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People's Lives

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

April 6th, 2014

Dear Chair Nichols,

Los Rios Community College District endorses of the Volkswagen's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Investment Plan, including the designation of Sacramento as the first Green City. The four colleges embraced their responsibility to empower underrepresented segments of our community and ensure that all populations have the access, education, support and opportunities to succeed in the sustainable world of tomorrow.

Los Rios has developed partnerships across the community to deliver on this today. Educational programs are building high demand skills for the jobs in the renewable economy including:

- Alternative Fuels Certificate
- Solar Energy Systems Design, Estimation, and. Sales
- Electronic Systems Technology

Alternative fuels is an emerging career field that is rapidly growing. The ARC program prepares automotive technology students for entrance into this field, from servicing alternative fuels vehicles to developing alternative fuels technology. ARC has been committed to the training and support of alternative fuel vehicle technology for over a decade. During that time we have seen a continually increasing need for alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure and support in the greater Sacramento region. After careful review it is clear that Sacramento's Green City proposal addresses these needs and builds for a cleaner future.

Beyond offering educational opportunities to all aspects of the community, the colleges have established long term relationship with EV partners in the region, as exemplified by:

- Providing training, equipment and materials on electric vehicle technology to other high school and college faculty throughout the northern California region.
- Creation of cut-away Nissan LEAF to display EV internals to visitors of SMUD's Energy Center
- Hosting the Annual Solar Electric Car Competition (now in its 12 year) drawing regional high school students to design, construct and race model electric cars powered by solar.
- Established the American River College as the leader in alternative fuels training in Northern California. With classes that feature hands on training for hybrids, EVs and Fuel Cell powered vehicles, the College is committed to training the EV technicians of tomorrow.
- Partnered with SacEV and ClipperCreek to create an annual scholarship award presented to students in the Alternative Fuels Program with a clear passion for electric transportation and have economic need.



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- Creation of a cut away Fuel Cell Car for display in the California Automobile Museum to illustrate the components of the Hydrogen Fuel Cell vehicles.
- Together, with Sacramento Electric Vehicle Associations, the College promotes Electric Vehicles at events and lectures.

The Los Rios College system is fully committed to continue and expand work as a partner to deliver transformational educational outcomes for all demographics in the Sacramento region. Including scholarships specific to the Automotive Alternative Fuels program, the ARC Foundation, through generous contributions from donors, offers more than 170 scholarships, totaling approximately \$150,000 for students attending American River College.

To help transition drivers to EVs, the Los Rios Colleges have installed over 20 EV Chargers with free charging for students and faculty. In addition with support from the Greater Sacramento New Car Dealers Association and the State of California Strong workforce program American River College is in the beginning stages of building a mobile alternative fuel vehicle training laboratory to spread the knowledge and support of AFVs by providing training, tools, equipment, vehicles and support to our regional educational partners throughout the greater Sacramento region.

With strong partnerships, the Los Rios Community College District brings the educational expertise and capability to educate and support the alternative fuel vehicle needs of our next generation of citizens in the greater Sacramento area. We look forward to the opportunity to support with implementation of this exciting program.

Sincerely,

Benjamin French  
Automotive Program Department Co-Chair  
American River College  
916-484-8671

cc: Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor  
Kevin de León, Senate President Pro Tempore  
Anthony Rendon, Assembly Speaker  
Doris Matsui, Congresswoman  
ARB Board Members  
Darrell Steinberg, Mayor of the City of Sacramento  
Electrify America