

DOCKETED

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BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the Matter of:)	Docket No. 15-OIR-02
)	
Confirmation of Emergency)	
Regulation (Section 3103))	
Alternative and Renewable)	
Fuels and Vehicle Technology)	
(ARFVT) Program Funding)	
<u>Restrictions</u>)	Staff Workshop

Confirmation of Emergency Regulation (Section 3103)
Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Technology
(ARFVT) Program
Funding Restrictions

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
ART ROSENFELD HEARING ROOM
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2015
1:31 P.M.

Reported by:
Kent Odell

APPEARANCES

Staff Present

Tim Olson, California Energy Commission
Hieu Nguyen, California Energy Commission
Technical Staff, Biofuels Unit
Elizabeth John, California Energy Commission
Supervisor, Biofuels Unit
Bill Kinney, California Energy Commission
Biofuels Unit
Samantha Arens, Staff Counsel

Also Present

Tim Carmichael, Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition
Paul Staples

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 APRIL 10, 2015

1:31 P.M.

3 MR. OLSON: Hello out there. My name is
4 Tim Olson. We're going to start our workshop
5 here.

6 Today, we are discussing at this workshop
7 a change, a modification, to existing Regulations
8 that provide guidance for spending funding under
9 the Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicle
10 Technology Program. We refer to it as the ARFVT.
11 You'll hear that acronym throughout the day. And
12 we have several people here on our staff that are
13 available to answer questions.

14 And I'd like to remind people that this
15 is being conducted also on WebEx and that we have
16 a verbatim transcript that will be produced from
17 this workshop.

18 So, also, just a little bit of
19 housekeeping for those in the room. If we have
20 an emergency, there are two doors to exit: One
21 at the back on the left; one at the main
22 entrance. And if it is an emergency, we'll ask
23 you to go out the side doors on P Street or the
24 side doors on 9th Street. And there are also
25 restrooms outside the hearing room here, in

1 the main lobby.

2 Before we start, I'd like to introduce
3 the panel, the staff, that may be answering
4 questions.

5 So starting with Hieu, could you
6 introduce yourself.

7 MR. NGUYEN: Hieu Nguyen, Technical Staff
8 in the Biofuels Unit.

9 MS. JOHN: Elizabeth John, Supervisor of
10 the Biofuels Unit.

11 MS. ARENS: Samantha Arens, Staff
12 Counsel in the Chief Counsel's Office.

13 MR. KINNEY: Bill Kinney, Biofuels Unit.

14 MR. OLSON: Okay. So we also have here
15 in the hearing room on the front desk, copies of
16 materials that will be discussed today. They're
17 also going to be on -- they're online, or will be
18 very shortly, on our website. And you'll see
19 some of this presented in the WebEx, as we walk
20 through it.

21 So I'm going to start out by making a
22 short statement, and then I'm going to go through
23 a presentation to kind of illustrate some of the
24 points. And starting with -- well, I'll go
25 through a little bit of a history of this.

1 We have existing Regulations that were
2 changed and modified and adopted by our Agency on
3 February 25th and approved by the Office of
4 Administrative Law on March 13th. That Emergency
5 has a lifespan and needs to be confirmed. And
6 this workshop today is one of the first steps in
7 confirming that Emergency Regulation.

8 The topic is specific to eliminating a
9 clause requiring us to -- requiring recipients of
10 the ARFVT money to discount credits related to
11 greenhouse gas emission, criteria pollutant and
12 toxic air contaminant emission reductions through
13 other programs. An example of that is the
14 Low-Carbon Fuel Standard. Our recipients need to
15 discount the value of those credits proportionate
16 to the amount of money that they receive from us.
17 So the Emergency Rulemaking and Rule adopted in
18 February and approved in March basically
19 eliminated that; and, today, we're going to start
20 this process of making that Emergency Rule
21 permanent. And we refer to that as a "Confirming
22 Regulation."

23 I'm going to just kind of make a couple
24 comments about what we found in this process, why
25 there was a problem with this.

1 Compliance with the existing credit
2 discount requirement places 19 ARFVT project
3 recipients in immediate economic harm because the
4 value of the credits are substantial sources of
5 revenue, which, if lost, affect business
6 operations or possible decisions to close plants.

7 We think that the total investment -- we
8 estimate the total investment on those projects
9 to be around \$442 million. That's biofuel and
10 biomethane production capacity that's subject to
11 this credit discounting. We think that our
12 investment in that is around \$131, \$135 million
13 and then an additional \$307 million private
14 investment match. We also think that affects
15 about 98 million gallons of Diesel Equivalent
16 Gallons Fuel that might come into the
17 marketplace.

18 In some instances, we're finding that the
19 economic impact is close to 36 -- or up to
20 36 percent of the annual revenue lost by project
21 recipients to comply with the Regulation that was
22 changed in the Emergency. There are several
23 other examples where the impact is smaller. This
24 looked like it was the kind of high end. We had
25 access to cash-flow statements and information,

1 financial information, from companies, to come to
2 that conclusion.

3 Many of the projects are located in
4 economically disadvantaged communities. So the
5 San Joaquin, Sacramento Valleys, we think another
6 impact would be loss of employment and tax
7 revenue. So also, we're looking closely at the
8 value of the credit. We'll go through a couple
9 of slides here to kind of illustrate that.

10 I've just described the total investment
11 that we think might be subject to this credit
12 discounting, which we're trying to confirm and
13 eliminate in a permanent way.

14 And there's another calculation we're
15 doing, which is, the value of the credit that
16 would have -- that would be the lost revenue.
17 And we're going through that process now as part
18 of this Confirming Regulation.

19 Since the initiation of the ARFVT
20 Program, several factors related to biofuels and
21 biomethane have changed, compelling us to revisit
22 and revise existing 3103 Regulation: Cost of
23 biofuel and biomethane production plants has
24 increased; federal and state government
25 incentives vary from year to year, creating

1 investment uncertainty; and international and
2 national fuel market conditions have changed.
3 So, as a result, the success of the California
4 Low-Carbon Biofuel and Biomethane Project
5 requires both government financial incentives
6 designed to support biofuel production, like
7 ARFVT, and the full value of revenue from the
8 LCSF credits. I'm using that as one of the
9 examples.

10 So we justify this effort to modify the
11 Regulation as an action to eliminate the economic
12 harm faced by these companies, which directly
13 translates into decreased availability of
14 biofuels and biomethane in the market, thus,
15 potentially impeding the achievement of the
16 State's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction goals.

17 Two other factors help justify the
18 proposed action.

19 No other state or local government agency
20 discounts credits for regulations to reduce
21 greenhouse gas or air pollutants related to grant
22 funding. Some of you may remember the ARB
23 submitted a letter into our docket in the
24 Emergency Regulation supporting the proposed
25 Emergency action, and we're looking forward to

1 their participation as we go through this
2 Confirming Regulation.

3 Another factor here that we looked at is
4 discounting credits results in an unlevel playing
5 field for California projects, placing them at an
6 economic disadvantage compared to imports of
7 low-carbon biofuels and biomethane from competing
8 projects located in other states and countries.
9 We're aware that several Midwest states provide
10 grants and other financial support to biofuel and
11 biomethane producers in their states but do not
12 discount any credits that they receive. They
13 primarily are the Federal Renewal Fuel Standard
14 for the other states. We're not aware -- we are
15 aware that two other states, Oregon and
16 Washington, are in the process of adopting LCFS
17 types of -- but none of those states or those
18 entities discount credits related to those kinds
19 of grants.

20 We're also making a point that the
21 proposed action to confirm these Emergency
22 Regulations does not affect any other aspect of
23 the ARFVT Regulations, which will remain the same
24 as before.

25 So, as I mentioned, we're in this process

1 to confirm this Regulation, and I'd like to kind
2 of go through a couple of slides to help
3 illustrate some of the points I've just made.
4 And part of it is just to remind you that the
5 initial Regulations, which there are copies out
6 here in the lobby, were adopted in April 2009;
7 the Emergency Regulation was approved in
8 March 13th, 2015. There's a limited time frame,
9 as little as 180 days, possibly one year, for us
10 to go through this process to confirm, which is
11 the third point here: Confirm the Regulation to
12 make the Emergency permanent.

13 And one way to look at this is, because
14 our program is focused on increasing development
15 and deployment of alternative fuels and those
16 alternative fuels have other attributes related
17 to Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions and, in
18 many cases, criteria pollutants, that they're
19 theoretically all eligible for these credits from
20 other programs, like the Low-Carbon Fuel
21 Standard, like many of the biofuels for the
22 Renewable Fuel Standard. And then there are
23 peculiar, or very specific, programs like the
24 Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate and other programs
25 where all of these things are, on the surface,

1 eligible. And I'm going to walk through kind of
2 how we narrowed this down and made a conclusion
3 that biofuels and biomethane were the most likely
4 projects that might be affected.

5 And this just gives you a -- this slide
6 here is from our program presentation --
7 indicates -- I think this is through about
8 February 2015 -- what we spent on projects and
9 the number of awards. And this is an
10 illustration of that same data in a graphic form.

11 And, for the most part, we're going to be
12 talking today about the fuel production, the
13 biofuel and the biomethane -- there could be some
14 impacts on infrastructure related to those -- and
15 also natural gas.

16 The scope of the credit discounting. We
17 know for sure that the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard
18 is one of those significant credit programs.
19 And, if you can, many of you remember what that's
20 about, that's a requirement that any fuel sold in
21 the state has to reach a 10 percent
22 carbon-intensity reduction. It's focused on
23 petroleum fuel. So it's a dual standard: One
24 for diesel; one for gasoline. A metric is used
25 to measure the impact. It's called grams of CO2

1 per megajoule. It's an energy measurement. And
2 the targets are gasoline and diesel. Those are
3 measured and compared -- and I have another
4 slide, and we'll show you that comparison --
5 against all other fuels. The point is you want
6 to be lower than the gasoline and diesel to get
7 credits. And we also know -- and the Low-Carbon
8 Fuel Standard is a carbon intensity, so it's a
9 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction objective.

10 Federal Renewable Fuel Standard is a
11 national law that requires entities that pretty
12 much produce petroleum or market petroleum to
13 include a certain percent of renewable fuel in
14 their fuels by specific dates. This was
15 initiated in, I think, 2006. It's an amendment
16 to the Clean Air Act. The amendment came from
17 the Patriot Act, if some of you remember that.
18 And it's been -- I think the national law has
19 been amended twice.

20 It's related to a requirement of
21 renewable fuels, not directly to Greenhouse Gas
22 Emission Reductions. But there's an element of
23 that Renewable Fuel Standard that implies that
24 the renewable fuels -- the rationale for it is
25 the renewable fuels offer a cleaner

1 tailpipe-emission benefit nationwide.

2 We also are aware that some local Air
3 District Fleet Rules have criteria pollutant,
4 nitrogen oxide and particulate matter, sulfur,
5 CO, carbon monoxide, requirements for fleets. We
6 haven't dismissed this completely; but, for the
7 most part, credits produced under those kinds of
8 programs tend to be held by the Air Districts.
9 They're not marketed. They're not on the
10 marketplace.

11 And then there's some other things that
12 might be out there that we don't know the details
13 about. And so we're just acknowledging that
14 there might be other interactions of our funding
15 program with requirements to reduce greenhouse
16 gases, criteria pollutants, and contaminant --
17 toxic air contaminants.

18 The next two slides will illustrate what
19 we know today, what's in place today, regarding
20 comparisons of carbon intensity for -- in this
21 case, it's gasoline and substitutes -- gasoline
22 compared to other fuels. And you can see
23 gasoline is set at 99 grams of CO₂ per megajoule.
24 And this is illustrative, so it doesn't cover the
25 223 pathway options that are out there. It shows

1 you some kind of -- some key things that and it
2 shows you that there are lots of reductions. And
3 those options that are shown here can generate
4 credits that reduce gasoline. You'll notice that
5 there's a difference between the green and
6 yellow. The yellow represents -- green
7 represents direct impacts; the yellow, indirect
8 impacts.

9 And this is a similar slide for
10 comparison of diesel. I'd like -- and you can
11 see that there are lots of different options.

12 Now, this is as it exists today. The Air
13 Resources Board is going through a readoption of
14 the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard, and many of these
15 are changing, particularly some of the indirect
16 land-use impacts. I'm not going to show you all
17 those changes because they will not go into
18 effect until January 2016. And I'm using this as
19 an illustrative graphic showing you that there
20 are lots of options that will generate credits
21 below diesel and gasoline.

22 And this will give you kind of a
23 comparison of what's happened over time. I want
24 to thank the ARB for allowing us to use this
25 slide. They presented this at their Board

1 hearing on, I think it was February 19th. And it
2 shows you from the time frame of 2011 to 2014
3 where the credits have been generated. And you
4 can see a large part of them are from biofuels
5 and biomethane. And they -- they've subdivided
6 various categories here to show you that
7 illustration over time. And they also -- many of
8 these credits can be banked, and there's an item
9 for that.

10 And the other thing you need to know is
11 that in the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard
12 readoption -- well, in the original Low-Carbon
13 Fuel Standard -- that the carbon-intensity
14 reductions were -- have a temporal nature, that
15 they became more stringent over time. And
16 because of going through this readoption to
17 respond to legal challenges, there's been kind of
18 a -- kind of a freezing of that intensity
19 requirement for the last year and a half and in
20 2016. So we've got this table showing what the
21 current reduction percent is and then -- and then
22 what happens in the readoption to show still by
23 2020 trying to reach the 10 percent
24 carbon-intensity reduction, but a change in the
25 annual requirements as it kind of builds over

1 time. And this is a factor, in essence,
2 generating more need for credits over time. And
3 we'll show -- indicate that the projects that are
4 being funded by the Energy Commission will be
5 generating credits that may have more value over
6 time. And so it's a factor when we're kind of
7 calculating what the impact is.

8 And then this is another -- this is an
9 example of where we are in 2014 and then kind of
10 an illustrative scenario where we -- where one of
11 the guesses might be where we're going to be in
12 2020. And you can still see from this, pretty
13 heavily dominated by biofuels, renewable natural
14 gas, and natural gas. So, in essence, this is --
15 this is some of the evidence that compelled us to
16 focus on projects that we funded that are
17 biomethane and biofuel production plants. And so
18 that's kind of an insight that we're using.

19 Now, part of the formula of determining
20 what the value of the credit is, the credits are
21 marketed, they're a deficit and debit type of
22 system, and they have a value over time.

23 And this is an illustration. I want to
24 thank Argus Media for agreeing to -- agreeing for
25 us to publish and post this graphic. And it

1 illustrates, you can see, kind of a leveling off,
2 and that's related -- from 2014 on -- and that's
3 related to the impact of those lawsuits and the
4 process where ARB is readopting that Regulation,
5 I think later this -- around July and then going
6 into effect in January 2016.

7 ARB also has basically set the ability
8 to offer \$200 per-ton credit in instances where
9 there either might be not enough responses or too
10 many. A lot of factors in the price setting. Of
11 course, scarcity is the biggest issue -- or the
12 biggest factor.

13 But it shows you, in essence, when we're
14 doing this calculation of what the impact is,
15 historically about the high of \$85 and lately
16 around \$20 -- a little over \$20. And we'll be
17 using that doing a couple of scenarios on what
18 those price impacts might be related to the value
19 of the credits that would have to be discounted
20 as we're trying to make that change.

21 So we came to this conclusion, that the
22 biofuel and biomethane projects would be the most
23 likely affected projects. And we have kind of
24 documented them here of what we've spent to date.
25 And this number, \$131 million, is our money;

1 number of projects; and then millions of gallons
2 per year. That number, 131, I think is a --
3 needs to be modified because a couple things:
4 This slide was done, I think, in February, and I
5 think a couple other projects have come forward,
6 or we have better information. So that might be
7 a little higher number than what's on this slide.
8 But it shows you total money that we put into
9 this, and using the previous work of who's the
10 most likely projects that might generate credits
11 from the ARB work, we're kind of showing you the
12 realm of what we're concentrating on.

13 And then this slide shows you where those
14 projects are located. These are primarily the
15 biodiesel, ethanol, lower carbon-intensity
16 ethanol, renewable diesel, and biomethane
17 projects. You can see a lot of them -- Central
18 Valley. We also show you the EnviroScreen
19 locations throughout the state. Those are the
20 disadvantaged community [sic] and kind of
21 illustrating that there could be an impact in
22 those areas that are disadvantaged communities.

23 So I made a point earlier that there
24 could be significant lost revenue from individual
25 projects, possibly plant closures. We did a

1 survey of about 45 companies, and 19 identified
2 some serious problem that led to the Emergency --
3 doing the Emergency Regulation.

4 I think I've gone over most of these
5 other items here.

6 And the last bullet here is I think
7 something worth noting, that the more uncertainty
8 that is created with our initiatives, our
9 government programs, the less likely that private
10 investment goes into this. And that's something
11 that we want to correct, too, because that's one
12 of our objectives, is to stimulate more private
13 investment and over time show that there's less
14 need for government funding to do these projects.

15 And, as I mentioned in the opening
16 statement, that -- the three basic arguments: We
17 think there's adverse economic impact to
18 California projects; no other agency is
19 discounting credits similar to -- related to
20 grant kind of funding; and these projects in
21 California face an unlevel playing field. Right
22 now we receive about 80 percent of our biofuels
23 that we consume in this state from out of state,
24 imports coming from the Midwest. Our desire is
25 to build projects in this state and build

1 projects that have lower carbon-intensity
2 biofuels. And if -- once we start requiring
3 those discountings, those projects from out of
4 state don't have to do that, it puts them at a
5 competitive advantage of selling their product
6 here. And many of those projects are coming from
7 other states where their state governments are
8 putting significant grant incentives in to
9 support their projects.

10 Missouri is an example where there's a
11 production incentive for biodiesel, \$.30 per
12 gallon up to 15 million gallons a year; above
13 that -- \$.10 a gallon above the 15 million
14 gallons per-year production. And that kind of
15 incentive is good for five years, consecutively
16 for five years. Theoretically, it's a
17 \$30 million grant to those developers.

18 Iowa, the State of Iowa, offers a
19 financial incentive at every step of the
20 development stream from fuel production all the
21 way to retail. And, for the most part, those
22 projects, which when you add them up, it's about
23 215 projects in the Midwest and part of the
24 South, for ethanol production at about 90
25 biodiesel. Compared to California, right now, we

1 have four ethanol production plants and around
2 six or seven biodiesel. And by getting -- by
3 eliminating this credit discounting, we think
4 that will start leveling that playing field for
5 those projects.

6 So I put this data on -- this is the
7 actual proposed change to confirm the Emergency
8 Regulations. Three slides here. I tried to put
9 all this on a slide, and I'm not sure this is
10 going to be the best approach, so we have another
11 way of displaying this. Maybe Andre can help.
12 And there's a handout for this here in the lobby.
13 And, for the most part, we are making a couple
14 changes from -- through the Emergency
15 Regulations. One, the Section (a) -- by the way,
16 this (a) where the (a) is crossed out, the (a)
17 should not be crossed out. Under Article 1(a),
18 the letter (a) there should not be crossed out.

19 These changes are meant to be consistent
20 with what's the statutory language under AB 118,
21 AB 109, AB 8. These are the -- kind of the
22 evolution of the original AB 118. So that the
23 language is consistent with what's in the
24 statute.

25 The rest of the changes in here are small

1 changes that are meant to correct a couple of
2 errors in code references and things like that.

3 And so the Section (d) -- let me see if I
4 can -- Section (d) was added into the Emergency,
5 in essence, to ensure that projects we have been
6 funding in the past are appropriate and eligible
7 for funding into the future.

8 At the business meeting on February 25th
9 and in our docket, we have, I think it's nine
10 support letters from companies agreeing that this
11 is a good change to make, and we had a couple of
12 other letters come in after that business
13 meeting. And we're -- and maybe -- I'd like to
14 ask Samantha Arens, our Lead Attorney, if she
15 wanted to add anything else on this language.
16 And, for the most part, we're putting this out
17 there and asking people to look at this closely
18 again and let us know whether you have a comment
19 or any concerns.

20 And, Samantha, would you like anything
21 else -- to add anything else?

22 MS. ARENS: I think you've covered it
23 pretty well, Tim. The sub -- is it on there?
24 Got it? How about now? Great.

25 So, as Tim said, in the Subsection (a),

1 we added this language that is taken directly
2 from Health and Safety Code Section 44271(c), in
3 an attempt to eliminate any possible confusion
4 over the word "mandated." We just put in the
5 statutory language there. And then we broke out
6 Subsection (a), what was formerly Subsection (a),
7 into separate subsections to state each funding
8 requirement separately.

9 The discounting provision, former
10 Subsection (b), was eliminated, and then a list
11 of eligible projects was added in the new
12 Subsection (d). Although I wasn't the one who
13 drafted this language, my understanding is that
14 the intent here is to, as Tim said, continue to
15 fund the types of projects that we have funded in
16 the past.

17 When we eliminated the carveout in (b),
18 that allowed a path forward for certain projects
19 with discounting, for example, to receive
20 funding. We wanted to make sure that we
21 continued to fund the same projects and create a
22 carveout to the requirements in the new Sub (a)
23 through (c).

24 MR. OLSON: So I can bring this back up
25 when we -- let's see. I need the -- okay.

1 So let me go to this slide and just -- so
2 we have -- like I said, this is -- this workshop
3 is one of the first steps to do this Confirming
4 Regulation. We're asking for comments from you
5 by April 24th. And you can see we've got a lot
6 of acronyms here. ISOR is the Initial Statement
7 of Reasons. SRIA is determining what the
8 economic impact is. And there's a threshold
9 point we need to look at closely to determine
10 whether we have to do a Significant Report. And
11 then there will be a NOPA out sometime -- could
12 be as early as May, may be as late as August, and
13 then some comment periods. We're not going to go
14 through all the details of that, but just
15 basically saying we're toward the front end of
16 this process.

17 And, then, of course, there's a step of
18 Energy Commission adoption and then approval of
19 the Office of Administrative Law.

20 And, then, so we're open to questions at
21 this point, either in the room or online on the
22 WebEx.

23 So come forward to the microphone there.
24 Please state your name and affiliation.

25 MR. CARMICHAEL: Good afternoon. Tim

1 Carmichael with the Natural Gas Vehicle
2 Coalition.

3 Just a quick question. I arrived late, I
4 apologize. But all the materials that you have
5 on the table are going to be posted online?

6 MR. OLSON: All the materials are either
7 in our docket or will be on -- in the docket for
8 this Regulation, already online, or will be
9 either today or early next week.

10 MR. CARMICHAEL: Okay. Great. Thank you
11 very much. That's it.

12 I should say we're very supportive of
13 this programmatic change and have been looking
14 forward to this, so thank you.

15 MR. OLSON: Any other questions in the
16 room?

17 How about online, any WebEx questions, or
18 on the phone?

19 (Pause.)

20 MR. OLSON: Okay. Any other comments
21 from our panel? Any other instructions or other
22 things you want to emphasize, anybody from the
23 staff here?

24 MS. ARENS: I would just add one more
25 thing, Tim. This is Samantha Arens again.

1 You had previously thrown out some
2 numbers regarding our estimated total investment,
3 our investment, our private match, and I would
4 just clarify that we're still considering whether
5 or not we need to do an SRI, or Standardized
6 Regulatory Impact Assessment. And the total
7 investment, the numbers that you had in the
8 beginning, may not necessarily be the same as the
9 total economic impact including lost revenue.

10 MR. OLSON: Right. So I think that's a
11 good point to make, that we're going through each
12 one of these projects. And, remember, when a
13 recipient receives awards from us, they may be in
14 construction phase and not producing fuel until
15 maybe a year or two years into our grant
16 agreement. And we're looking at each one of
17 these to determine when do credits really -- are
18 they generated and what's the value during the
19 course of the grant term and maybe any reporting
20 to us after that grant term.

21 I'm not -- maybe you can clarify that,
22 Samantha.

23 MS. ARENS: Yeah. I think that's
24 accurate. I mean, when we determine if we have
25 to do an SRI, it's whether or not there's a

1 positive or negative economic impact of
2 \$50 million or over in a single year.

3 MR. OLSON: So that means we're basically
4 looking at anywhere from 19 or more projects and
5 looking at how many of them generate credits
6 during the course of our grant term and then
7 what's the value of that -- of that credit that
8 would be -- under the previous requirement have
9 to be discounted. And there's a calculation that
10 has to happen there.

11 We also need to make a production of
12 future -- this is going to be very different to
13 do -- but to justify this Confirming Regulation,
14 we're going to have to make an estimate of what
15 projected allocations might be and, same thing,
16 what are the assumptions about when credits are
17 generated in the course of the grant agreements.
18 And, of course, we're going to be doing some --
19 with historic information verifying that with ARB
20 because they have pretty -- good tracking of all
21 those credits. But speculating in the future,
22 we've got to make some assumptions regarding the
23 analysis of this Standard Regulatory Impact
24 Analysis, which is a fairly new requirement for
25 Regulations. And that determination has not been

1 made yet internally here. And when we come to
2 that conclusion, we'll be looking at whether it
3 exceeds \$50 million a year; and, if so, then we
4 do a Significant Report, which will impact the
5 schedule for the Confirming Regulation.

6 So if there -- are there any other
7 questions here in the -- yeah. Okay.

8 Paul, go ahead if --

9 Can you unmute so he can --

10 MR. STAPLES: Yeah, I have unmuted. Can
11 you hear me?

12 MR. OLSON: Yes, we can.

13 MR. STAPLES: Okay. Great.

14 I'm coming in as totally new. I got the
15 (indiscernible) you know, because I know that
16 there is a requirement within our -- my
17 particular contract with the CEC on the hydrogen
18 fueling station that I -- the credits that I gain
19 -- which since we're doing 100 percent renewable,
20 they're going to be, you know, the highest of
21 all. Okay? Because it's all 100 percent
22 renewable generated hydrogen, carbon free, the
23 whole nine yards, so our carbon footprint is
24 zero.

25 So the point being is, is that my

1 understanding of this is to eliminate the
2 requirement to discount the credits that I give
3 which would lower the price of gasoline to the
4 public -- okay? -- to the extent of the amount of
5 funding that I had received. Okay? So what
6 you're doing here is you're changing that?
7 You're basically saying no longer will I have to
8 do that so that I can give the biggest discount
9 to my customers, a much bigger discount, because
10 of the fact that we won't have to take into
11 consideration that factor? Am I correct in
12 assuming -- have I assumed this right? And, if I
13 haven't, please explain it to me a little bit
14 better because, I apologize, I didn't do my
15 homework before this conference. Okay?

16 MR. OLSON: No. Thanks, Paul. That's a
17 good question. And the intent is to maximize the
18 revenue flow for you and not create an economic
19 burden where you've got to discount the value
20 proportionate to -- the value of the credit
21 proportionate to the grant money you receive.
22 And we're aware that -- I'm aware that you're one
23 of our recipients for one of the hydrogen fueling
24 station projects.

25 MR. STAPLES: Right.

1 MR. OLSON: Yeah, this is meant to
2 enhance your ability to do your project.

3 MR. STAPLES: Well --

4 MR. OLSON: And the point of the
5 Emergency was, there were quite a few companies
6 that were making good claims that it was a
7 significant short-term, near-term problem. The
8 Emergency basically did a short-term elimination
9 of that; which we're trying to make that
10 permanent, eliminate that restriction
11 permanently.

12 MR. STAPLES: Well, then, that's very
13 encouraging, although I would add one caveat,
14 that it should only be for those that -- as well
15 as particular technologies -- have the lowest of
16 carbon and that have a sustainability factor
17 figured in -- none of the Renewable Energy
18 Standards, whether it be federal or state, take
19 into consideration sustainability -- and are
20 capable to be able to provide a solution.

21 I mean, none of these -- the only ones
22 that I believe that -- well, that are, is the
23 renewable hydrogen part of it because that can
24 provide a sustainable solution for petroleum and
25 all other fossil fuels, I mean, ultimately, when

1 fully implemented.

2 And so, therefore, this is a very good
3 thing for us from that standpoint because, you
4 know, we're kind of like the guys out here trying
5 to, you know, right the ship and feel like
6 sometimes we're ignored because of the fact that
7 there's a lot of big money in with the fossil
8 fuel people trying to basically make their fossil
9 fuel as low of carbon as possible. Even though
10 they call it biofuels, it's still hydrocarbon
11 atoms.

12 And so, therefore, my point being is that
13 it should be for those who need it the most,
14 which is the lowest possible carbon footprint
15 (indiscernible). Because they're the ones that
16 are out there, you know, howling at the moon -
17 okay? -- just to try and get them to pay
18 attention so that we can do this, and they need
19 the economic benefits more than anyone else.

20 That's all I have to say. But, yes, this
21 is a very good thing, and I thank you for doing
22 it, especially for us that are being awarded.
23 I appreciate it.

24 MR. OLSON: Okay, Paul. And you're
25 welcome to submit a written comment on that by --

1 we would appreciate getting that by April 24th if
2 you're going to give a written comment.

3 MR. STAPLES: I certainly will. And I
4 thank you for allowing me to comment on this and
5 participate today.

6 MR. OLSON: Okay. If there's no other
7 comments, then -- any other comments, Andre?

8 (Whereupon, at 2:14 p.m., the workshop
9 concluded.)

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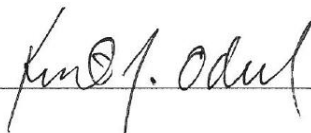
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of April, 2015.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kent Odell", is written over a horizontal line.

Kent Odell
CER**00548

TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of May, 2015.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kelly Farrell", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Kelly Farrell
Certified Transcriber
AAERT No. CET**D-772