

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Sandy Naranjo
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Prioritize FY 20-21 Funding For School us Replacement Program

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



March 20, 2020

California Energy Commission
Patrick Brecht
Program Manager for the Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan Update
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Re: Prioritize FY 20-21 Funding For School Bus Replacement Program

Dear California Energy Commission (CEC),

We are writing on behalf of Mothers Out Front California, part of a growing national movement of over 35,000 mothers and others who advocate for a swift, complete and just transition to clean, renewable energy. We commend your multi-year funding approach for the *2020-2023 Investment Plan Update for the Clean Transportation Program* to advance California's technology fuels and vehicle types to help meet the state's climate goals by centering on improving air quality and investments in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

We urgently ask, however, that you reconsider your decreased funding proposal for FY 20-21 for Medium-Heavy-Duty (MD-HD) zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure. For the CEC to uplift families in environmental justice and disadvantaged communities, it is critical that funding be increased for MD-HD sector for FY 20-21 and that the school bus replacement program remain a funding priority.

This additional funding is vital to protect children's health. Diesel school buses contain 40 chemicals that are classified as "hazardous air pollutants" under the Clean Air Act. Particulate matter (PM 2.5), nitrogen oxides (NO₂) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) all pose health risks ranging from asthma to heart attacks, strokes and cancer.

Retrofitting diesel buses to reduce pollution reduces respiratory illness episodes and hospital visits by 23% or more. Eliminating diesel pollution altogether--by switching to clean electric buses--will dramatically reduce the health impacts on our children and provide billions of dollars in health benefits.

Electric school buses also have the potential to create energy storage options for utilities through vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology, which will help reduce emissions in the state and will position school districts for possible future additional revenue from their utility.

In addition, investment in electric school buses can create jobs by increasing the need for state-certified electricians to safely install electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including charging technologies and associate electrical infrastructure for zero-emission school buses.

In sum, the CEC's School Bus Replacement Program is vital to protect children's health, create good skilled jobs and meet our California climate goals.

For a healthy environment today and a livable climate tomorrow for all children--and to promote equity and to uplift environmental justice communities--please allocate more funding for the FY 20-21 School Bus Replacement Program.



MOTHERS OUT FRONT

MOBILIZING FOR A LIVABLE CLIMATE

Sincerely,

Sandy Naranjo,
California Organizing Manager
CEC Clean Transportation Advisory Committee Member

