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Automotive Fuel Cell Cooperation
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Cal/EPA Air Resources Board
California Energy Commission
Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
South Coast AQMD
U.S. Department of Energy
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UC Davis-ITS

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Annette Hebert, Chief Emissions Compliance
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On behalf of the members of the California Fuel Cell Partnership, we appreciate that ARB is seeking inclusion of hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles in the first phase of VW settlement funding, supporting both technologies in this ZEV Investment commitment. As you know, in less than one year nearly 1,000 people have leased or purchased an FCEV and this week station number 25 opened in Del Mar.

As you look at the Volkswagen plan on February 22 as it applies to hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles, we'd like to offer the following considerations:

- Quickly expanding the number of hydrogen stations is *the single most important element for increasing FCEV deployment*. The VW settlement money can leverage the ARFVTP funding and make it go farther by building more stations, faster. The state's own [analysis through AB8](#) highlights insufficient hydrogen infrastructure and supply in the near term—which would be the greatest hindrance to consumer adoption of fuel cell ZEVs can significantly reduce the time needed to commission stations.
- Public awareness of vehicles and stations is also vital. CaFCP and it's members are introducing a public awareness campaign in early 2017—*Powered by the fastest molecule on Earth*—and ask that the VW plan cover dissemination of this campaign as well as the three plug-in advertising campaigns discussed at the PEV Collaborative meeting. In any case, all VW settlement-related ZEV public outreach activities should include both ZEV technologies to maximize ZEV awareness and adoption.
- Finally, we would recommend that the VW plan target education. In particular, technician training for fuel cell cars and buses, and hydrogen stations such as the accredited program offered by Rio Hondo Community College. We see expanding this program to other community college campuses will help the industry grow, and having a trained labor force is a proven driver of economic development.

CaFCP and its members are very interested in partnering with ARB to ensure that the VW plan is complementary of other investments, as impactful as possible, and generates data that will be beneficial in growing fuel cell ZEV deployment in California. We appreciate ARB's history of enabling all ZEV technologies and avoiding picking winners and losers, letting the marketplace and customers determine the best approaches to a clean transportation market.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this settlement plan.

Sincerely,

William Elrick
Executive Director