

A Refinery Perspective

## CALIFORNIA'S PETROLEUM ECONOMY: The Current Market and the Future Fuels Transition Plan

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## **ONLY 5% GASOLINE YIELD FLEX**

- Each refinery's product output depends on its equipment and crude oil blend to maximize profit within the facility's limitations.
- Refining operations have limited flexibility to adjust production between jet fuel, diesel, and gasoline as demand changes.
- Uncertain future demand makes it difficult to decide on investments in new equipment for changing product needs.
- Refiners may need to import or export products to balance supply and meet demand.
- Exports will compete for the same marine facilities as imports.



Tank capacity schematic



## TANKAGE 101

- The "working storage capacity" is smaller than the "shell capacity" – don't count shell capacity as inventory.
- The "heel" is the minimum amount left in the bottom. A "Minimum Inventory" could raise the heel, reducing working storage capacity.
- Working Storage Capacity typically varies in volume and duration. It is just one of thousands of components in a fuel system.
- Refinery and storage tanks are continually in motion intertank movements, blending, certification and pipeline receipts.
- Because of this, utilization rate ranges from **51% to 57%** for terminal and refineries gasoline tankage, respectively.\*



## GASOLINE BLENDING TANKAGE

- Gasoline is blended from "rundown" tanks that are blending components from multiple refinery units.
- 4-8 components with different properties are blended to make various gasoline recipes.
- An online blender mixes exact proportions for each recipe.
- "Final" tanks must be certified before shipping out on pipeline.





## **PIPELINE OPERATIONS**

- Common carrier or proprietary
- Multiple shippers on single line
- Routine schedule- moves in batches (gas/diesel/jet)
- Bulk terminals along pipeline

**SOURCE:** Kinder Morgan. Pacific Operations Overview (March 2019). Accessed September 18, 2024. www.kindermorgan.com/WWWKM/media/Documents/2019-March-Pacific-Ops-brochure.pdf



## **BULK TERMINAL TENANTS**

- "Tenants" include CA refiners, refiners with production outside of CA, wholesalers and traders.
- Leased tankage space can be dedicated or community tankage.
- Sent from bulk tankage to load rack where it is loaded on truck for delivery to customer.
- Additive and 10% ethanol are blended with CARBOB at load rack as gasoline is dispensed into tanker truck.



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## **PRICING PANEL**

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## **GLOBAL CRUDE OIL PRICES**

Benchmark Name	API (Specific Gravity)	Sulphur (Sweet vs Sour) % by weight	Sept 17, 2024 Price per bbl
Brent (North Sea)	38.3	0.4	73.70
WTI (West Texas Intermediate)	40.8	0.3	71.19
ANS (Alaskan North Slope)	32.0	1.1	73.99
SJV (San Joaquin Valley)	13.0	1.6	60.17

Source: OPIS NOTE: Heavier and higher sulphur crude oils tend to be more expensive to process

## Imported vs. California Crude

- While crude oil is a global commodity, importing it incurs higher costs.
- California refineries can source comparable crude from other regions to substitute San Joaquin Valley (SJV) crude.
- Although crude prices may be similar across regions, transportation logistics costs vary significantly:



## **CRUDES MIXED ON "THE ENVELOPE"**



Refineries are typically built for specific crude "types"/properties

Multiple crudes are often blended to meet required properties The yield (amt of gasoline/diesel/jet) is optimized for refinery configuration and product mix



Balance Rule: Complex linear programing is used to optimize refinery production to meet demand.

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### **CONTRACTED VS DISCRETIONARY SALES**

#### **Discretionary sales generally take two forms**

# (!)

A refiners' first

obligation is to meet

contractual obligations.

This is where most of their

volume goes.

#### **Bulk Sales**

Sales to wholesalers (e.g., Costco, Safeway, unbranded distributors)

**Spot Market** 

A one-time sale that tends to be a smaller transaction than bulk

- Higher risk
- Volumes are a small fraction of the market