heavy-duty trucks to zero emission, where feasible, by 2045. It is imperative that State regulations, such as the ACF,

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ensure public water utility's ability to maintain reliable water and sewer services, protect public health and safety, and respond to emergencies, such as wildfires, earthquakes, or ruptured pipelines.

Many of Santa Rosa Water's fleet vehicles must meet stringent requirements and perform specialized functions to provide essential water and sewer service to our customers. To prevent interruption of these essential services and to perform essential maintenance and repairs to our system, Santa Rosa Water must be able to deploy fleet vehicles immediately to various geographic locations with diverse terrain, transport heavy equipment, and operate the vehicles for extended periods of time in the field. While the ZEV market is rapidly evolving, vehicles that meet these essential requirements are not yet commercially available. AB 1594 would address one of the major concerns of the ACF by ensuring that State regulations support public utility's ability to maintain essential services and public health.

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For these reasons, the City of Santa Rosa fully supports AB 1594. Should you have any questions please contact our legislative advocate, Alyssa Silhi, with the Renne Public Policy Group, at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor