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*Comment Received From: Andy Mutziger
Submitted On: 2/22/2019
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SLOCAPCD - Comment to CEC - Draft Solicitation Concepts for Light-Duty Hydrogen Refueling Infrastructure (Docket #: 18-HYD-04)

Dear Energy Commission Staff,

The Energy Commission has awarded several regional grants to help communities prepare for alternative fuels, and hydrogen in particular. The Central Coast Tri-Counties (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura) received an initial award for Hydrogen Readiness planning, and a subsequent award for implementation of the hydrogen readiness plan. Local interest in hydrogen has grown considerably through this planning and implementation process. To build on this favorable momentum, financial assistance is necessary to expand the renewable hydrogen infrastructure in the Tri-Counties.

At the Draft Solicitation Concepts workshop on February 12, 2019, leading OEM representatives stated that connector and destination stations are needed to seed and grow the markets and enabling improved user experience with effective regional connectivity throughout the hydrogen refueling network. The California Fuel Cell Partnership station priority tables include more than ten locations along the Central Coast US 101 corridor, emphasizing that Partnership members recognize the need for this network expansion.

The tranche and batch approach proposed in the concept document is innovative. However, there is concern in the Central Coast region that if three installers are selected by the state for building stations over the next five years, and none of them include proposed locations along the US 101 Central Coast corridor, then this region may not receive the benefit of grant funding for five years or more.

We do not have a recommendation for how the Energy Commission might ensure stations are funded along the US 101 corridor, but we would strongly support the inclusion of some measures or incentives that ensure at least a portion of grant funds are allocated to regional stations along US 101. This would ensure connection and access between the two major California urban market regions, Central Coast destination possibilities, and broaden station coverage to the benefit of all hydrogen vehicle users.

In support of destination, connectivity, and initiation and growth of local hydrogen vehicle fleet, SLO County APCD has committed \$250,000 in local grant funding for the installation of a hydrogen station in our County. Our request for proposals encourages station developers to partner our funding with Energy Commission or private funding to install a station. Application are due on February 28, 2019.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Andy Mutziger
Supervising Air Quality Specialist â€“ Planning, Grants, and Outreach Division
San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District