



May 4, 2026

Senate Pro Tem Monique Limón
California Senate Rules Committee Chair
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Hold/Oppose Confirmation of Siva Gunda To California Energy Commission

Senator Limón,

I am writing to ask you to postpone approval of the nomination of Siva Gunda to the California Energy Commission.

At this juncture, Consumer Watchdog cannot recommend Gunda's nomination as he has failed to write three sets of regulations that are integral to containing the gasoline price spikes that Californians are now reeling from.

The Senate should not confirm Mr. Gunda until he addresses his failures to write the regulations in question and puts forth, at a minimum, a new regulation for refineries to resupply their facilities when they go down for maintenance.

Californians are paying \$2 per gallon more for our gasoline than US drivers and the problems spring from Gunda's inaction of laws enacted in 2023 and 2024.

In its recent [investor call](#), PBF [acknowledged](#) that its Martinez refinery is still not up and running, but the company is getting paid from a billion-dollar business interruption policy.

It's déjà vu all over again from the 2022 gas price spikes, only this time the state did not learn its lesson and take the legislatively-mandated steps to protect Californians. The blame lies with the CEC under Mr. Gunda's direction.

Rules for resupply required under 2023 special session legislation, SBx1-2, would have made PBF have resupply arrangements to backfill the lost production, but they were never completed by the California Energy Commission (CEC). Similarly, rules for minimum inventory requirements, under 2024's ABX2-1, would have helped blunt the problem, but they have not been written either. In addition, the CEC decided not to draft regulations for a price gouging penalty authorized in 2023 under SBx1-2.

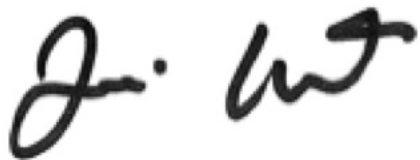
Recently, 45 public interest groups [wrote](#) the Newsom Administration calling for emergency rules.

PBF had no incentive to bring Martinez back online on its mid-February schedule because it was being paid by its billion dollar business interruption policy. (PBF CFO Joe Marino acknowledged on the investor call: “This brings our total insurance recoveries to \$1 billion net of our deductibles and retention, including the amounts received in 2025.”) PBF could make more on every gallon of gas sold at its other refinery because of the price spike and still collect for what it wasn’t producing at Martinez. If the CEC had written resupply rules, PBF would have been forced to have a resupply pipeline to replace what was lost at Martinez. Instead, the CEC has ignored its legislative mandate in 2023 and allowed this market to be unregulated despite clear legislative direction.

Mr. Gunda has some explaining to do to the legislature and needs to deliver a timeline for resupply and minimum inventory rules before his confirmation is considered.

The people of California are depending on you to hold Mr. Gunda and the CEC to account.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Court". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "Court".

Jamie Court
President, Consumer Watchdog

CC: Rules Committee Member