July 21, 2017

John Kato
Deputy Director, Fuels and Transportation Division
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: CHBC SUPPORT for Allocation of AB 8 Funds to Hydrogen Infrastructure Expansion

Dear John:

The California Hydrogen Business Council (CHBC) would like to recommend allocation of AB 8 monies that become available this summer to fund additional projects from the list of stations that received a passing score but were unfunded in GFO 15-605.

As you know, the CHBC is committed to advancing the commercialization of hydrogen in the energy sector – including, transportation, goods movement, and stationary power systems – to reduce emissions and dependence on oil.

Currently, 28 hydrogen fueling stations are open in the State of California, supporting thousands of fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs). However, the CEC/CARB Joint Staff Report indicates a potential lack of H2 fueling capacity by 2021, and need to increase station deployment prior to this time.

Since hydrogen fueling station deployment can take an average of 24 months, the CHBC recommends using AB 8 funds to expand the fueling station network now to provide customers and auto manufacturers certainty.

Awarding applicants who received a passing score, but were not awarded due to a lack of funds in GFO 15-605, would utilize a proven process in which applicants underwent rigorous review, and provide immediate benefits to the hydrogen and fuel cell industry and the citizens of California.
We also recommend this investment in fuel cell technology to compensate for Electrify America’s *California ZEV Investment Plan: Cycle 1*\(^i\), which did not allocate any funding of their $300,000,000 investment to hydrogen and fuel cell efforts. This is contrary to California’s commitment and framework to support emission-free transportation, which has been agnostic in the choice of technologies that offer zero tailpipe emissions, including Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs) and hydrogen.

Keeping California’s hydrogen station deployments on track with projected fuel cell electric vehicle rollout will assure that consumer acceptance of zero emission fuel cell stay on pace with the State’s policy goals.

We thank you for your efforts and stand ready to support any measures geared towards allocating AB 8 funding to hydrogen infrastructure expansion.

Sincerely,

Emanuel Wagner
Assistant Director
California Hydrogen Business Council


\(^ii\) https://cafcp.org/stationmap

\(^iii\) https://www.electrifyamerica.com/our-plan