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American Lung Association comments on 2019-2020 draft plan

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

December 3, 2018

Commissioner Janea Scott
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95815

Subject: Draft AFRVTP 2019-2020 Investment Plan Update

Dear Commissioner Scott:

On behalf of the American Lung Association in California, I am writing to express our support for the ongoing efforts of the California Energy Commission staff to advance critical solutions to our air quality and climate change challenges. The Lung Association views the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP) as critical to shifting away from fossil fuels and to advancing the clean technologies needed to achieve healthy air and a stable climate for all Californians.

Largely due to transportation combustion emissions, Californians face the greatest air pollution challenges in the United States. According to the American Lung Association's 2018 *State of the Air* report, approximately 90 percent of Californians live in areas of the state impacted by unhealthy air throughout the year.¹ It is increasingly clear that this health risk is compounded by climate change impacts that threaten public health.² Our air pollution and climate burdens require urgent action from all levels of government to protect public health. Rising temperatures, extreme drought conditions and increasingly catastrophic wildfires significantly degrade air quality and – as recently experienced across wide ranges of California – create extreme air quality conditions. Reducing the impacts of fossil fuels on our health and our air through dedicated investments under the AFRVTP is a critical complement to the strongest possible regulations and local actions.

The initial staff proposal continues important direction at the agency level to prioritize zero emission solutions to achieve clean air and climate standards. The transition to zero emission technologies is a critical component of California's efforts to provide healthy air and a stable climate for all residents. We appreciate the focus on zero emission technologies and infrastructure, and believe that the draft plan also aligns well with the incentive programs and regulatory efforts underway at the California Air Resources Board. Within the categories, we would encourage ongoing attention to the hydrogen fueling station infrastructure program and consider future investments above the \$20 million included in the draft.

¹ American Lung Association. State of the Air 2018. www.stateoftheair.org; American Lung Association in California. CA Overview 2018. https://www.lung.org/local-content/california/documents/state-of-the-air/2018/sota-2018_ca-overview.pdf. April 2018.

² United States Global Change Research Program. Fourth National Climate Assessment: Volume II: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States. (Summary Findings. 1. Communities) "Climate change creates new risks and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities in communities across the United States, presenting growing challenges to human health and safety, quality of life, and the rate of economic growth." November 2018. <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

The alignment of state agencies, particularly in the expenditure of public resources, is critical to ensuring strong, dedicated pathways to securing zero emission fuels, vehicles and infrastructure across the widest range of vehicle classes. We support the priority for outreach to bring more voices from disadvantaged communities into the ARFVTP process.³ Public investments in clean air and climate solutions must be informed by local experiences and targeted to eliminating health disparities – this outreach should remain a high priority for the Commission. We also recommend continued focus on outreach involving local governments to ensure local actions, regional ZEV infrastructure planning and workforce development goals within local communities – and especially disadvantaged communities - are understood and acted upon.

We look forward to working with the Advisory Committee, Commissioners and staff to advance a strong investment plan to support public health and clean air for all Californians.

Sincerely,

Will Barrett
Clean Air Advocacy Director

³ California Energy Commission. Draft Staff Report: 2019-2020 Investment Plan Update for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program *"The Energy Commission also seeks to increase the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities from a diverse range of geographical regions while implementing the ARFVTP."* (p.17.) November 2018.
[file:///C:/Users/william.barrett/Downloads/TN225790_20181102T160407_20192020_ARFVTP_Investment_Plan_Update%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/william.barrett/Downloads/TN225790_20181102T160407_20192020_ARFVTP_Investment_Plan_Update%20(2).pdf)

