

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-TRAN-03
Project Title:	2024 Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Plan
TN #:	261637
Document Title:	Filiberto Gonzalez Comments - A Just Transition to Zero Emissions - The Urgent Need for EV Investments in Low-Income Communities of Color
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Filiberto Gonzalez
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	2/7/2025 4:08:14 PM
Docketed Date:	2/7/2025

Comment Received From: Filiberto Gonzalez
Submitted On: 2/7/2025
Docket Number: 24-TRAN-03

A Just Transition to Zero Emissions - The Urgent Need for EV Investments in Low-Income Communities of Color

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



February 7, 2025

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket Docket #: 24-TRAN-03. 2024 Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of **Pacific Community Fund**, I write to submit these comments regarding the **2024 Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (ZIP)** and urge the **California Energy Commission (CEC)** to prioritize funding for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in low-income communities of color that continue to bear the brunt of pollution and environmental injustice.

While California has made significant strides toward zero-emission transportation, deep inequities remain in the deployment of EV infrastructure. Low-income communities, especially communities of color suffer disproportionate exposure to air pollution, largely due to their proximity to highways, industrial zones, and heavy-duty trucking corridors. Despite the state's ambitious climate goals, these communities remain underfunded and underserved in the transition to clean transportation, not least with the absence of sufficient publicly accessible EV chargers and a reasonable number of charges installed within multifamily developments.

At this critical moment, federal policies threaten to roll back environmental protections, dismantle the EPA, and undermine climate action. The current administration's anti-immigrant and anti-DEI rhetoric further exacerbates systemic inequities, making it even more urgent for California to lead. If the federal government insists on rolling back historical gains in environmental justice, California must serve as the last line of defense.

Pacific Community Fund actively engaged the Governor's Office, CARB, CPUC, and CEC to push for stronger commitments to equitable transportation electrification. We urge the CEC to ensure that the Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (ZIP) prioritizes direct, measurable funding for charging infrastructure in environmental justice communities—not just through broad statewide goals but with specific, enforceable commitments.

(over)


To that end, we request that your agency take the following actions:

1. Dedicate at least 50% of ZIP funding for EV infrastructure in low-income communities of color. Ensure that these funds are not diluted by broader statewide initiatives but are intentionally directed to historically underserved neighborhoods.
2. Implement community-driven planning. Require that funding decisions are made with direct input from environmental justice organizations and frontline communities.
3. Expand access to multi-unit dwellings and curbside charging. Many low-income residents live in apartments without access to home charging. Funding must support the widespread deployment of publicly accessible chargers in these areas.
4. Ensure transparency and accountability. Require detailed reporting on how ZIP funds are distributed to prevent ongoing disparities in clean transportation investment.

California's leadership on climate must be inclusive, equitable, and just. As we move toward a zero-emission future, we cannot allow the communities most affected by pollution and climate change to be left behind. We urge the CEC to take bold action to ensure that every Californian—regardless of zip code or income—has access to the benefits of clean transportation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to continuing this conversation and working together toward a more just and sustainable future.

Sincerely,



Filiberto Gonzalez
Chief Executive Officer