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CA Labor Federation WED Comments

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Additional Comments for 2019-2020 Investment Plan Update for the Clean Transportation Program

Workforce Training and Development and Equity

The California Labor Federation commends the California Energy Commission and work the staff put into creating this comprehensive investment plan. Recognizing that the innovations focused on in this plan are critical to the future of California, we would like to recommend that it is crucial that any form of workforce development funded by this plan should focus on creating careers that have a future for all Californians.

Maximizing Impact

It is critical that the Energy Commission prioritizes this Workforce and Training Development funding to high road employers that provide good quality sustainable jobs. High Road Employers are those who offer jobs with good wages and benefits (medical, retirement, sick and disability leave), support for ongoing skill training and employee advancement, ensure a safe and healthy workplace, guarantee adequate hours with predictable schedules that allow employees to provide and care for their families and where workers rights to collectively bargain are respected. Low road, low quality jobs that do not meet these standards for good jobs have high turnover rates and provide limited opportunity for career advancement and employee economic security, calling into the question the return on investment of the limited Clean Transportation Program funds dedicated to Workforce Training and Development.

We would like to thank the Energy Commission for the inclusion of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group in our last Advisory Committee meeting. In previous Plans, it was unclear on the role they would play in the larger review process of the Plan. Their recommendations share many of the same ideas we have had. In particular, the “expanding support for High Quality Workforce Development” and to “increase transparency around benefiting disadvantaged communities.” Regarding increased transparency and workforce development, the Labor Federation would like to review the results of previously funded workforce development projects. On page 4 in the current Investment Plan, it states that as of March 2019 the Clean Transportation Program has invested \$30.2 Million that has resulted in the funding of 17,440 Trainees. That is impressive, and we commend the Energy Commission on this investment. However, we would like to know the results or any data you may have of the Training that these Trainees have received. For example, did the training lead to job placement, any kind of career pathway and are they still working in this industry?

Recommendations

We recommend that employers receiving Clean Transportation Program funding coordinate and align with the State Workforce Board and Labor Agency guidelines and efforts. It would be helpful for the proposed plan to reflect the work that has been done in partnership with other State Agencies as well as the best practices that have emerged from this type of coordination. Focusing on these best practices and lessons learned from these Workforce Partnerships, have

the potential of maximizing return on investment and enhancing the social good for California Workers

We also highly recommend that companies who are being funded by this plan to focus on expanding their partnerships with economic development agencies, local chambers of commerce, the state labor federation and state building trades councils, community-based organizations and other associations that are building a sustainable economy with a broadly shared prosperity. We would like to thank the Energy Commission in highlighting some of this work being done (see page 91). The work being done by California Transit Works is a prime example of this. California Transit Works' partnership of Transit Agencies from across the State, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), local community colleges and other key stakeholders have been essential to advancing equity, expanding career pathways and addressing climate-related issues.

In the emerging green economy and to develop high quality sustainable jobs, companies receiving Clean Transportation Program funds should respect their workers' right to a voice on the job by joining unions and engaging in collective bargaining.

Thank you for the opportunity,

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