



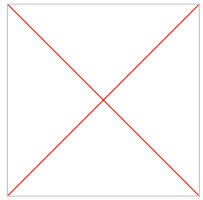
**DIVISION OF PETROLEUM
MARKET OVERSIGHT**

California Gasoline Prices: Global and Local Factors

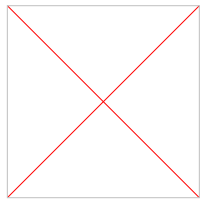
Dr. Gigi Moreno, Chief Economist

Introduction

Established by Senate Bill X1-2 (Skinner, 2023), the California Gas Price Gouging and Transparency Law, **DPMO's statutory mandate is to protect California consumers.** DPMO's work falls into two broad categories:



Independent oversight and investigations: Monitoring the market; identifying flaws in market structure, market power abuses, and any other way market participants act anticompetitively or harm consumers; referring potential violations of the law for investigation and prosecution.

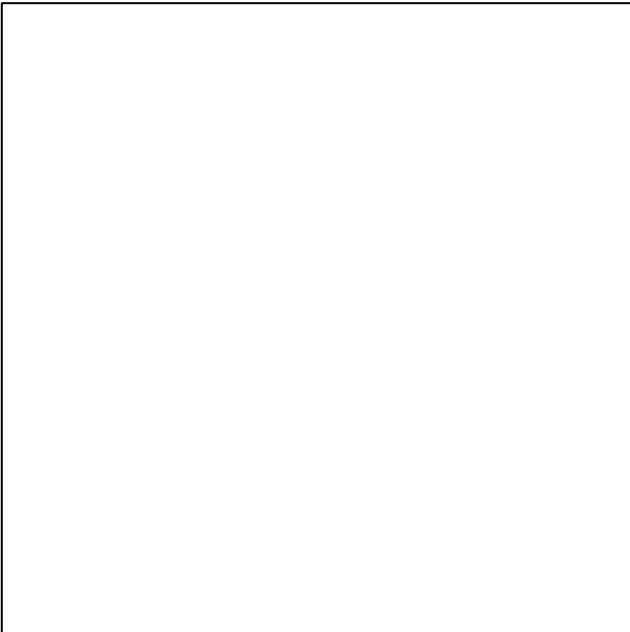


Economic analysis and policy recommendations: Providing the Governor, the Legislature, and the Energy Commission with expert analysis, findings, and recommendations on transportation fuels markets and the interplay with California's clean energy transition.

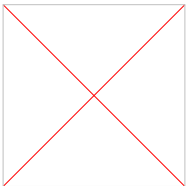


**DIVISION OF PETROLEUM
MARKET OVERSIGHT**

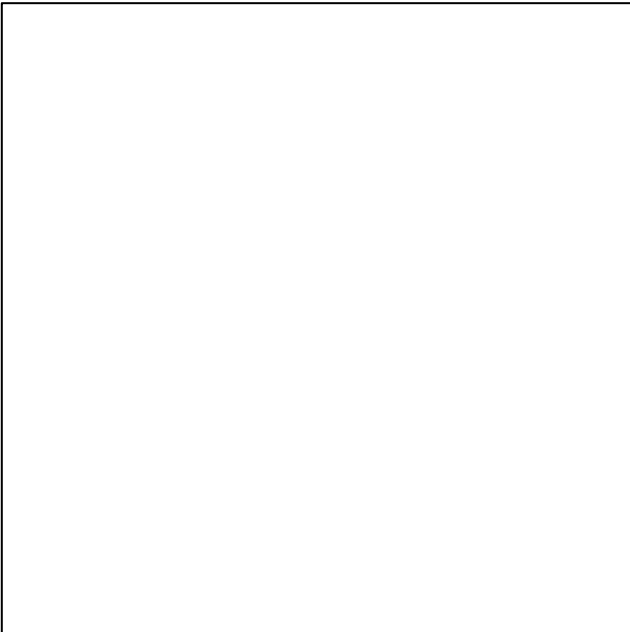
Crude Oil and Gasoline Price Trends



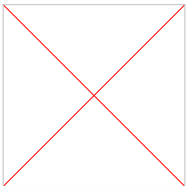
DPMO analysis of EIA and OPIS data. ANS is used as the crude oil benchmark.



Crude Oil and Gasoline Price Trends

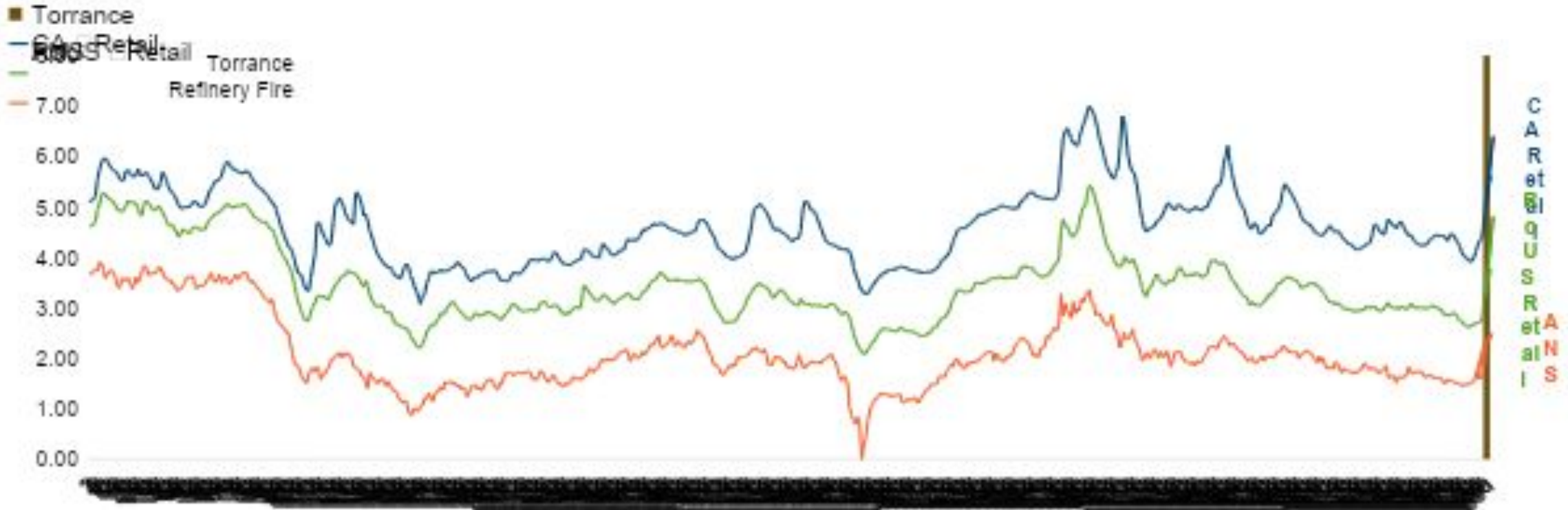


DPMO analysis of EIA and OPIS data. ANS is used as the crude oil benchmark.

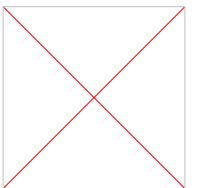


Crude Oil and Gasoline Price Trends

Average Weekly Retail Gasoline and Crude Prices, 2025\$/gal

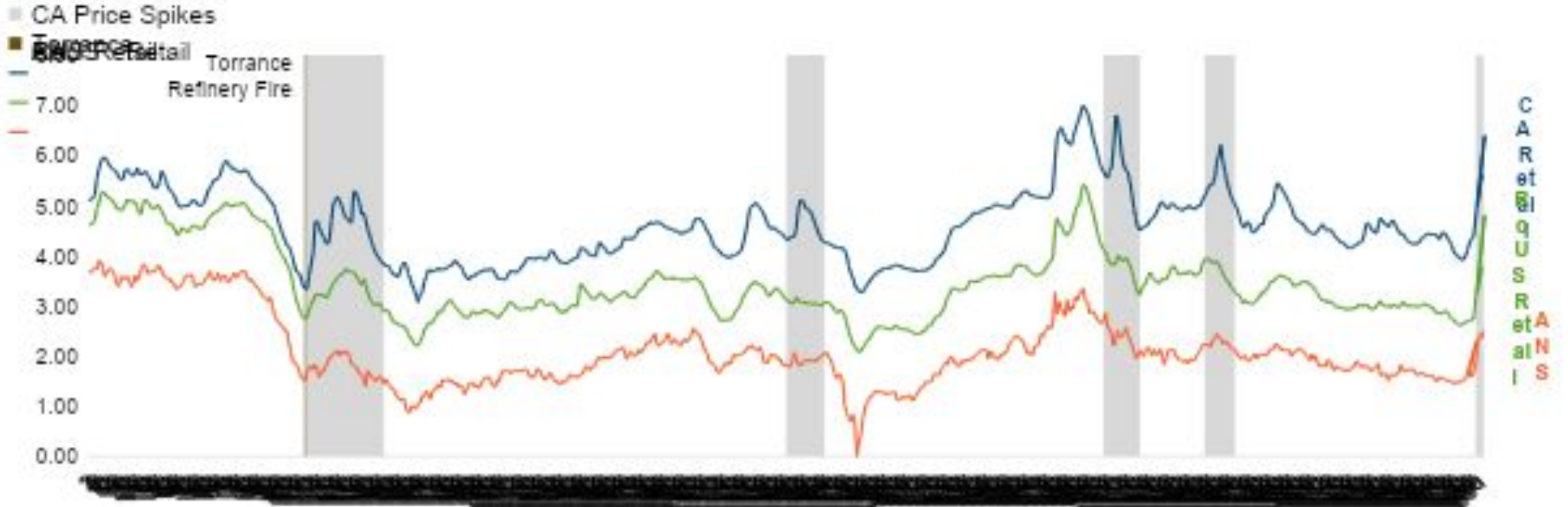


DPMO analysis of EIA and OPIS data. ANS is used as the crude oil benchmark.

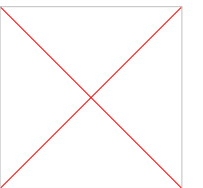


Crude Oil and Gasoline Price Trends

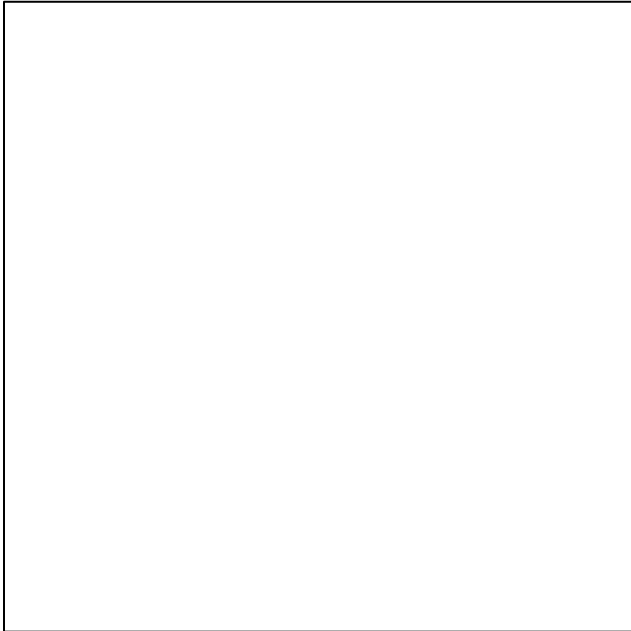
Average Weekly Retail Gasoline and Crude Prices, 2025\$/gal



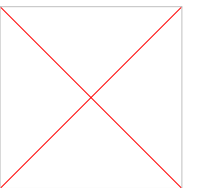
DPMO analysis of EIA and OPIS data. ANS is used as the crude oil benchmark.



Unexplained “Surcharge” Emerges in 2015



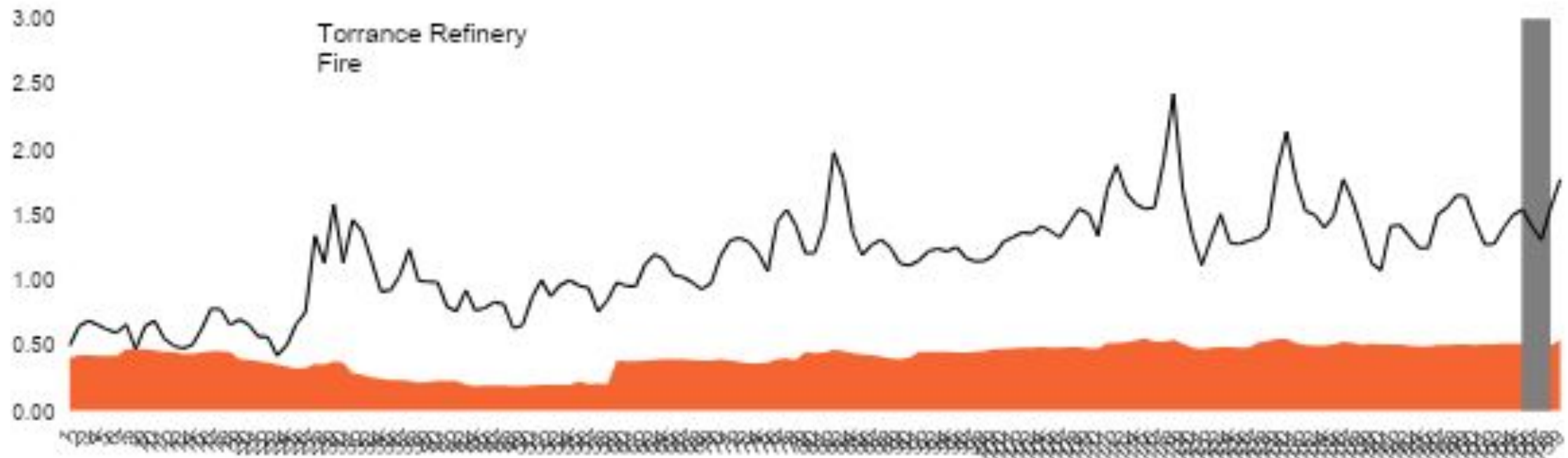
DPMO analysis of EIA, CARB, and CDTFA data. All values in constant 2025 dollars based on CPI.



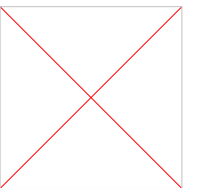
Unexplained “Surcharge” Emerges in 2015

Differences in Retail Gasoline Prices, Taxes and Environmental Fees, 2025\$/gal

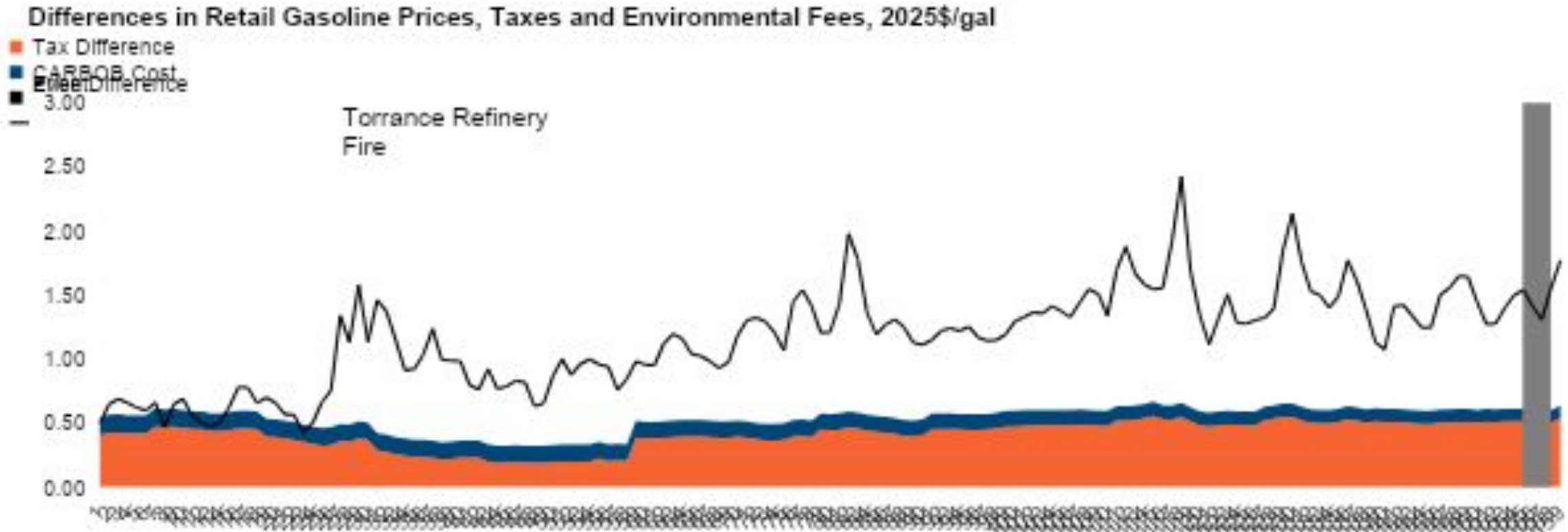
■ Tax Difference ■ Event — Price Difference



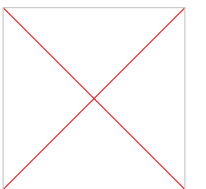
DPMO analysis of EIA, CARB, and CDTFA data. All values in constant 2025 dollars based on CPI.



Unexplained “Surcharge” Emerges in 2015



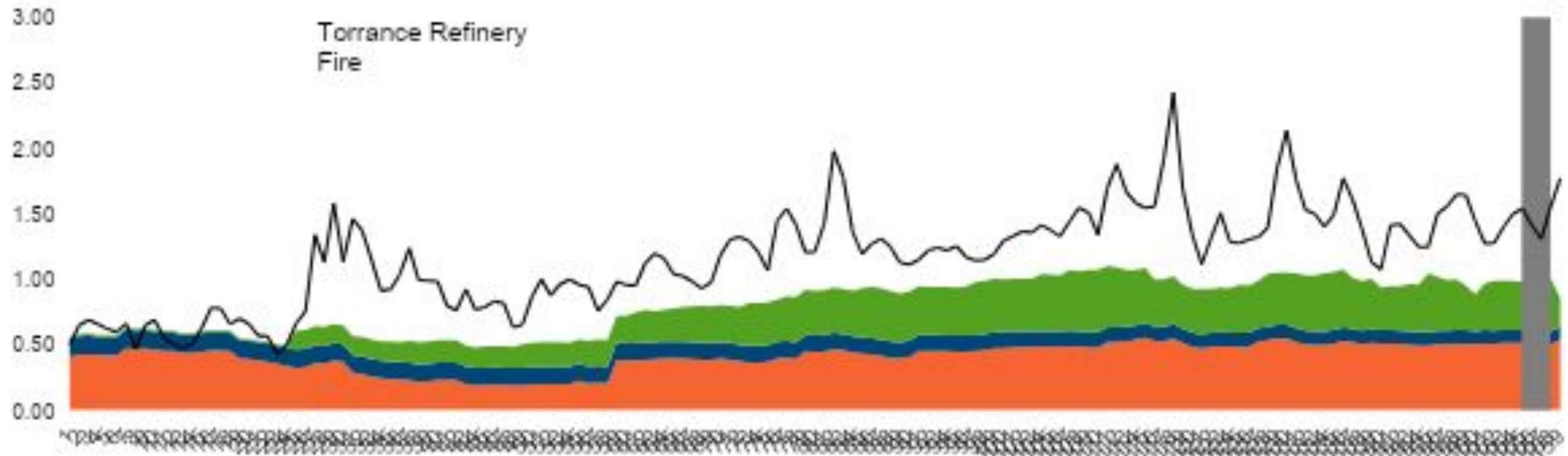
DPMO analysis of EIA, CARB, and CDTFA data. All values in constant 2025 dollars based on CPI.



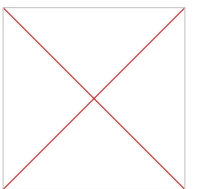
Unexplained “Surcharge” Emerges in 2015

Differences in Retail Gasoline Prices, Taxes and Environmental Fees, 2025\$/gal

■ Tax Difference ■ CARBOB Cost ■ Env Fees ■ Event — Price Difference



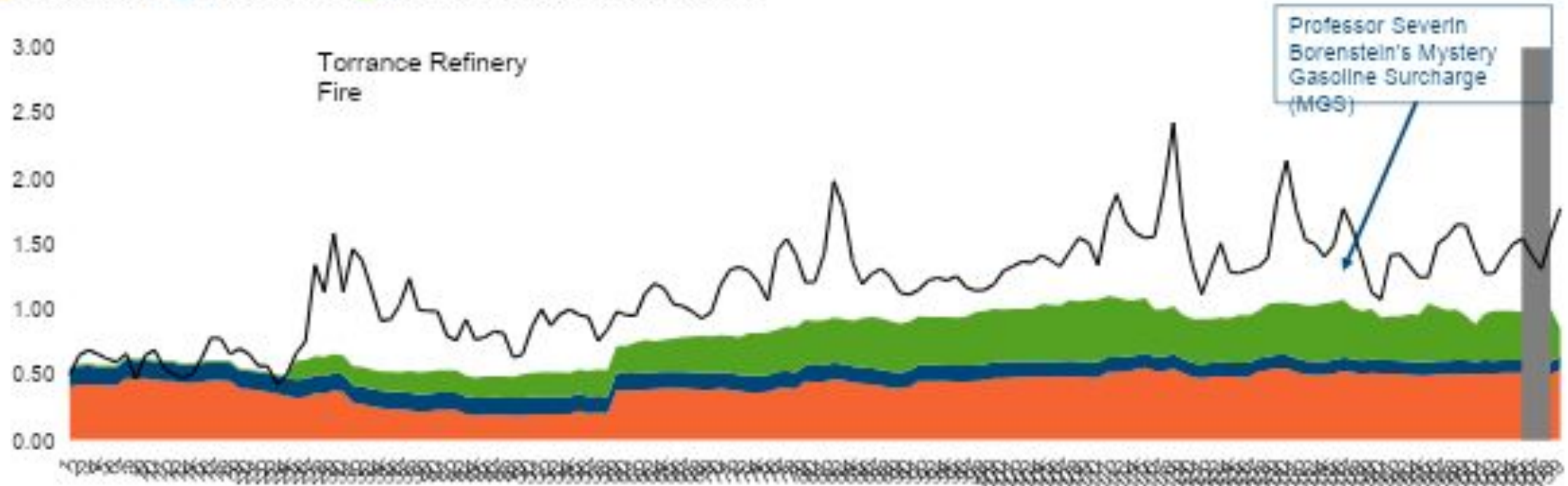
DPMO analysis of EIA, CARB, and CDTFA data. All values in constant 2025 dollars based on CPI.



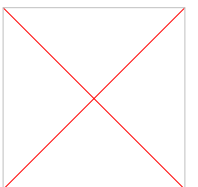
Unexplained “Surcharge” Emerges in 2015

Differences in Retail Gasoline Prices, Taxes and Environmental Fees, 2025\$/gal

■ Tax Difference ■ CARBOB Cost ■ Env Fees ■ Event — Price Difference



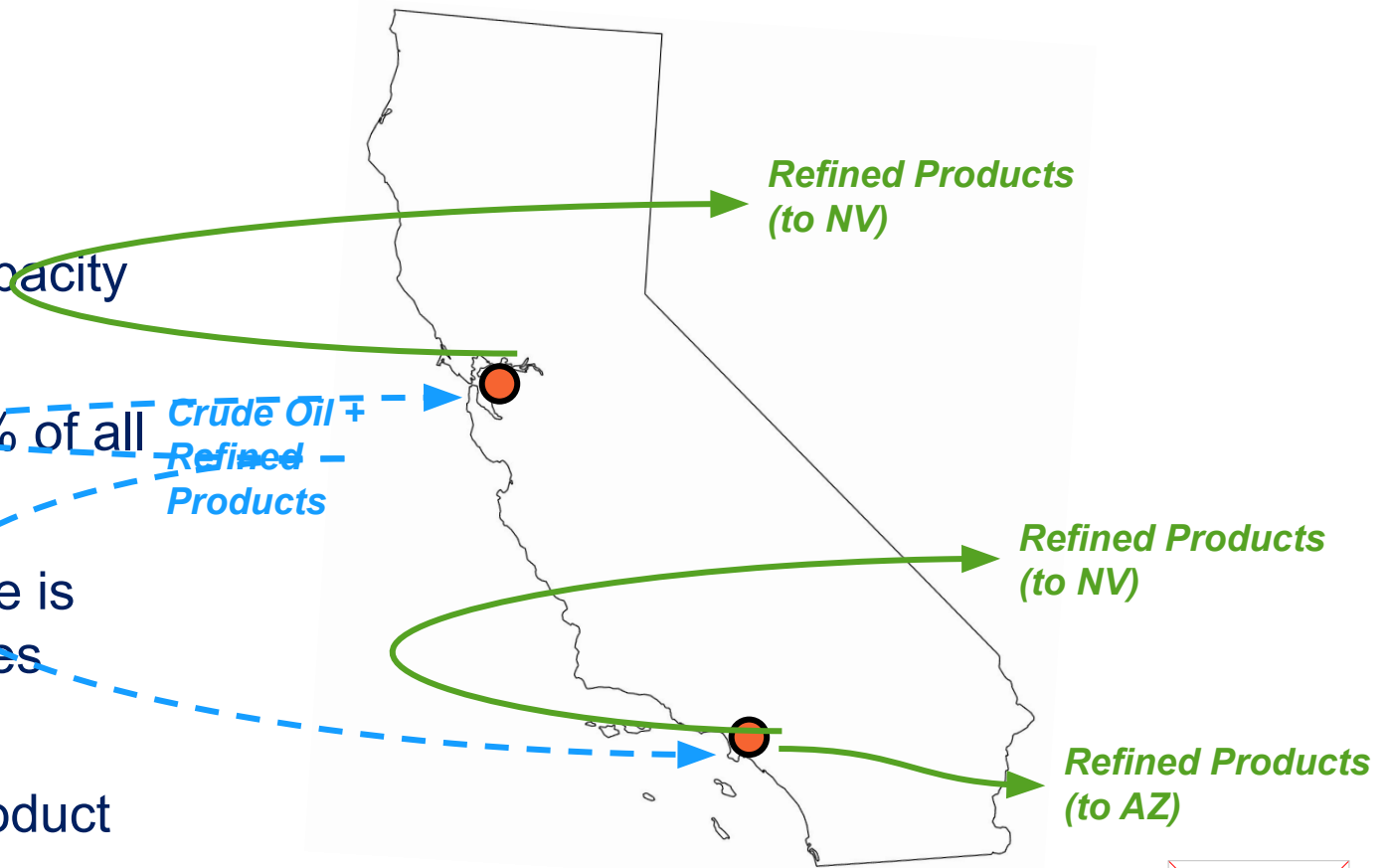
DPMO analysis of EIA, CARB, and CDTFA data. All values in constant 2025 dollars based on CPI.



A Highly Concentrated Gasoline Market

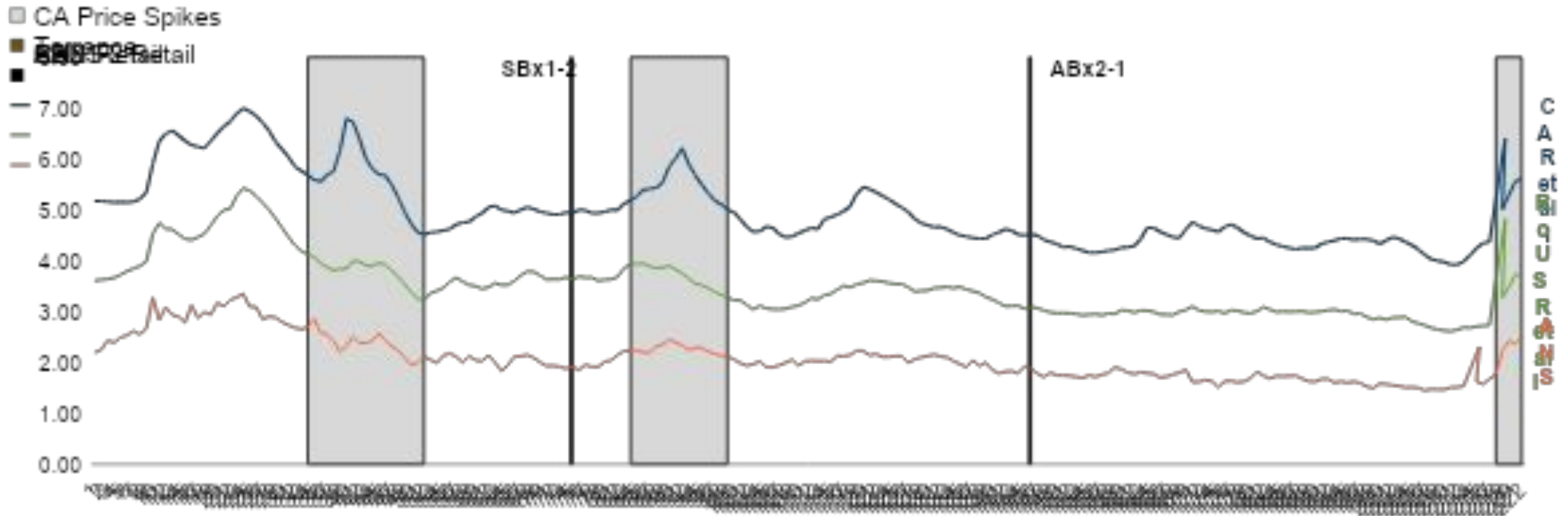
Consolidation and concentration in today's California gasoline market:

- Nearly 70% of in-state oil refining capacity is controlled by the top two refiners
- The top two suppliers sell nearly 50% of all wholesale gasoline
- More than 50% of wholesale gasoline is sold through vertically integrated sales channels
- California has no inbound refined product pipelines and its own gasoline blend

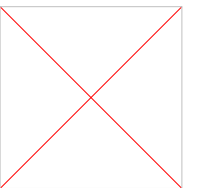


Problem #1: Episodic Price Spikes

Average Weekly Retail Gasoline and Crude Prices, 2025\$/gal



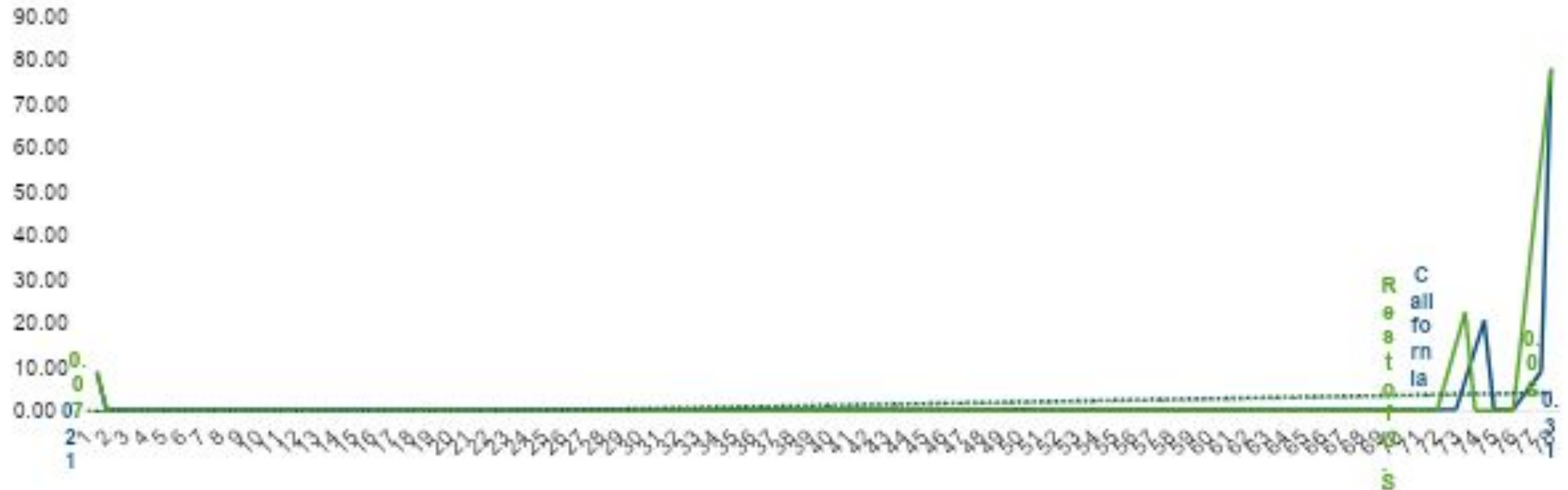
DPMO analysis of EIA and OPIS data. ANS is used as the crude oil benchmark.



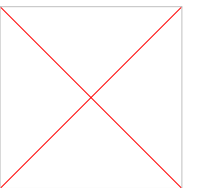
Problem #2: Inflated Branded Prices

Average Monthly Branded-Unbranded Retail Gasoline Price Spread, 2025\$/gal

Nov 2019 - Mar 2026

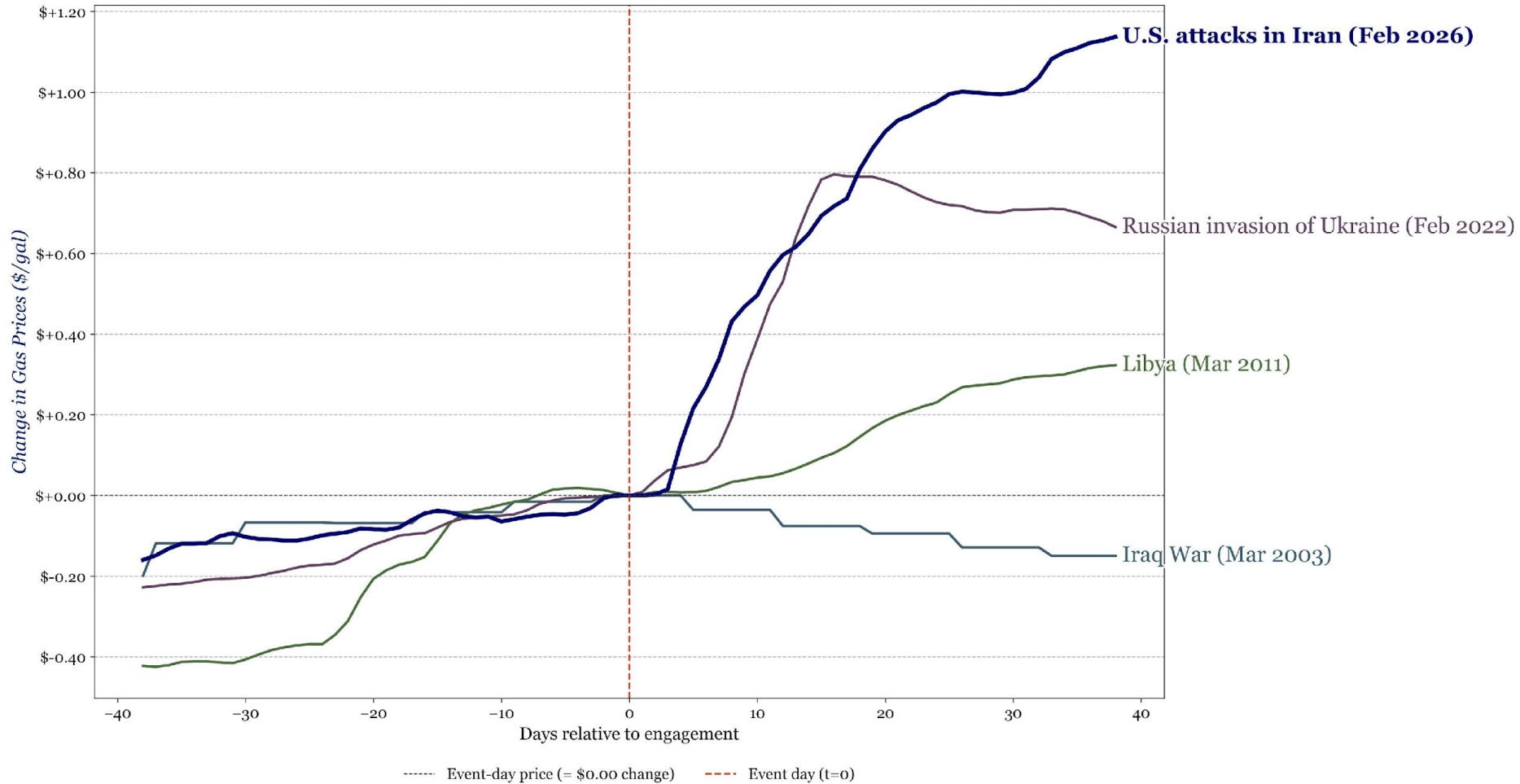


DPMO analysis of OPIS data.

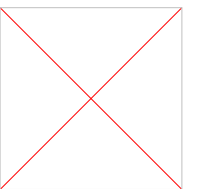


Iran Conflict and Gas Price Increases

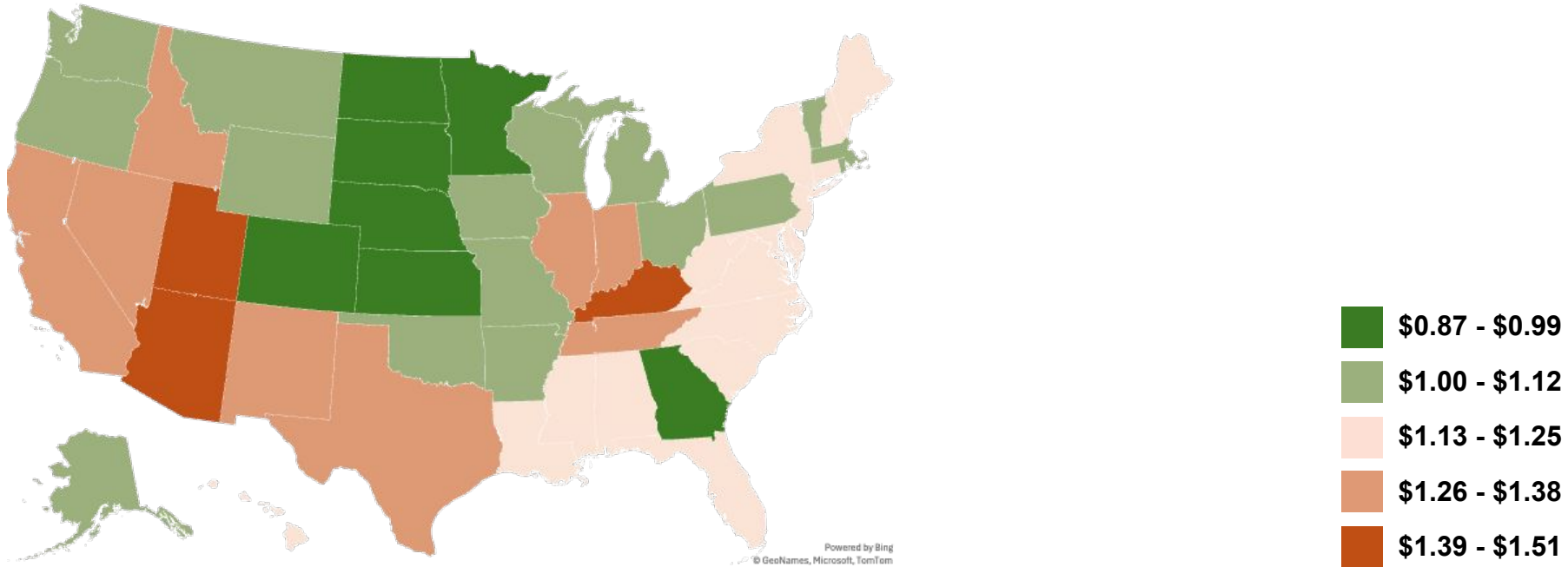
Gas Price Changes Following Military Conflicts



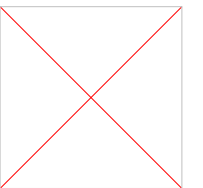
Source: Ryan Cummings & Neale Mahoney analysis; AAA



Iran Conflict and Gas Price Increases



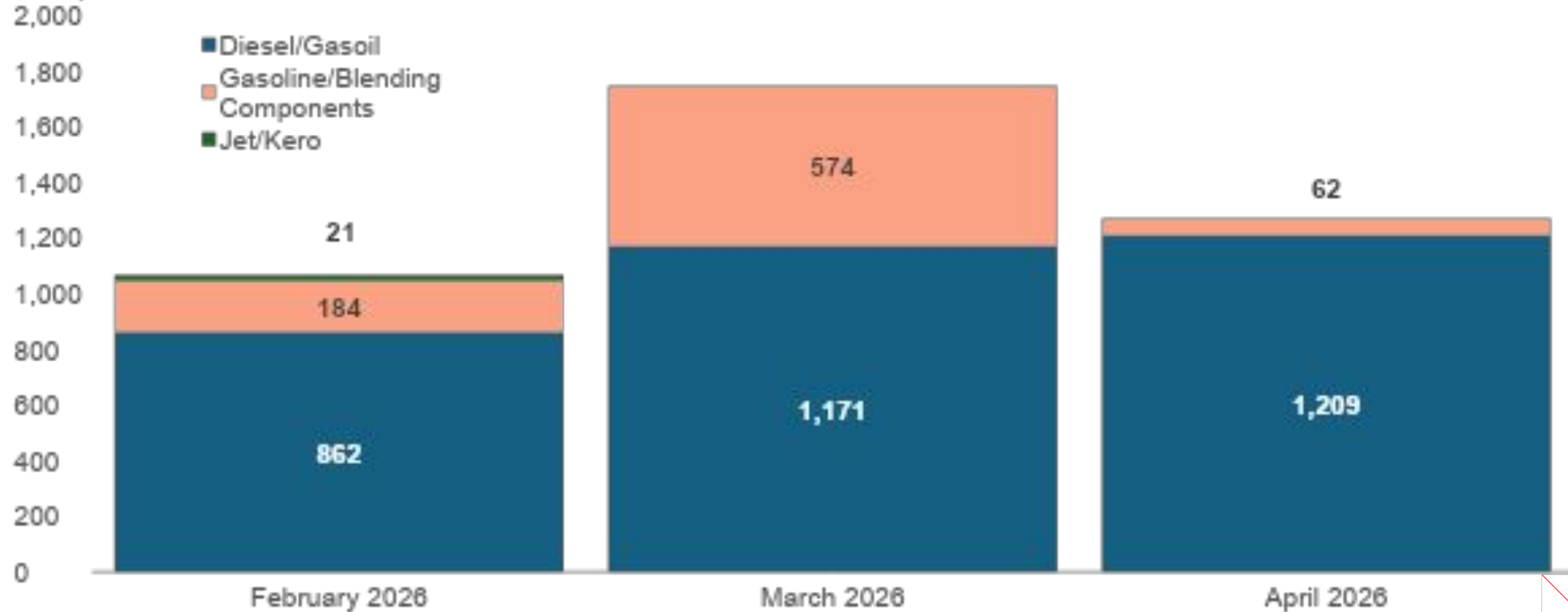
Source: OPIS/AAA data.



Global Market → Fuel Exports

California Monthly Marine Exports of Refined Products (Thousands of Barrels)

As of April 9, 2026



DPMO analysis of Vortexa data.



The Fuels Supply Transition (~2030?)

