



Monday, 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,

As a network designed to promote greater climate resilience coordination at the regional and local level across the six-county Sacramento region, the Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative (CRC) is writing to express our strong and enthusiastic support for designating Sacramento as Electrify America's first Green City and for proposing investment in community charging in Sacramento as part of Volkswagen's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Investment Plan.

The Collaborative believes that Sacramento is a strong partner that is primed to maximize, leverage, and expand upon this investment. The CRC also believes that this investment will help make the broader region more resilient to the impacts of climate change, advance the adoption and penetration of electric vehicles in our region, and provide models for other communities to pursue in support of the same goals. Further, it will connect our disadvantaged communities to jobs, housing, and other resources in a way that will also provide local, regional and statewide benefits.

The CRC believes that the Sacramento region is a critical location to develop new, transformational programs. Sacramento is one of the most diverse communities in the nation, with significant potential to bring new ideas and service models to scale.

- With a central urban core ringed by commuter cities and suburban/rural communities of varying income levels and demographics, Sacramento is an optimal testing ground for ZEV deployment across a regional footprint. The Green City program can help Sacramento catalyze ZEV market growth not just in the City of Sacramento but also in major commuter hubs like Roseville, Folsom, Elk Grove, and Davis, and have a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- We have strong existing partnerships across the community, and across public and private sectors. The CRC is a prime example of this partnership ethic and the strength of existing relationships, as are the Cleaner Air Partnership, Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT), Sacramento EV Owners and the Clean Cities Coalition, to name a few. This tradition of collaboration will help leverage the investment in Sacramento to benefit the broader region, and magnify program impact.
- Sacramento has a long-standing commitment to sustainability and resiliency and has demonstrated success in achieving their environmental goals. As a member of the CRC, Sacramento has committed to partnering with stakeholders from across sectors and



jurisdictions to find regional solutions to our shared challenges – extreme heat, wildfires, extreme weather, drought, and more.

- Our elected leadership recognizes that the region needs to accelerate ZEV adoption to meet Sacramento County’s share of the Governor’s target of 1.5 million ZEVs by 2025. The regional electric utility, SMUD, is a leader in electric vehicle research and programming with existing incentives for EV ownership. SMUD is already an important and critical partner in expanding EV charging infrastructure and is expected to continue in this role to support this opportunity.

The need for investment in Sacramento is high, and will help address the needs of our disadvantaged communities and the broader air quality of our region:

- Sacramento’s disadvantaged communities, which rank in the top 10% of disadvantaged census tracts in the state, will benefit from increased access to clean and affordable transportation options, including low-cost ZEV vehicles, public charging infrastructure, and new car share programs. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District’s “Our Community CarShare” program, which provides free all-electric car share to low-income communities, is a testimony to our commitment to improving ZEV transportation access for disadvantaged communities. With public, private, and-nonprofit partners including the City of Sacramento, Mutual Housing, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, SMUD, and Zipcar, and funded by California Climate Investments, the program further demonstrates our ability to forge strong regional partnerships.
- Sacramento, which has been ranked the sixth-most polluted city in the nation, and the greater Sacramento region, will benefit from accelerated air quality improvements, particularly our disadvantaged communities that face higher health disparities, including increased rates of asthma and respiratory disease.

The Green Cities work will help to address access and transportation gaps in our communities and leverage our region’s strengths by catalyzing options for clean and affordable transportation, including low-cost vehicles, public charging infrastructure, and new car share and shuttle programs. The Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative will enthusiastically support the Sacramento Green Cities work and look forward to a very successful regional collaboration. Thank you for your consideration of Sacramento for this exciting work.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ave
Steering Committee Chair
Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative



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