

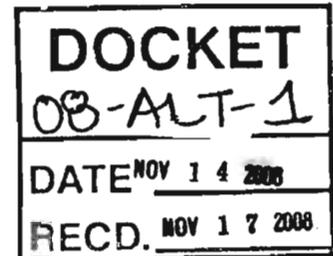


November 14, 2008

James D. Boyd
Vice Chair and Presiding Member
Transportation Committee

Karen Douglas
Commissioner and Associate Member
Transportation Committee

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 08-ALT-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512



RE: Docket Number 08-ALT-1 – AB 118 Implementation

For your and the staffs' consideration of programs that could be funded under AB 118, I would like to highlight the need for alternative fuel and vehicle education programs. From middle school through to the consumer, education is a crucial implementation strategy to foster public acceptance and use of alternative fuels, to create the technicians who will ensure that vehicles operate to design specifications, and to provide the future designers, engineers and workforce that will produce and use the very concept vehicles we now contemplate.

On behalf of the San Diego EcoCenter, San Diego Unified School District, San Diego Miramar College and the California Center for Sustainable Energy, I am introducing one such concept to you. The goal of the project proposal is to educate the public about clean transportation technology at all levels resulting in an educated community and green workforce. The primary implementation team would be Judy Bishop, San Diego EcoCenter for Alternative Fuel Education and Renewable Energy; Greg Quirin, San Diego Unified School District; Gregory Newhouse, San Diego Miramar College; and, Mary Venables, California Center for Sustainable Energy.

In terms of our capabilities, the San Diego EcoCenter for Alternative Fuel Education, San Diego Unified School District, San Diego Miramar College and the California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE) provide alternative fuels and vehicle education to audiences ranging from middle school to the general public. We continue to explore ways to link and even integrate our programs together and with other partners, such as Clean Cities, to provide the

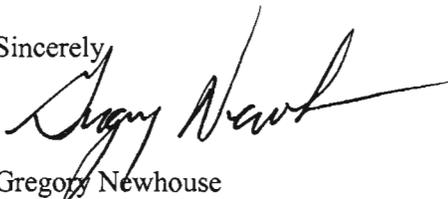
San Diego region wide-ranging educational services. We are experienced and ready to implement programs; for example:

- Over 30,000 middle school children, their families, and their teachers have toured and participated in the hands on EcoCenter field trip to learn about the positive environmental impacts of alternative fuels and renewable energy as it relates to clean air and energy independence. Students in middle and junior high school are sharply attentive to the prospect of freedom that comes with a driver's license. Taking advantage of this critically teachable moment in their development, the EcoCenter program stimulates a different set of expectations, habits and attitudes toward 'car culture' in children between 10 and 14 years of age.
- San Diego Unified School District at its SciTech Academy has a unique program using the creation of biodiesel fuel and electric vehicle technology as programs to integrate academic and vocational education. In addition it is in the process of creating and implementing a new education pathway in the field of energy and utility systems.
- Through its Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Program, San Diego Miramar College provides both student and workplace learning on alternative and hybrid vehicles. Unique partnerships, such the Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium, provide innovate ways to train technicians to maintain new alternative fuel and hybrid bus technologies.
- CCSE manages Fueling Alternatives, California's rebate program for alternative fuel vehicle incentives and hosts Street Smart San Diego, a program to bring the public directly in touch with alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles. To date CCSE has allocated \$1,485,686 to eligible alternative fuel vehicle purchasers and educated over 500 attendees at the 2008 Street Smart San Diego event. In addition, CCSE is the home of the San Diego Energy Resource Center (ERC), a one-stop information center, jointly provided by CCSE and San Diego Gas & Electric. The ERC contains interactive exhibits, an energy resource and tool lending library, and offers free workshops and seminars on a wide spectrum of energy topics. Over 9,567 visitors have passed through the ERC this year.

Under AB 118 we would propose to further integrate our work into a unique educational program that could be developed throughout California. This can be accomplished through a joint effort of organizations in San Diego that currently provide education and training at various levels. These groups can provide the connection to the next level of education ultimately resulting in an educated and trained work force and a clean transportation technology center. One option would be to move through the Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Centers of the California Community College System. With 9 centers in addition to Miramar this would provide an existing structure to work throughout the state and pilot region-wide alternative fuels and vehicles educational services. In addition we would suggest that such a program be linked with the U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Program, which has 11 coalitions within California and as well provides a ready source of potential partners for such education programs. Finally, we would propose that such a program be linked with the state's utilities, CPUC and CEC to ensure a consistent educational message and efficient use of funding in the state.

In the coming month we will be providing you additional and more in depth information regarding our educational program. Should you have any questions please call me at 619-388-7673 or email at gnewhouse@sdccd.edu. Or if you would like to follow up with one of the other programs, please let me know that as well and I will provide their contact information to you.

Sincerely



Gregory Newhouse
ATTE Center Director
San Diego Miramar College