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*Breathe California of
Sacramento-Emigrant Trails is
dedicated to healthy air and
preventing lung and other air-
pollution related diseases by
partnering with youth, advocating
public policy, supporting air
pollution research, and educating
the public.*



April 10, 2017

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

RE: Support for Volkswagen Settlement California ZEV Investment Plan

Dear Chair Nichols,

On behalf of Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails (BREATHE), we write in strong support of designating the City of Sacramento as Electrify America's first Green City. BREATHE fights for clean air and healthy lungs in the Sacramento Region; Volkswagen's Zero Emission Vehicle Investment Plan will undoubtedly bring cleaner air to our region. We believe Sacramento to be uniquely ready to maximize the value of these dollars as the city has a track record of superb collaboration between government, non-profits, business, and other community stakeholders. For example, Sacramento, under the leadership of Tim Taylor of our air district, is incredibly active in the California Clean Cities organization. Additionally, I would cite the Cleaner Air Partnership as a distinct show of collaboration and one that is the gold standard for business, non-profit partnerships in the nation. The designation of Green City and the investment of ZEV dollars in our community will spark innovation, ensure collaboration, and advance clean air in Sacramento as well as the entire State.

In addition to its unmatched dedication to collaboration across many interests, Sacramento has a number of other attributes that make it the best choice to receive Volkswagen's ZEV investment dollars. Sacramento's population sits at about 2 million making it large enough to accurately test innovations, but not so large that only a select few residents will benefit from investments; investing in Sacramento will bring measurable change though out the whole region. As California's capital, Sacramento is the State's policy hub. This presents an incredible opportunity for policymakers from all over the state to see the important changes investing in ZEV can bring to a community. Upon seeing the effects of ZEV investments first-hand, state decision makers will inevitably introduce policy favoring ZEVs.

Most important to BREATHE, Sacramento is unique in its unfortunate and distinct air quality issues. Sacramento is located at the union of three major freight routes, which bring harmful, localized air pollutants to those living throughout the region. Sacramento's geography is such that air pollution emitted in this region is trapped and has a longer-lasting, negative effect on the lungs of community members. While its geography is unfortunate, it also presents an opportunity for drastic, quantifiable change with the introduction

of ZEVs. Electrification of Freight would go a long way in improving air quality and lung health throughout Sacramento and the State.

Along with its demographic and geographic attributes, Sacramento has a history of effectively implementing investments to bring positive change. In 2015, the City of Sacramento was praised for being the number one Green Fleet in North America. 50 percent of fuels used in Sacramento's fleet are comprised of low-carbon alternatives to fossil fuels making for a much healthier city. The City's fleet has 53 battery-electric vehicles and hybrids, along with 2 hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. To accompany its impressive fleet, the City of Sacramento operates 90 EV charging stations. Sacramento's own investment into a clean fleet displays an existing dedication to clean and electric vehicles that can only be made stronger with the investment of outside funds. In other cities, large portions of this investment would likely have to go to starting ZEV programs; in Sacramento, these funds will strengthen and enhance existing programs.

The decision of which of California's many amazing communities to invest in is not an easy one and we do not expect the California Air Resources Board to rush to a judgment. However, we do believe that after taking the appropriate time and engaging in careful thought and dialogue, Sacramento will be the clear choice for the Green City designation and the investment of these dollars. This investment in ZEVs would benefit any community, but with Sacramento's particular geography, demographics, partners, and leadership, this investment would reap the maximum return.

California deserves clean air and Californians deserve healthy lungs. This significant investment into ZEVs will clean the air and change lives in our region and quickly spark positive change in the rest of the State. BREATHE hopes that CARB will take its time with this decision and consider every attribute; we believe that through a thoughtful decision making process, Sacramento will emerge as the clear choice for this investment and the Green City distinction.

Sincerely,

Rick Bettis and Sue Teranishi
Policy Committee
Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails