## **Supplementary Information:**

## Insight into the mechanism of methanol assistance with syngas

## conversion over partially hydroxylated $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (110D) surface in

## slurry bed

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Configurations	E <sub>ads</sub> /kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	Al–O <sub>water</sub> bond/Å	O <sub>surface</sub> –H bond/Å	O <sub>water</sub> –H bond/Å
(110D)-1×1-H <sub>2</sub> O (b)	196.3	1.73	1.00	0.97
(110D)-1×1-H <sub>2</sub> O (b-1)	183.1	1.93	1.00	1.03
(110D)-1×1-H <sub>2</sub> O (b-2)	182.6	1.73	1.01	0.97
(110D)-1×1-H <sub>2</sub> O (b-3)	176.3	1.75	1.00	0.97
(110D)-1×1-H <sub>2</sub> O (b-4)	164.1	1.74	0.99	0.97
(110D)-1×1-H <sub>2</sub> O (b-5)	149.3	1.98	0.98	1.05
(110D)-1×1-2H <sub>2</sub> O (c)	205.5	1.78	0.98	1.02

 $\label{eq:table_state} \textbf{Table S1} \ Structural \ parameters \ and \ adsorption \ energies \ of \ adsorbed \ H_2O \ in \ different \ configurations.$ 

**Figure S1** Top and side views of the optimized low-lying configurations of  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (110D)-1×1surface with 1 H<sub>2</sub>O adsorbed ( $\theta_{OH} \approx 4.5 \text{ OH} \cdot \text{nm}^{-2}$ ) in liquid paraffin, with their relative adsorption energies of H<sub>2</sub>O in kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup> indicated.



**Figure S2** Potential energy diagram and the structures of initial states (IS), transition states (TS), and final states (FS) for (a) CH<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> formation and (b) CH<sub>3</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub> formation and on the partially hydroxylated  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (110D) surface in liquid paraffin. See Fig. 2 for color coding.

