

May 10, 2011

California Energy Commission James D. Boyd, Commissioner 1516 Ninth Street, MS-34 Sacramento, CA 95814-5512 DOCKET

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RE: CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Dear Commissioner Boyd:

The City of San José was encouraged to hear you expressed support for moving forward on the Center of Excellence and several other items in the current year's Investment Plan. It is important not to miss federal funding for Centers of Excellence and Regional Innovation Clusters simply because we do not have a California Energy Commission (CEC) State endorsed Center. The City wishes to express their support for both moving forward on the Center of Excellence as proposed in the current year's Investment Plan, as well as providing funding for the Center in the draft Investment Plan being developed for next year.

Based upon CEC publication of the current year AB118 Investment Plan, and development of a *Medium-Heavy Duty Clean Transportation Center of Excellence*, the ETDC designed the team thought to be most strategic to commercializing clean transportation technologies. The Silicon Valley region is in the process of assembling an existing group of private sector partners, including Government Capital, Mineta Institute, De Anza College, Silicon Valley Clean Cities Coalition, Breathe California, Business Cluster Development, and Lawrence Berkeley National Labs among others. The purpose was to assemble Green Transportation Faculty and a top-flight team Clean Transportation team to respond to the RFP that the CEC was supposed to issue after the July 2010 notice.

In addition, the City is renovating a facility in San Jose to be used for clean technology demonstration and prototype manufacturing which specifically includes space for the ETDC and for Medium-Heavy Duty Clean Transportation projects to be carried out by Bay Area companies, including CEC grant recipients in advancement of San Jose's ambitious Green Vision alternative fuel fleet and economic development goals. It also includes space for workforce training related to clean transportation.

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The City feels this Center is extremely important and that the Bay Area can be highly competitive, but many partners have expressed concern about the CEC's intentions to act.

We thank you in advance for your critical leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Kim Walesh

Director of Economic Development

Chief Strategist