

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0004
(916) 319-2004

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Aguiar-Curry@assembly.ca.gov

WEBSITE
a04.asmdc.org

Assembly California Legislature



DISTRICT OFFICES
600 A STREET, SUITE D
DAVIS, CA 95616
(530) 757-1034
2721 NAPA VALLEY CORPORATE DRIVE
NAPA, CA 94558
(707) 224-0440

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Alice Reynolds, President
The Honorable John Reynolds, Commissioner
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Request to Extend BioMAT Program to Meet Statutory Requirements

Dear President Reynolds and Commissioner Reynolds:

We are writing to urge you to extend and fully implement the BioMAT program, which was established pursuant to SB 1122 (Rubio, Chapter 612, Statutes of 2012). The BioMAT program is essential for supporting California's policies to reduce wildfires, increase energy reliability, cut methane emissions and air pollution, and create good jobs. This program is consistent with many laws and policies calling for increased bioenergy from organic waste and the Governor's California Jobs First Plan, which calls for increased bioenergy and building a circular bioeconomy to create high-quality, permanent jobs around the state.

As noted in our earlier letter, SB 1122 and subsequent legislation to revise the BioMAT program did not contain end dates or other program off-ramps. Yet, the BioMAT program is currently scheduled to end in December 2025 under a decision made by the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission). We urge you to remove or extend this deadline until the requirements and legislative intent of SB 1122 are met.

We understand from the Commission's June 19, 2024 letter that the Commission will evaluate whether to extend the BioMAT program in the scope of the new RPS rulemaking. We urge you to begin that process immediately because the current end date is already having a chilling effect on new project development.

We also understand that the Commission has raised concerns about the cost of BioMAT projects and support efforts to make energy affordable as the state pursues energy and climate goals. We hope that as part of the evaluation of whether to extend the program, you will consider the following:

- SB 1122 and subsequent BioMAT legislation contained no cost caps or other off-ramps;
- BioMAT projects provide clean, firm power that counts toward the utilities' Resource Adequacy requirements and should be compared to other firm, renewable resources, not utility-scale and intermittent resources;
- BioMAT projects mitigate the risks and costs of wildfire, which is the single biggest cause of rate increases in recent years and is also a major threat to electricity reliability;
- BioMAT projects are unique among RPS-eligible resources because they reduce emissions of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants as required by SB 1383 (Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016) and can provide carbon negative emissions needed to reach carbon neutrality as required by AB 1279 (Muratsuchi, Chapter 337, Statutes of 2022); and,
- BioMAT projects provide more jobs and a higher percentage of permanent, good-paying jobs than intermittent renewables.

For these reasons, we urge the Commission to extend the BioMAT program and consider other changes to ensure that it meets the full requirements of SB 1122 to procure 250 MW from new, small-scale bioenergy projects.

Sincerely,



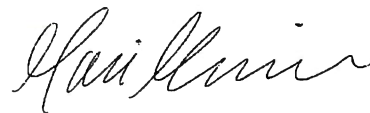
CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY
Assembly Majority Leader
Assemblymember, Fourth District



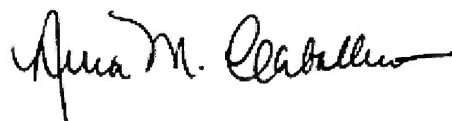
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Assemblymember, 1st District



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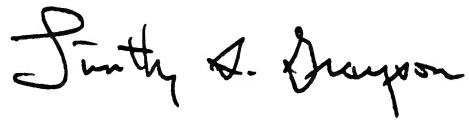
ANNA M. CABALLERO
Senator, 14th District



MEGAN DAHLE
Senator, 1st District



JACQUI IRWIN
Assemblymember, 42nd District



TIM GRAYSON
Senator, 9th District



MELISSA HURTADO
Senator, 16th District



JERRY MCNERNEY
Senator, 5th District



ROGER NIELLO
Senator, 6th District

cc: Erin Rodriguez, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs