

Restore the Delta  
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June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Marissa Sutton  
Commission Agreement Officer  
California Energy Commission  
715 P, MS-1  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[Marissa.Sutton@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Marissa.Sutton@energy.ca.gov)

**RE: Support letter for DNV's application to GFO-24-501, Paving the Way for California's Gas Transition, Group 1: Gas System Decarbonization and Decommissioning in Rural and/or Tribal Areas**

Dear Ms. Sutton:

On behalf of Restore the Delta, we're writing to express our support for the application submitted to the California Energy Commission (CEC) by DNV Energy Insights USA Inc. (DNV). This effort plays a critical role in ensuring that California's transition away from natural gas infrastructure is just, community-informed, and equitable—especially for regions like Stockton and the greater San Joaquin County.

Based in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta since 2006, our organization works in the areas of public education, program and policy development, and outreach so that all Californians recognize the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta as part of California's natural heritage, deserving of restoration.

With over 75,000 followers, our programs span water quality monitoring, flood and land restoration, sustainable agriculture, youth engagement, and carbon and energy policy development. Our Carbon and Energy Program evaluates emerging climate technology industries in the Delta region, with a focus on environmental and economic risks, public health implications, and community benefits. We collaborate with carbon removal and energy industries, government agencies, national labs, and community-based organizations to develop research and policy solutions grounded in environmental justice.

Restore the Delta partnered with the project team in the first phase of this work - the Mindful Decommissioning Project - to develop a Stockton-area case study, co-creating a community-driven narrative that reflects local challenges, values, and priorities. We collaborated with the project team to co-develop a community focused case study, offering insight into local challenges, environmental

conditions, and social dynamics. We deeply value the project's intentional emphasis on centering underrepresented voices and its responsiveness to place-based realities.

As the project moves into its next phase, "Paving the Way", we remain committed to supporting this work by:

- Serving as a trusted liaison to the rural and agricultural community surrounding Stockton, as well as the broader Delta region;
- Facilitating introductions to local leaders and organizations;
- Participating in discovery and validation meetings;
- Reviewing analysis and project materials; and
- Providing input to ensure the project reflects lived realities and historical context.

In our experience, the project team has engaged in collaborative and transparent partnership practices. Their community-driven approach has fostered trust and demonstrated deep respect for local knowledge. We believe the project has strong support among similarly situated organizations and local leaders. Stockton is a region where high energy burdens, industrial expansion, and legacy underinvestment intersect—and we believe this project is well-positioned to help illuminate and address those structural challenges, building momentum for this type of equitable energy transition planning across California.

While Restore the Delta does not commit financial resources at this stage, we intend to provide continued engagement, staff time, and community convening support throughout the next phase. We are especially committed to helping identify locally tailored solutions that address Stockton's aging housing stock and infrastructure, as well as extreme climate vulnerability.

We look forward to continuing our partnership and strongly support the project's advancement through this funding opportunity.

Regards,



Esther Mburu  
Carbon Policy Analyst  
Restore the Delta



Davis Harper Zapata  
Director of Strategic Planning  
Restore the Delta