

**DOCKETED**

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## **Funding gap for innovative rolling stock prototypes**

The CEC's 2020-21 Investment Plan marks a significant shift in focus from rolling stock programs to the development of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging and Fuel Cell Electric (FCE) refueling infrastructure. While this investment in infrastructure is critical, it creates a significant funding gap for innovative rolling stock programs. In contrast to earlier investment plans under the previous Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP), there is no explicit funding for vehicle prototypes which may prevent new ZEV applications from developing. Other programs such as CARB, focus on Goods Movement and transit bus funding but are not available to fund new use cases or vehicle prototypes with lower Technology Readiness Levels. We have identified a significant opportunity to decarbonize the MD/HD vehicle segment through the development of a prototype fuel cell electric heavy-duty vehicle supporting an under-served market segment. There are thousands of diesel MD/HD vehicles in daily operation in California and currently no pathway to completely decarbonize this sector. A grant to pilot innovative FCE HD vehicles would 1) serve Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), 2) provide a platform for testing ZEVs and infrastructure along transport corridors, and 3) demonstrate the viability of ZEVs for hard to decarbonize applications such as intercity transport. This funding is required because the platform and application would be the first of its kind and would lead to the development of a whole new class of ZEVs which would not otherwise develop. We request that the CEC consider adding a \$3-5 million provision for funding innovative rolling stock prototypes as part of their 2020-21 Investment Plan Concept #5 which allow these types of projects to apply under future grant solicitations.