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Docket 15-ALT-01 - 2016-2017 Investment Plan

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



18 November 2015

California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Docket No. 15-ALT-01 – 2016-2017 Investment Plan

Dear Commissions, Staff and Members of the Advisory Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the California Energy Commission's 2016-2017 Investment Plan Update and applaud the Commission's continued efforts to support the deployment of advanced transportation technologies to help meet California's important climate goals.

Founded in 1892, the Red and White Fleet is a family-owned company offering unique sightseeing excursions and ferry services throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. We operate four ferries and host more than 500,000 visitors from around the world each year. Red and White Fleet is committed to environmental sustainability, supporting community education and the preservation of San Francisco's unique history.

As the Chairman and CEO of the Red and White Fleet, we welcome advances in maritime technologies that will improve the efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of operating on the Bay. Traditional diesel engines are becoming much cleaner and environmentally friendly, but there is technology available that will lead to the development of zero emission boats powered by hydrogen that will further improve the air and water quality of San Francisco and the Bay. These new zero-emission ferries could alleviate the traffic congestion, improve air quality, and support the deployment of a much larger hydrogen fueling infrastructure that could serve both marine and land-based fleets - cars, buses, construction equipment and trucks.

We encourage you to ensure that there is flexibility in the 2016-2017 Investment Plan to support maritime projects such as a hydrogen fueled ferry and the necessary high-capacity hydrogen fueling stations. Projects like these meet the policy goals outlined in the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program.

Thank you,

Thomas C. Escher

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