



# CAREER LADDERS PROJECT

**DOCKET****10-ALT-01**DATE May 23 2011RECD. May 24 2011

May 23, 2011

TO: California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Docket Number 10-ALT-1  
Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, May 23, 2011  
Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program  
Testimony regarding the 2011-2012 Investment Plan for ARVTP

Attached please find a paper copy of testimony regarding Docket Number 10-ALT-1 concerning the 2011-2012 Investment Plan for ARVTP delivered orally to the Advisory Committee Meeting of the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program via the webinar on Monday May 23, 2011.

We are submitting this paper copy for the record as well.

Sincerely,

Linda Collins  
Executive Director  
Career Ladders Project

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# CAREER LADDERS PROJECT

**Advisory Committee Meeting and Public Workshop  
Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program  
Docket Number 10-ALT-01  
Monday, May 23, 2011  
Testimony regarding the 2011-2012 Investment Plan for ARFVTP**

**I am Linda Collins, Executive Director of the Career Ladders Project for California Community Colleges.** We work statewide to foster educational and career advancement for Californians – through research, policy initiatives and direct support to community colleges and their workforce partners. We operate under the auspices of the Foundation for California Community Colleges, the non-profit auxiliary to the community college system.

We want to commend the Commission for its recommendation to continue investing in workforce development and training as a critical element of the 2011-12 investment plan – and thank you for the proposed increase to that amount in the most current draft. Addressing the skills needs and gaps articulated by employers is clearly critical if we are to develop the clean transportation energy market.

We are especially pleased to see that the plan includes attention to career path development for new entrants. We believe attention to new entrants—as well as to continuing training and pathways to advancement for those already working in the industry—is critical if we are to build a healthy, green economy and system for the future. We want to underscore the importance of strategic investments to prepare more Californians with the skills necessary to increase the uptake of alternative and renewable fuel and vehicles. A focus on new entrants signals the state’s intention to build an inclusive, green economy for the future, while enabling employers to find the skilled workers they need in the regions where they operate.

There are many important and exciting career pathway initiatives underway in California. One such large-scale initiative currently being funded by the California Community Colleges, the Career Advancement Academy (or CAA) demonstration project is designed to establish pipelines to careers and additional higher education opportunities for underemployed young adults from low-income and historically underserved communities. CAAs have been developed across multiple sectors, and include pipelines to automotive and heavy vehicle technician careers leading to advanced electric and hybrid vehicle training, as well as pathways for bus operators and mechanics. Addressing foundational skills while students are already enrolled in career technical training programs accelerates student progress toward high skill careers. All CAAs build on and leverage resources from partnerships among local community colleges, employers, labor, workforce boards, social service agencies and community based organizations in order to more effectively enroll, train and place participants.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Career Ladders Project works closely with the CCC system and colleges to raise additional resources, provide assistance and support, document as well as coordinate independent evaluation for this initiative. For more information about the Career Advancement Academies go to: <http://careerladdersproject.org/projects/career.php> and/or view the very brief overview video at <http://careerladdersproject.org/videoa/vpages/caaoverview10.html>

Similarly, California has recently invested in a Green Transportation Collaborative focused on building career pathway programs in Hybrid Electric and Electric Vehicle transportation, led by Skyline College in San Bruno and sister colleges in Long Beach and Richmond. With funding from a Green Challenge Innovation grant, the colleges are linking to broad industry groups, regional leaders, and funded organizations focused on market acceleration. The Collaborative is actively partnering with the Bay Area Climate Collaborative, CalSTART, the Automotive Service Council of California, the Port of Long Beach and others.

On June 10, the Collaborative is hosting a forum with industry, workforce development leaders, and Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal (transportation committee chair) to gather and discuss industry trends in hybrid and electric heavy duty transportation at the Port of Long Beach. We invite your participation at that event. Should you be interested please feel free to follow up with us at [trowland@CareerLaddersProject.org](mailto:trowland@CareerLaddersProject.org) . We are also working with Commission staff to set up WEBEX access for the event.

We are enthusiastic about California's leadership in alternative and renewable fuel and vehicle technologies. We look forward to working with the Commission to build upon and leverage such innovative workforce initiatives and investments and to further develop effective and efficient post-secondary education career pathways. Connecting the dots across these many initiatives—and others already funded by the Commission—and building on these established partnerships will allow the state to move farther, faster toward its goals and help California reach a real “tipping point” in alternative fuel and vehicle technologies.

Thank you for your vision and leadership on this critical set of issues.

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The Career Advancement Academies were highlighted by the state SB70 evaluator WestED on pages 38-42 of the Report on the Career Technical Education Pathways Initiative to the Governor, Legislature and Department of Finance issued December 2010. [http://careerladdersproject.org/docs/CTE2010toPrint\(rev1\).pdf](http://careerladdersproject.org/docs/CTE2010toPrint(rev1).pdf)