



April 7, 2017

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

TRE: Volkswagen Settlement Fund – Please Invest in Early Stage ZEV Entrepreneurs

Dear Mr. Williams and the California Air Resources Board,

The California Clean Energy Fund (CalCEF)— recommends that VW settlement funds be used to identify, develop, and promote California's most promising ZEV entrepreneurs.

VW settlement funds should be used to invest in early stage ZEV concepts, particularly those originating from and serving Disadvantaged Communities. Such an investment would usher in a new era of transportation technology while creating opportunity for those who need it most.

California's forward-thinking, ambitious energy and transportation policies are prompting entrepreneurs, innovators, and researchers to conceptualize new technological approaches and solutions for achieving greater ZEV adoption.

These early-stage ZEV concepts are dependent upon scientific breakthroughs, which are difficult to predict, need to be acted upon quickly, and can occur across a wide variety of scientifically specialized areas.

To successfully bring their ideas to market, ZEV innovators must have access to multiple rounds of investment over several years. However, funding opportunities for ZEV concepts are limited, and many federal and state funding programs are often cumbersome, unwieldy, and slow-to-react to nascent ZEV technologies.

To fulfill this need, CalCEF suggests the formation of an innovative public-private partnership between the California Energy Commission (CEC) and a diverse group of public universities, community colleges, a national laboratory, fund development experts, sustainability and equity specialists, technology clusters, incubators, and accelerators.

Together, these industry leaders will identify today's most promising ZEV entrepreneurs and support them in the development of novel and cost-effective solutions capable of fundamentally transforming mobility in California.

This proposed fund should be designed to attract significant private sector interest and leverage external capital to greatly extend the reach of the initiative.

+1 415.957.0167
www.calcef.org
5 Third Street, Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94103

If California is to achieve its aggressive ZEV and social equity goals, then the state must take dramatic measures to accelerate the development, commercialization, and financing of innovative, community sourced, cost-effective solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Bartlett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben Bartlett
Director, Strategic Partnerships
California Clean Energy Fund