

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Andrea Arjona Amador
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**City of San Jose Comments on the Light Duty Electric Vehicle
Block Grant Design Changes**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

January 19, 2024

California Energy Commission
Sacramento, California

VIA DOCKET

RE: Docket No. 20-TRAN-04 – Comments on the Light Duty Electric Vehicle Block Grant Design Changes

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the City of San Jose I would like to express our appreciation at the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP 2.0) and Communities In Charge (CIC) programs. In response to the questions posed by the CEC staff during the January 8 workshop, we offer the following comments:

1. Consider keeping and expanding eligible expenses for public agencies

We encourage the CEC to keep eligibility of project expenses to include design, engineering, and labor for public agency applicants. Furthermore, we welcome expanding eligible expenses to cover electric service upgrades to retrofit existing facilities that serve underserved communities. The City of San Jose already faces significant barriers to install chargers at city-owned facilities accessible to the public, in part because of the high costs associated with the electrical and engineering upgrades necessary to support EV charging at publicly accessible sites. Further limiting eligible expenses under these programs would significantly increase the barriers for public agencies to participate in the programs.

2. Consider maintaining a flexible funding structure to facilitate participation for public agencies

We encourage the CEC to consider making available staggered funding from the start and midway point of a project for public agencies, non-profits, and smaller property owners, as they may not have the upfront capital to participate in the programs. While delayed reimbursements may be a non-issue for companies, it may dissuade public agencies to apply to the program.

3. Consider maintaining or increasing funding levels to support EV infrastructure in multi-family housing

Multi-family residents and owners of multi-family developments face significant barriers to install EV chargers accessible to all tenants, with electrical upgrades, project, and operational costs being significantly higher when compared to smaller-scale EV infrastructure installations. Reducing the amount of funding for multi-family developments and prioritizing funding for lower cost projects would be detrimental to the state's commitment to advance equity.

We value the opportunity to provide feedback on these programs and appreciate the efforts by the CEC to help expand availability of EV charging in underserved communities. please do not hesitate to contact us for any questions regarding our comments, andrea.arjonaamador@sanjoseca.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrea Arjona Amador
Climate Smart & Electric Mobility Lead
Department of Transportation | City of San José