October 9, 2009

Mr. Steve Church  
Research Division  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA  95812

RE:  ETAAC Advanced Technology Development Draft Report

Dear Mr. Church:

I am writing on behalf of the California Stationary Fuel Cell Collaborative’s Industry Advisory Panel to urge the Economic and Technology Advancement Advisory Committee to specifically call out stationary fuel cells in its final Advanced Technology Development report.

My company, Plug Power, is pleased to stand with colleagues in the fuel cell industry as well as the customers/end users to further the deployment of fuel cells in California and throughout the United States. We strive to increase product offerings while increasing efficiencies and further reducing emissions. ETAAC is in an unprecedented position to help remove some of the barriers to commercialization that exist and expedite the above improvements.

The economic and environmental benefits offered by fuel cell technology naturally align with the broad strategies articulated in the ETAAC Plan. Stationary fuel cell systems provide clean, reliable energy generation. These systems can be deployed to operate in parallel with the grid, as independent energy sources, as energy storage devices, or to complement solar and wind generating systems. With a higher efficiency than conventional power generation, little or no pollution and greater flexibility in installation and operation, stationary fuel cell systems offer commercially viable alternatives to existing power sources.

Specifically, the Industry Advisory Panel strongly echoes the recommendations outlined in the NFCRC letter dated October 9, 2009 on the same topic. California must add a “Stationary Fuel Cells” section in the ETAAC Advanced Technology Development Report to support the operation of stationary fuel cells on natural gas and/or renewable fuels for the local high efficiency and low emissions production of electricity for both grid support and support of more electric transportation. This technology is cost competitive, provides significant value, and significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

In sum, fuel cells should be among the important technologies singled out in the ETAAC plan for reducing GHG emissions in the Golden State and helping the state meet its far-reaching clean energy objectives.
Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at (518) 738-0369 or via e-mail at katrina_fritzintwala@plugpower.com.

Sincerely,

Katrina Fritz Intwala
Chair, CaSFCC Industry Advisory Panel
Vice President, Government and Public Relations, Plug Power Inc.