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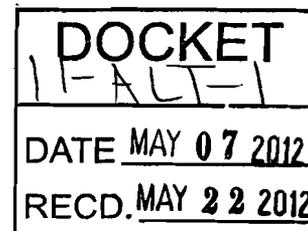
Assembly California Legislature



HENRY T. PEREA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: REVENUE AND TAXATION
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
BANKING AND FINANCE
AGRICULTURE

May 7, 2012



Honorable Commissioners
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: URGENT SUPPORT NEEDED

Dear Commissioners:

Your support is urgently needed for the innovative Central Valley Transportation Center (CVTC) located in Reedley, California. I respectfully request this letter be placed on the public docket for the AB 118 Investment Plan 2012-2013.

My office has been working alongside officials from the City of Reedley and Kings Canyon Unified School District to help secure funding for the CVTC. This state-of-the-art transportation and training facility will be a game changer for a region with the nation's worst air quality, highest poverty rates, and an unemployment rate of 32.7 percent. This project provides us with the ability to operate our public transit fleets in a cost effective and efficient manner while reducing our dependence on foreign oil and significantly reducing greenhouse gasses. Local partnering school districts will go from paying \$4.50 per gallon for diesel to less than \$2.00 per gallon for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). The facility will *promote the use of alternative fuels not currently available in our part of the Valley*, making them readily available for public fleets and to the general public utilizing a card lock system. The strategic location of the proposed CVTC is vitally important to the state, as it will boost the state's ability to truly transform the use of alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies by providing access to these fuels statewide, instead of simply in the largest metropolitan areas, and in the process, demonstrate the viability of such a cost effective transformation.

It is also important to note the CVTC is *not a private entity* trying to make a profit but is a collaboration of several governmental agencies working together to better serve our communities in these hard economic times. The taxpayer should expect our public agencies to consolidate



services, so they can reap the benefits of these types of efficient collaborations. Taxpayers will see an immediate savings due to the cost difference between CNG versus diesel. Strategic opportunities like the CVTC can also build a platform to easily replicate this type of center throughout the state. Centers such as the CVTC can show communities that green technologies work and are cost effective. This project would be a "*Pilot Demonstration Project*" for government agencies, as it will serve as a best practice model for uniting regional partners such as cities, schools, colleges, the agricultural industry, the general public and others. .

The CVTC project would likely fall under the category of *Market and Program Development* "Centers for Alternative Fuels and Advanced Vehicle Technology" as identified in Table # 1 (Summary of, Upcoming, and Proposed Funding) in the CEC AB 118 draft Investment Plan 2012-2013, yet to be adopted.

I encourage the CEC Commissioners and the CEC Advisory Board to consider utilizing the additional \$17 million that may be allocated toward the "up to" funding amounts for this category and fund activity.

The CEC will be able to immediately show return on investment, as these two agencies have already formed their joint powers authority (JPA) and have over 20 partnerships, 15 of which are public/government entities. All environmental reviews have been completed, plans have been drawn up, and construction is ready to begin. This means that the "*Pilot Demonstration Project*" will immediately put AB 118 funds to use on a project directly benefiting taxpaying citizens and proving the CEC's value and potential in these hard economic times.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request. Please contact my office at (559) 445-5532 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Perea', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

HENRY T. PEREA
Assemblymember
Thirty-First District

HTP/efc

cc: Pat Perez, Deputy Director, Emerging Fuels & Technology