Comment for 15-HYD-01 Hydrogen Refueling Infrastructure:
Maximizing impact of California's program through information dissemination.

I am an independent consultant who has worked on hydrogen infrastructure issues for more than ten years—first representing Phillips Petroleum/ConocoPhillips and later on my own. I was the first industry co-chair of the Hydrogen Delivery Tech Team and served on the team through 2014.

California is to be commended for its leadership in implementing hydrogen infrastructure. As an innovator it has the unique opportunity to enable hydrogen infrastructure across the United States and the world. To maximize the impact of California's work, the data from the program needs to be shared and incorporated into publically accessible data products and models. Ready access to this information will give investors the confidence needed to justify investments in hydrogen infrastructure.

The state could develop the required database and data products at its own expense, but a more reasonable approach would be to submit the data (economic, performance, etc.) to the existing program at the National Renewable Laboratory (NREL). This program began as part of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Technology Validation Program.

For several years, NREL has served as a trusted broker for dissemination of all sorts of information regarding hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, refueling infrastructure, and hydrogen fuel quality along with numerous other data products related to fuel cell vehicles. The program has developed protocols for assuring confidentiality when required and "anonymizing" its data products so that the performance and economics of vehicles and infrastructure can be studied while results specific to individual projects cannot be identified.

So I would encourage California to share as much data as possible through the existing NREL program. All information would be valuable, but information on critical areas such as hydrogen quality (impurities and their concentrations), compressor performance (energy consumption and reliability), and overall infrastructure performance would be especially valuable.

NREL web site: http://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj_tech_validation.html

Respectfully submitted by:
George D. Parks, Ph.D.
FuelScience LLC