

DAIMLER

DOCKET

08-ALT-1

DATE April 17 2009

RECD. April 20 2009

Commissioners James D. Boyd
and Karen Douglas
California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket # 08-ALT-1 – AB 118 Program
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dr. Christian Mohrdieck
Director
Fuel Cell & Battery Drive Development
Daimler AG
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2009-04-17

Dear Commissioners Boyd and Douglas:

Daimler AG applauds the recent proposals made by the California Energy Commission in its latest draft plan to allocate \$40 million for hydrogen fuel stations in California over the next two years. A substantial investment such as this will significantly contribute to the success of California's emerging fuel cell market communities and help pave the way for the deployment of an even greater number of fuel cell vehicles as envisioned by Daimler and other manufacturers.

Hydrogen fueling infrastructure is the key to the commercialization of fuel cell vehicles (FCVs). Daimler views this technology as the most promising option for emission-free mobility and as one that will be competitive with conventional vehicles in every respect. We have invested more than \$1 billion in our fuel cell program and plan to financially support the consumer development phase of the technology for the several years it will take to mature. Daimler concurs with the experts who believe that a widespread adoption of advanced vehicle technologies which includes fuel cells will be required to meet the State's 2050 goals.

Daimler AG has spent many years developing and deploying its A-class FCVs in California. At present, we plan to deploy our new B-Class F-Cell vehicle in Southern California, the Bay Area and Sacramento starting in 2010. Our plan is to grow a consumer fleet around the hydrogen fueling network that is the subject of the California Fuel Cell Partnership's hydrogen infrastructure "Action Plan" endorsed by Daimler and cited in the draft committee report for AB118 as justification for the hydrogen station funding levels now being proposed. Automakers collectively plan to place about 4,300 passenger vehicles in California by 2014 and some 50,000 FCVs by 2017. As explained to CEC in a meeting on February 19th, Daimler has a significant share in these vehicle numbers.

Daimler is ready to take the next step toward a commercial market for fuel cell vehicles in the State of California. A decision in favor of the proposed investment plan will be critical to the success of this next phase of deployment.

Yours Sincerely,

Daimler AG



Dr. Christian Mohrdieck
Director
Fuel Cell & Battery Drive Development



Arwed Niestroj
Senior Manager
Fuel Cell Fleet Operation