Docket Number: 17-EVI-01

Project Title: Block Grant for Electric Vehicle Charger Incentive Projects

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Testimony on definition of communities of concern for San Diego Region
EVCP

Additional submitted attachment is included below.
August 27, 2019

California Energy Commission
Attn: Brian Fauble
Docket Unit, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Docket No. 17-EVI-01
Testimony on definition of “communities of concern” for the San Diego region EVCP

Dear Energy Commission & Staff:

The Alliance for Regional Solutions (www.regionalsolutions.net) is a long-standing collaborative of nonprofit service agencies and governments of North San Diego County, including over 65 nonprofit organizations, eight North County cities (Carlsbad, Oceanside, Poway, San Marcos, Vista, Escondido, Encinitas, and Solana Beach), and the County. Our member organizations are diverse, with educational entities, healthcare providers, social service agencies, government agencies, and philanthropic bodies; we work with almost every community of concern, including low income, minority, disabled, seniors, those with limited English proficiency, and other under-represented groups. We serve thousands of individuals and families dependent on this network of support.

The Alliance is serving as one of the community based organizations (CBOs) contracted by SANDAG to assist with outreach and input for the renewal of the regional transportation plan (RTP). CBO representatives meet monthly, including formal sessions of a Working Group. At the August 1, 2019 Working Group session, a presentation was provided about the proposed Regional Electric Vehicle Charging program. This program will be invaluable in expanding charging stations for electric plug in vehicles in our region, a significant step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Importantly, it is proposed that a minimum 25% of funds for the rebate incentives under this program be set aside for EV stations in “communities of concern.” We applaud and support this proposal. At
the August session it was described that differing definitions of what constitutes a "community of concern" may be applied, with key consequences for the underserved throughout the region, including North County:

The EVCP plans to establish a "communities of concern" definition and commit at least 25 percent of total program funds to installations in these communities. SANDAG/APCD propose that the definition include both disadvantaged communities (DACs) pursuant to Senate Bill 535 (De León, 2012) (SB 535) and low-income communities pursuant to Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez, 2016) (AB 1550).

The attached SANDAG map exhibit accompanied this presentation. Note that if the definition were to be limited to only SB 535 "disadvantaged communities," substantial communities of underserved in the San Diego region would be excluded from the set-aside, including vast portions of North County, the communities that The Alliance for Regional Solutions is established to serve. Put plainly, without including AB 1550 low income, there will be no "communities of concern" under this EVCP project in North County and several other deserving areas in the San Diego region. To illustrate the need, please also see the attached map showing persons in poverty throughout the San Diego region - the darker the color, the more persons in poverty. Communities in North County including Camp Pendleton rival those near downtown San Diego for persons in poverty. We strongly recommend that low-income communities pursuant to Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez, 2016) (AB 1550) be included in the defined geographic areas to be served by this program's set-aside.

We appreciate the ability to bring this need to your attention. Please keep The Alliance for Regional Solutions informed of this decision, and progress toward establishing the Regional Electric Vehicle Charging program.

Sincerely,

Greg Anglea
President, Alliance for Regional Solutions

cc
Susan Freedman
Senior Regional Energy/Climate Planner
San Diego Association of Governments
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101
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SANDAG Map of Assembly Bill 1550 Low-Income Communities and Senate Bill 535 Disadvantaged Communities
Extent of Persons in Poverty - San Diego Region (number of persons in poverty by Census block group. Source: North County Food Policy Council GIS, a project of The Alliance for Regional Solutions)

Legend
Number of people below poverty in San Diego County (ACS 2014)
Population under poverty
- > 1,773 to 2,581
- > 1,116 to 1,773
- > 817 to 1,116
- > 617 to 817
- > 466 to 617
- > 345 to 466
- > 232 to 345
- > 141 to 232
- > 68 to 141
- <= 68