

April 5, 2017

Ms. Mary Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
1011 I Street, P.O. Box 2415
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Volkswagen ZEV Investment Plan

Dear Chair Nichols:

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) strongly supports the current Volkswagen (VW) ZEV Investment Plan. Volkswagen has proposed to spend \$200M in California to fund the first phase of their plan, and Sacramento has been identified as both a "Green Cities" site and as one of five metropolitan areas designated for EV infrastructure. Sacramento is well positioned to be a recipient of this first phase of VW funding, can demonstrate immediate, significant and measurable impacts, and has existing programs that nest well with the proposed VW projects..

Beginning in 2013, the Sacramento Region formed the Sacramento Plug-in Electric Vehicle (PEV) Collaborative. Branded as *TakeCharge Sacramento* and led by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the PEV Collaborative used state of the art transportation modeling tools combined with up to the minute data from the UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies to develop a planning document for regional EV charging, training and outreach. *TakeCharge Sacramento* accessed the resources of its wide range of members including SMAQMD, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), the Sacramento Employment Training Agency (SETA), vehicle fleet operators from the City of Sacramento and the County of Sacramento, the Sacramento Clean Cities Coalition (SCCC), the Sacramento Electric Vehicle Owners Association (SacEV), Valley Vision, and many other participants on an ad hoc basis.

In 2015, Sacramento County reassembled the PEV Collaborative partners, to begin work on several initiatives to accelerate the process of ZEV adoption and Electric Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE) implementation. This collaborative partnership makes it possible for the county to adopt EV permit streamlining procedures for expediting EV charging installations, modify its zoning code allowing EV charging by right in all land uses and provides parking incentives where EV charging is installed. The County also updates its parking facilities to include EV chargers with ADA accessibility. In addition, the County provides EV chargers in public parking garages, and supported SMUD's installation of two public fast chargers at the Sacramento International Airport.. This partnership also makes it possible for SACOG to update the regional EVSE readiness plan, now titled *TakeCharge II: Infrastructure Roadmap*.

Sacramento is in an excellent position for VW and the ARB to demonstrate innovative ZEV infrastructure. Our region sits at the intersection of three major California freeways and serves as a critical location for long-distance and local charging requirements. We are particularly excited to help deploy ultra-fast charging to promote the next generation of ZEV. Locating ZEV infrastructure in Sacramento also supports direct use by state fleets like Caltrans and Department of General Services and indirectly helps promote ZEV technology throughout the center of state government.

The SMAQMD is currently implementing a \$1.1M, CARB-funded electric car share program serving three low-income housing sites and one site that serves both low-income housing and the Sacramento Intermodal Station. Operation is expected to begin in mid-April, and the official ribbon cutting is on May 5. SMAQMD is currently working with CARB on a \$1M "Plus-Up" that will significantly expand the car share program. SMAQMD is also currently implementing a CARB-funded, \$7.7M, EV school bus project that will place 29 electric school buses in three schools operating significant routes in disadvantaged communities in Sacramento. The ribbon cutting event for this program is targeted for May 12.

In addition to the two projects currently funded, SMAQMD is developing an EFMP Plus-Up Program in conjunction with CARB staff. This will be a \$3.3M to \$6.6M program to assist low-income residents in disadvantaged communities to turn in older, higher emitting cars in exchange for new(er), low- to zero-emission cars. This program is expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2017.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District has secured more than \$30 million in competitive grants for EVs and EV infrastructure with the City and other partners. Recently recognized as the 2016 Alliance to Save Energy Star for Transportation Efficiency, SMUD offers a commitment of approximately \$3.1 million annually for customer-facing light duty EV programs through 2020. SMUD recently expanded its PEV customer incentives through its SMUD Residential Drive Electric Program.

Effective 2017, SMUD is offering a \$599 rebate to customers who purchase or lease a PEV. This rebate covers the average cost of charging a PEV in the SMUD territory for two years. Incentives for workplace and multi-family charging are also expanding, with plans for 200 incentives at nearly \$1,500 each. SMUD is further working to provide incentives for DC fast charging, support community bus partner electrification, and conduct advanced research on fleet and workplace charging needs, including medium- and heavy-duty fuel switching research.

The Sacramento Clean Cities Coalition works aggressively to educate fleet operators and the general public about PEV and EVSE. In 2015 and 2016, they produced or sponsored 12 workshops that included presentations on EVs and EVSE, and sponsored or co-sponsored five EV ride and drive events. They have produced or sponsored four workshops in 2017 where EV and EVSE have been featured, and are developing plans to work with SMUD, SacEV, Charge Across Town and the statewide PEV Collaborative (now called "Veloz") to produce EV ride and drive events in the region.

Sacramento is well positioned to both receive the proposed VW funding for Green Cities and EV Infrastructure, and to immediately achieve significant, measureable benefits from the implementation of the proposed programs. We encourage CARB to approve the proposed VW ZEV Investment Plan as currently structured.

Sincerely,



Larry Greene
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

cc:

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