

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	24-TRAN-01
Project Title:	Technical Assistance for Clean Transportation Projects
TN #:	255720
Document Title:	ETcommunity Comments on Technical Assistance Workshop
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Eileen Tutt
Submitter Role:	Applicant
Submission Date:	4/15/2024 7:06:27 PM
Docketed Date:	4/16/2024

Comment Received From: Eileen Tutt
Submitted On: 4/15/2024
Docket Number: 24-TRAN-01

ETcommunity Comments on Technical Assistance Workshop

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



April 16, 2024

California Energy Commission

Re: Docket No. 24-TRAN-01

Submitted via electronic commenting system for docket 24-TRAN-01

**Re: Comments on Pre-Solicitation Workshop for ZEV Infrastructure Grant Application
 Technical Assistance Funding**

The Electric Transportation Community Development Corporation (ETcommunity) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Technical Assistance Funding process. ETcommunity is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes an equitable and reliable transition to electric mobility options through outreach and education, collaboration building, and action in communities.

The State and the California Energy Commission (CEC) have demonstrated their intent to invest in equitable access to EV charging infrastructure. Thus far, many of the equity investments have gone towards projects that provide DCFC infrastructure for those passing through the community but not EV drivers or potential EV drivers who live in the community. There are community benefits to corridor chargers, and the investments in these corridor chargers benefit communities. However, corridor DCFC chargers do not provide equitable access to EVs or EV charging for the people living in the community who have no access to home charging. DCFC is both too expensive and inconvenient to be accessible to community members who have no access to home charging. ETcommunity is focused on providing reliable access to EV charging to community residents, including Level 2 and affordable DCFC options, and zero-emission mobility options, including accessible electric vans, e-scooters, e-bikes, and shared electric cars. We work primarily in collaboration with faith and community leaders in priority communities.

ETcommunity supports the CEC's recognition that funding alone for EV charging infrastructure will not result in equitable access to charging infrastructure. Community outreach and education and direct capacity building in communities are necessary. Without intentional direct investment in community development organizations, community-based organizations, and community businesses and members, many communities will be left behind in the transition to zero-emission mobility. These same communities have been left behind in critical infrastructure needed to support electrification, examples include aging infrastructure, poor reliability of internet access, and lack of grid resiliency and/or modernization. We support and appreciate and support the CEC's efforts supporting outreach and education and capacity building via technical assistance funding.

With respect, we provide the following comments on the technical assistance funding presentation.

- We support multiple smaller grants rather than 1-3 large grants. Given the objective is to build capacity within smaller organizations who genuinely need assistance, multiple small grants would seem more appropriate to increase reach in the targeted communities.

April 16, 2024

Comments: Pre-Solicitation Workshop for ZEV Infrastructure Grant Application Technical Assistance Funding

Page 2

- We recommend CEC consider funding portions of an applicants' grant request for technical assistance. For some small organizations, capacity building can be done in myriad ways. If these options are separable and the CEC believes that a portion of an organization's grant has greater alignment with grant objectives than another portion, then we request CEC consider funding only the portion that with greater alignment rather than reject the applicant entirely.
- We recommend CEC staff consider providing continuing support for those who receive the technical assistance grant. For those who receive the technical assistance grant, applying for and implementing any grant they may receive due to the technical assistance could be a challenge, particularly if the organization is working in those communities with the least access to equitable charging infrastructure and mobility options. The CEC may already have a team that assists and supports grantees. This team may need to be augmented or trained to support issues specific to priority communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me eileen@etcommunity.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eileen W. Tutt".

Eileen Wenger Tutt, Executive Director
Electric Transportation Community Development Corporation