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March 20, 2017

Mr. Mark Williams
California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812

RE: Volkswagen Settlement Fund – Please Require 50% Funding of 3rd Party Proposals

Dear Mr. Williams and the California Air Resources Board,

The Community Environmental Council (CEC) sits on the Steering Committee of Plug-in Central Coast, a group funded by the California Energy Commission to prepare Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties for electric vehicles. We've produced a ZEV Readiness Plans, helped install over 300 charging stations, and helped prepare 100's of governments, businesses, condo associations, and others for EVs. We produce the Santa Barbara Green Car Show, a large static show and Ride and Drive event with automaker support that attracts 35,000 attendees annually, and host the regional Drive Electric week and other community events. We are very in tune with all niches of the EV ecosystem, from the drivers to charging station companies to automakers.

CEC is very concerned that VW's \$800 million settlement will be allowed to be spent entirely by VW in a way that centralizes the investment, overwhelms smaller competitors, and doesn't allow for a diversity of innovative approaches. We request that at least 50% of the settlement funds go to 3rd party activities that will deliver statewide, regional, and local solutions for EV infrastructure development, marketing, and outreach. VW has stated they received almost 200 proposals from California, and there is surely a wide variety of excellent projects proposed for the solicitation.

As we saw with the EV Project and NRG settlement, large centralized programs can experience delays and leave stranded assets. \$800 million is a very large sum to invest. We support efforts to diversify expenditure of VW's funds and reduce the risk of a centralized approach by funding 3rd party statewide, regional, and local projects. Diversifying VW's settlement investments will spur the innovation and market competition needed to reach 1.5 million EVs on California's roads by 2025.

Sincerely,

Michael Chiacos
Director of Energy and Climate Programs