



# Regional Transit

**Sacramento Regional  
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A Public Transit Agency  
and Equal Opportunity Employer

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Public Transit Since 1973

April 7, 2017

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

## **Re: SUPPORT for Volkswagen's California Zero Emission Vehicle Investment Plan**

On behalf of the Sacramento Regional Transit District (Sac RT), I write to express our strong support of Volkswagen's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Investment Plan with the designation of Sacramento as Volkswagen's first Green City.

Sac RT looks forward to the transformational opportunities Volkswagen's proposed program could provide to the Sacramento region's transportation system. Sac RT believes this investment proposal will enhance our communities' connections to public transit and advance achievements towards the state's clean energy and transportation goals while delivering real improvements for disadvantaged communities and working neighborhoods.

Recognizing this unparalleled opportunity, Sac RT enthusiastically voices support for Volkswagen's ZEV Investment Commitment and along with our region's collaborative partners is ready to help implement the use of ZEV technology innovations.

Sacramento has a proven history as a region that leads in green technology, creating the foundation necessary to support the transformational change proposed by Volkswagen's Green City initiative. The following efforts by our region demonstrate Sacramento's strengths in leadership and ability to showcase new programs:

- Sac RT has been an air quality innovator since the 1990s in being the first major transit provider in the state to operate an entire bus fleet on compressed natural gas. Sac RT is pursuing opportunities to pilot the region's first battery-powered electric buses, and continues to implement new efforts to spur transit ridership, expand system coverage and work with our partners and legislators to achieve these goals
- Since beginning its EV program in 1989, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) 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

- The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District offers programs and funding that can leverage the Green City program. With a \$1.4 million ARB grant, the Air District is implementing an electric car share program to construct charging stations in disadvantaged communities throughout the region. The Air District is also implementing the ARB-funded Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program, and will be expending an anticipated \$3.3 million to foster alternative fuels including plug-in hybrid and battery EVs.
- The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) has already set the stage for the Green City program by adopting in 2013 the region's first plug-in EV readiness and infrastructure plan, TakeCharge, followed by ongoing investment in regional electrification planning. SACOG offers a long history of innovative partnerships and collaboration, using one of the nation's most robust transportation modeling and measuring tools in the country, SACSIM. Such tools offer an advanced opportunity for analyzing the relationship between electrification and land use decisions. SACOG has also served as a leader securing grants for EV infrastructure, funding construction of three DC fast chargers to date. Working together with Sacramento County and other partners, SACOG also continues to expand community-wide EV education and streamlining. Work is underway to update guidance for plug-in EV readiness, pursuant to AB 1236 (Electric Vehicle Charging Stations).
- The City of Sacramento was hailed in 2015 as the #1 Green Fleet in North America, with 50% alternative fuels and ongoing investments in electrification. The City has constructed more than 40 EV chargers at public facilities. The City has also succeeded in attaining competitive funding for ambitious projects, securing more than \$400 million in federal, state, and local awards for the multi-modal Downtown Railyards project. With this funding, the City is constructing critical public infrastructure to support a mixed-use, transit-oriented community at the nation's 7th busiest Amtrak station, the Sacramento Valley Station. The station is a designated Transit Priority Area in the 2016 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, serving regional light rail, transit, and Amtrak routes, in addition to future streetcar and high speed rail. Situated at the confluence of key national routes on the US Department of Transportation's national electric vehicle charging corridor, Sacramento Valley Station is a central location to support electrification and clean, multi-modal trip chaining. With one DC fast charger already operational and two electric car share chargers under construction, the site is an exemplary location for quick wins in electrification.

The aforementioned examples of successes in the Sacramento region demonstrate that strong partnerships have been vital both for realizing and disseminating ambitious achievements and demonstrate the region's capability to not just tackle big issues, but also to follow through with the commitment to serve as a resource for sharing new solutions. These programs also illustrate the region's capacity to promote ZEV usage in

the community, to educate the public, change behaviors, as well as track performance of the program.

The Sacramento region is equipped to move forward to the next generation of innovation in green and intelligent transportation systems to address commute patterns and for a positive impact. Sac RT could be central in ZEV sharing/public transit services and the Sacramento region's experience demonstrates that creative solutions require a solid collaboration with vision, experience, and proven real-world results.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 556-0441 or by email at [HLi@sacrt.com](mailto:HLi@sacrt.com).

Sincerely,



Henry Li  
General Manager/CEO