

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: EVmatch, Inc.
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EVmatch Comments - Community Charging in Urban Areas

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



April 5, 2024

RE: Docket No 20-TRAN-04

Comments on Pre-solicitation Workshop: Community Charging in Urban Areas

Dear California Energy Commission Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Community Charging in Urban Areas funding solicitation. EVmatch, Inc. (EVmatch) strongly supports CEC's proposed solicitation goal to "bring chargers to disadvantaged and low-income communities with the fewest options for public charging."

EVmatch is a California-based, women-owned solutions provider that offers innovative electric vehicle (EV) charging software applications and services. The EVmatch software platform allows EV drivers to easily find, reserve, and pay for use of Level 2 EV charging stations at private sites, including multi-family properties, small and medium-sized businesses, and community gathering sites. EVmatch provides a unique and affordable electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) sharing solution for renters and multi-unit dwellers, many of whom currently face higher barriers to dedicated home charging. EVmatch is committed to increasing equity in the EV and EVSE industries and has been building products and services to advance these goals since its inception in 2016.

We thank CEC staff for conducting its recent Pre-Solicitation Workshop for Community Charging in Urban Areas on March 7th, 2024 and soliciting feedback from community members. We are supportive of the proposed grant funding solicitation and respectfully provide the following comments based on the pre-solicitation workshop:

- Public Availability: We recommend that the proposed requirement of 18 hours of public charging access be reconsidered for Level 2 charging stations, and reduced to 8-12 hours of public access. Based on EVmatch's extensive experience directly deploying shared, community-focused Level 2 EV charging stations, we expect this 18-hour requirement to eliminate a large portion of otherwise well-located, accessible, and well-suited sites that will support the CEC in achieving the stated objectives of this solicitation. Many multi-family, school, library, or faith-based sites may wish to reduce overnight access for security or other reasons, while gladly providing daytime charging access. A 9am-9pm (12 hours) or 9am-5pm (8 hours) public access requirement is more in-line with practical site limitations relative to an 18-hour requirement.
- We recommend a reduced match shared for small and medium-sized for-profit businesses. A 20% match share is a barrier to participation for small and medium-sized businesses (SMB), many of which are well-suited to serve their local communities relative to better resourced enterprise for-profit companies. We recommend the CEC consider a 0-10% match share for SMB grant applicants as defined by the Small Business Administration.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at heather@evmatch.com should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Heather Hochrein, Founder and CEO

EVmatch, Inc.