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Joby Aviation Request for Clarification to PowerForward Pre-Application Workshop - Seeking Clarification on eVTOL Eligibility

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Date: April 30, 2024

Docket Log: [23-TRAN-03](#)

RE: Joby Aviation Request for Clarification to PowerForward Pre-Application Workshop:
Seeking Clarification Regarding eVTOL Eligibility

Joby Aviation (Joby) recognizes CALSTART staff for hosting a successful [Pre-Application Workshop](#) for the PowerForward – ZEV Battery Manufacturing Grant Program (PowerForward Grant) on April 19, 2024. Joby appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on this workshop and looks forward to the opportunity to participate in the PowerForward Grant.

Accordingly, Joby seeks clarification that electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) is an eligible zero emission vehicle (ZEV) under the PowerForward Grant, as it has been for previous California Energy Commission (CEC) grants.

1. INTRODUCTION & COMPANY BACKGROUND

Joby is a California company, headquartered in Santa Cruz, with over 1,400 employees across the State. In 2022, Joby completed the construction of our pilot production lines in San Carlos and Marina, California, and we began manufacturing our production prototype aircraft. We are excited to support the clean transportation and climate goals of our home state.

The mission of Joby is to help the world connect faster and more easily with the people and places that matter most by delivering a new form of clean, quiet, aerial transportation. Building on recent advancements in energy storage, microelectronics, material science, and software, we are developing an all-electric aircraft with zero operating emissions that will transport a pilot and four passengers at speeds of up to 200 mph, while also having the ability to take off and land vertically. Our aircraft is a vehicle that has been specifically designed to achieve a considerably lower noise footprint than that of today's conventional aircraft or helicopters. It is quiet at takeoff and near silent when flying overhead, blending seamlessly into the environment. This allows us to operate from new skyport locations nearer to where people live and work, in addition to utilizing the more than 5,000 heliport and airport infrastructure facilities already in existence in the U.S. alone.

Joby appreciates CALSTART staff for hosting the Pre-Application Workshop for the PowerForward Grant. We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to helping accelerate ZEV battery manufacturing in California.



2. JOBY AVIATION'S REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

Joby appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and seek clarification on the Pre-Application Workshop.

We attended CALSTART's Pre-Application Workshop on April 19, 2024 and inquired about the eligibility of eVOTL for the grant. Based on our reading of the [PowerForward Grant Application Manual](#), we believe eVTOL is eligible since it aligns with the grant's definition of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs): "a vehicle that produces zero exhaust emissions of criteria pollutants or greenhouse gases." In response to our inquiry during the workshop, CALSTART staff directed us to seek clarification during the commenting period. Therefore, Joby would like to seek formal clarification that eVTOL is eligible as a ZEV under this grant.

Joby was previously eligible for a CEC grant under the Zero-Emission Transportation Manufacturing ([GFO-21-605](#)) Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO), which was designed to fund projects that will increase in-state manufacturing of ZEVs, ZEV components and batteries, and ZEV charging or refueling equipment. Given that Joby was eligible for a similar CEC GFO dedicated to ZEVs, we believe Joby should similarly be eligible for the PowerForward Grant.

3. CONCLUSION

Joby appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Pre-Application Workshop. We would like to thank CALSTART and the CEC for their leadership and we look forward to the success of PowerForward. We look forward to staff's clarification on May 14, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

George Kivork
Head of U.S. State & Local Policy
Joby Aviation