

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	25-ALT-01
Project Title:	2025–2026 Investment Plan Update for the Clean Transportation Program
TN #:	266873
Document Title:	Hydrogen stations funding
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Omar Samiullah
Submitter Role:	Other Interested Person
Submission Date:	10/28/2025 11:01:39 AM
Docketed Date:	10/28/2025

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Submitted On: 10/28/2025
Docket Number: 25-ALT-01*

Hydrogen stations funding

Hydrogen fueling infrastructure remains a critical component of a comprehensive strategy to achieve deep decarbonization across the transportation sector. While battery-electric vehicles contribute significantly to emission reductions, they alone cannot meet the full range of mobility demands, particularly for light-duty, heavy-duty, and multimodal applications. Hydrogen fuel enables fast refueling times, longer driving ranges, and flexibility for both passenger and commercial uses. As energy consumption increases, especially with the expansion of AI data centers and high-load systems, hydrogen offers a scalable, complementary pathway to relieve pressure on the electric grid while advancing zero-emission goals. Evidence from Washington State shows hydrogen can be dispensed at a fraction of California's cost, demonstrating that well-structured supply and distribution systems can deliver efficiency and affordability.

The recent federal actions that appear to have reduced or improperly diverted funding dedicated to hydrogen infrastructure development have disrupted progress toward a balanced clean fuel economy. With California's renewal of its Low Carbon Fuel Standard credits, there is now a narrow but crucial opportunity to restore and expand investment in hydrogen stations for light-duty and multimodal uses statewide. Failure to act would risk slowing California's role as a national leader in alternative fuels and weaken overall decarbonization efforts. Prompt action to restore fair funding mechanisms and regulatory support is essential to ensure that clean hydrogen remains an accessible, cost-effective, and strategic tool in the nation's clean energy transition.