



Fighting Hunger • Feeding Hope

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January 26, 2022

Honorable Liane Randolph, Chair

California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Assistance to Procure an Electric Truck for Food Deliveries

Chair Randolph and California Air Resources Board Members:

Heart of Compassion Distribution is a 501(c)3 nonprofit food bank, Tax ID 42-1573926, assisting those in need since 2003. Our mission is to be a lighthouse of volunteers fighting poverty and restoring hope. Our current twice-weekly food distributions impact families and individuals in multiple cities across LA County, including, but not limited to, Whittier, Norwalk, Downey, Santa Fe Springs, and Los Angeles. We also distribute weekly to smaller food pantries and other organizations across the county.

During Fiscal Year 20-21, we distributed more than \$44 million worth of food, PPE, cleaning supplies, and other household necessities to those in need and to our partner agencies. We were able to accomplish this with a 100% volunteer labor force.

During the COVID pandemic, we partnered with local elected officials, including State Senator Bob Archuleta, Assemblymembers Cristina Garcia and Blanca Rubio, Los Angeles County Supervisors Hilda Solis and Janice Hahn, LA County Sheriff Alex Villanueva, mayor and council of Montebello, mayor

and council of Whittier, mayor and council of Maywood, and mayor and council of Azusa. Besides goods and items, we worked to minimize our environmental footprint by recycling cardboard and plastics, and by having an onsite compost pile to divert additional refuse from the landfills.

We've been extraordinarily impacted by the high cost of fuel. We've received a \$350,000 grant from the South Coast Air Quality Management District to purchase electric TRU-equipped trailers. We want to transition from diesel and gas-fueled bobtail trucks to an electric fleet, which would not only be more cost efficient, but also beneficial for the environment as we make our many donation pickups and deliveries to disadvantaged communities.

We are requesting the Board's help in identifying and securing funding for a BYD truck with an electric motor and a refrigerated box. Currently, HVIP vouchers can only be used towards vehicles manufactured in the last 2 years, but we've located a 2018 BYD electric truck, which would be heavily discounted. If we're able to secure CARB funding for this, this would be the first vehicle to help us convert our fleet to zero emissions.

I am sending this background information, so the Board will be able to reflect upon this letter during my remarks during the public comment section of the board meeting.

Thank you for partnering with us in fighting food insecurity in Los Angeles County. Your wonderful team has been instrumental in helping on and off for the past 10 plus years. This started around 2012 when we ran into a compliance issue and your enforcement team helped us gain compliance by enlisting the CARB CCDET community colleges to help us bring our aging fleet into compliance. Our challenges remain as we are cash challenged. We hope to continue this partnership to meet our mutual environmental and food insecurity goals to that those living in disadvantaged communities in the greater LA region have access to life's basic needs: food and a healthy environment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Velasco', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Velasco  
Vice President