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## StratosFuel Inc Comments on Hydrogen Supply, and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle Ridership

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



## StratosFuel Comments on IEPR Update Workshops for Hydrogen Supply, Infrastructure, and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle Market Status.

StratosFuel, Inc is happy to provide comments on the July 2<sup>nd</sup> IEPR Update workshops focused on hydrogen supply, infrastructure, and FCEVs market status. StratosFuel was honored for the invitation to participate on the FCEV market status panel. We were able to provide insight into ways to increase FCEV ridership, as well as further hydrogen demand. In addition to this, Stratos greatly appreciates Commissioner Monahan for including FCEVs into the zero-emission workshop at the CEC. Discussions like these help bolster the hydrogen economy within California and beyond.

That being said, Stratos has prepared comments based on concepts to increase FCEV adoption and ridership. Consequently, by increasing FCEV adoption the demand for hydrogen rises. Increases in hydrogen demand and FCEV adoption are great things for the hydrogen economy, which is why Stratos has comments on how to effectively foster this transition. Based on this, our comments are summarized below:

Increasing FCEV Ridership: In order to increase FCEV ridership Stratos has focused on strategies to make FCEVs accessible to everyone. They have done so through the creation of StratosShare, which is exclusively an FCEV on-demand car share program that allows people to rent vehicles by the hour or day through a smartphone app. The goal of StratosShare is to provide zero-emission transportation to disadvantage and underserved communities. These communities typically have higher concentrations of air pollutants and often times do not have reliable access to transportation. Understanding community needs allows Stratos to deploy StratosShare vehicles in areas that are most effective. From the thousands of trips provided under StratosShare data gather has shown most trips have taken the place of ride hailing services and bus rides. Shared mobility is being seen as a new transportation medium that can fit between mass transit and micro-mobility.

From this, Stratos would like to continue to increase zero-emission vehicle access to people under StratosShare. Even more so, Stratos would like to further reduce the cost of shared mobility to make it comparable to mass transportation, such as bus, and light-rail. Though, these levels will not be reached unless there are over 200 vehicles within a shared fleet, and some of the operational costs are subsidize for the first year of deployment. Therefore, Stratos encourages the CEC to consider allocating funding to deploy larger fleets of shared vehicles and subsidize operational cost. Doing so will enable companies like StratosShare to provide cost effective zero-emission transportation to more communities throughout California.

Renewable Hydrogen Supply: Stratos is currently developing a \$33M renewable hydrogen production facility in Southern California. The CEC has provided funding in order to expand the facility by more than 2 tons of electrolytic hydrogen. The plant is designed to provide renewable hydrogen to the California FCEV market. It is anticipated that 100% of the hydrogen will be supplied for light and heavy-duty vehicles. Stratos has plans to increase the size of the plant by

more than 10 tons over the course of 5 years. Though, increasing demand requires additional demand and investment. Stratos has a strong financial team that is willing to invest in the expansion of the facility but needs to have the assurance that hydrogen demand will continue to grow. That is why *Stratos is recommending that the CEC encourage and incentivize hydrogen station developers within California to purchase instate renewable hydrogen. A policy of such magnitude will not only increase in state renewable hydrogen production, but also further investment into hydrogen production and stations. Stratos and their financial team are open to engaging in dialogue with the CEC about growth strategies and how increased hydrogen throughput will spawn large hydrogen supply.* 

In conclusion, Stratos is grateful for the leadership the CEC has in making our state and planet more cleaner and equitable for all. This leadership has helped increase investment for zero-emission infrastructure and projects; some of which have positively impacted the way people transport. That being said, we kindly request the CEC consider our comments and reach out for additional questions and dialogue.

Sincerely,

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