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To inspire, align, and mobilize action in response to the climate crisis. We work with business, government, youth and the broader community to advance practical, science-based solutions for significant greenhouse gas emission reductions.

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May 6, 2019

Honorable Toni G. Atkins  
Senate President pro Tempore  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: SB 386 (Caballero) – Oppose**

Dear Senator Atkins,

On behalf of the Center for Climate Protection and approximately 10,000 supporters and subscribers, I am writing to respectfully oppose SB 386. This bill will allow three specific irrigation districts to count very old, large hydro-electric facilities (dams) as part of their renewable portfolio standard (RPS) obligation, undermining any impetus to develop new clean energy resources. Enacting policy that would extend the life of fossil gas extraction and burning is not in the interest of the constituents the bill seeks to protect, and that is what SB 386 would, in effect, do. By doing so, SB 386 runs counter to the State’s policies of decarbonization and desire to encourage development of *new* renewable energy.

Just last year the State enacted SB 100 (De León) which accelerates RPS requirements by requiring all load-serving entities (LSEs), including irrigation districts, to meet a 60 percent RPS requirement by 2030 with a goal of 100 percent zero-carbon resources by 2045. Generation from existing large hydro facilities such as the dams in question won’t count toward the RPS requirements, but *will* count toward the 100 percent zero-carbon goal, which makes sense since the point of advancing renewables is all about *new* renewables and these dams have been in existence for many decades.

The irrigation districts assert that the current RPS framework will raise rates for low income communities that already receive a lot of electricity from a carbon free source. However, existing law authorizes LSEs to adopt a cost limitation mechanism to meet their RPS requirements that prevents disproportionate rate impacts. This mechanism has been used successfully by other LSEs. If needed, it should be employed by the irrigation districts in question prior to legislation being enacted that singles out three specific service areas when many other LSEs also serve historically disadvantaged communities. Lastly, the RPS provides a waiver for LSEs that serve customers with large amounts of hydro-power, rendering the bill unnecessary.

For the above stated reasons, I respectfully submit this letter of opposition.

Sincerely,

Ann Hancock, Executive Director

cc: Hon. Senator Anna Caballero, Senate District 12