



California Energy Commission  
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Ref: Docket Number 12-HYD-1 Hydrogen and Transportation: DRAFT Solicitation Comment

Dear Commissioner Peterman and CEC Staff,

*Energy Independence Now* would like to commend you on an excellent job in drafting the hydrogen infrastructure solicitation. We recognize that this is an inherently difficult challenge, and that the range of comments and suggestions from industry and stakeholders in the June and July 2012 workshops was vast, and at times contradictory. We congratulate the staff on the effort made to understand the subtleties of this wide-ranging input, and incorporating it into this significantly improved solicitation.

We would like to specifically highlight areas and changes that we strongly support:

- 1) The location focus of the solicitation process. We commend CEC's adoption of the CaFCP roadmap and UC Irvine's mapping work as the starting point for the priorities in developing the hydrogen network, and are pleased to see these embedded in the solicitation in a variety of ways. This includes the early notification of priority locations, the heavy weighting of location in the scoring of projects, and the competitive process aimed at securing one station per area.
- 2) Separating and highlighting the renewable H2 funding. We commend CEC on the transparent new way of supporting the parallel objective of developing technology for 100% renewable hydrogen, and strongly support earmarking a specific amount towards that objective.
- 3) Co-location funding. We commend staff on identifying "co-location" projects as important, and worthy of an earmarked support. We believe the learning from this carve-out will prove extremely valuable in developing stations in challenging, low throughput geographies.
- 4) Transparency. We welcome the revised, more granular and transparent scorecard, and look forward to seeing how projects fare and compare under the new system.

EIN is extremely encouraged to see the great progress that has been made through this close collaboration between CEC and stakeholders. We believe it reflects an acknowledgement that we are all in a very steep part of the learning curve regarding this infrastructure development, and that open dialogue, flexibility, and adaptation are critical.

Significant challenges remain as the scale and variety of projects grows, and we hope CEC will plan future, regular workshops following the next solicitations, in the knowledge that some improvements or course corrections will be needed. We look forward to working with the CEC Staff at such times.

Sincerely,

Tyson Eckerle - Executive Director

ARFVT Advisory Committee Member