

Subject: Comments on draft ETAAC Report

From: Michael Simon <transpower@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Wed, 12 Dec 2007 14:33:09 -0800 (PST)

To: schurch@arb.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Church,

I would like to commend the ARB on the Economic and Technology Advancement Advisory Committee (ETAAC) draft report on California Climate Solutions (dated November 15, 2007), which outlines numerous worthwhile solutions for reducing greenhouse gases and air toxins.

I'm pleased that the report identifies hydrogen-based transportation as a potential solution, and that reference is made to the California Zero Emission Bus Program. Hydrogen offers one of the few solutions that can eliminate all emissions while also reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The ZEB will serve as a vital catalyst for getting these technologies into use in vehicle fleets. One suggestion is that the report could have a greater discussion of hydrogen-burning internal combustion engines, which have the potential to power vehicles and generate electricity at a lower cost than fuel cells. I believe the draft report also provides valuable recommendations regarding expanded use of rail for passenger transport and goods movement. As suggested, high-speed passenger rail can help reduce reliance on air travel and freight rail is more efficient than using trucks. In this area, I would suggest that the report specifically recommend use of magnetic levitation ("maglev") and other variants of linear motor technology. Such technologies can eliminate emissions while avoiding the need for electrified third rails or overhead power lines, and maglev offers additional benefits in terms of high speed, quiet operation, and low maintenance.

Sincerely,

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