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Proterra Comments on Clean Transportation Investment Plan

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



March 17, 2020

California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95815

RE: 2020-2023 Investment Plan Update for the Clean Transportation Program

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Energy Commission's 2020-2023 Investment Plan Update for the Clean Transportation Program. Proterra strongly supports the effort to deploy zero-emission infrastructure and vehicles in California in order to reduce greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant emissions.

Proterra designs and manufactures the most efficient vehicle in its class with the greatest range per kWh of energy storage. Proterra's Catalyst electric bus achieves up to 25 MPGe compared to a diesel bus and can deliver nearly twice the horsepower and five times better fuel efficiency than a standard diesel vehicle. Proterra electric buses have zero tailpipe emissions or pollutants, eliminating about 230,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions annually for every diesel vehicle replaced. Proterra moved our Corporate Headquarters to Burlingame, California from the East Coast and expanded manufacturing to the City of Industry, California —allowing future zero-emission buses deployed in California to be designed and manufactured by Californians and supported by California supply chains.

Proterra supports the goals of the Clean Transportation Program and its guiding legislation. Specifically, we support the multi-year goal to invest in medium- and heavy-duty infrastructure and vehicles. Within this funding, Proterra recommends increasing funding for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and infrastructure for FY 2020-2021 to its previous \$30 million level. Deploying charging infrastructure remains one of the top challenges for transit agencies looking to transition to a zero-emission fleet and funding for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle infrastructure will help transit agencies in the near term implement the Innovative Clean Transit initiative, as well as accelerate deployment of zero-emission vehicles to airports, school districts, and other public and private fleets. A switch to zero-emission buses presents a critical opportunity to cut pollution, improve local air quality and reduce oil dependence, and we're excited to work with fleet operators across the state to make clean, quiet transportation a reality for all Californians.

Proterra also supports the proposed \$10 million allocation for manufacturing in future years. Previous manufacturing funding has helped make it possible to move Proterra's Headquarters to California, manufacture electric buses in the City of Industry, and



assemble heavy-duty battery systems in Burlingame. These investments have supported bringing good-paying, skilled manufacturing job opportunities and economic development to California.

Additionally, Proterra supports the Energy Commission's commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity and access. Manufacturing provides some of the best jobs in America and Proterra is proud to work with organizations across the state of California to hire workers from underrepresented groups in manufacturing. The Energy Commission's commitment, and efforts to consult with and support projects in disadvantaged and low-income communities, helps provide the benefits of zero-emission technology to the Californians most severely affected by climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the development of the 2020-2023 Investment Plan Update for the Clean Transportation Program. We look forward to continuing to work together to help carry out the goals of the program.

Sincerely,

Brittany Caplin
Director, Government Relations, Proterra