

August 25, 2020

Doug Harvey, Commission Agreement Officer
California Energy Commission (CEC)
1516 Ninth Street, MS-18
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Support for CEC Medium- and Heavy-Duty (MD/HD) Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Infrastructure Blueprint Planning Grant Application (GFO-20-601)

Dear Mr. Harvey:

The Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhood (Portside Community) Steering Committee enthusiastically supports the MD/HD ZEV Infrastructure Blueprint Planning Grant Application (MD/HD ZEV Blueprint) submitted by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) in partnership with the Port of San Diego, Metropolitan Transit System, North County Transit District, Caltrans District 11, and County of San Diego.

The California Air Resources Board selected the San Diego Portside Community as one of ten communities statewide to participate in the AB 617 Community Air Pollution Program. The AB 617 Portside Community Steering Committee was established in October 2018 to work with the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) to address air pollution disparities in the portside neighborhoods of Barrio Logan, Logan Heights, Sherman Heights, and west National City. These neighborhoods have some of the highest CalEnviroScreen (CES) 3.0 ratings in the state, including four census tracts that are in the 98th percentile for CES 3.0 and another 8 that are in the 85th percentile. Over 50,000 San Diegans reside in this area. The AB 617 Portside Community Steering Committee is comprised of 26 members, which includes several local area residents; representatives from industry, businesses, public agencies; and labor, public health, and environmental advocacy groups.

The AB 617 Portside Community Steering Committee is currently preparing its AB 617 Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP), which includes several emission reduction strategies that focus on reducing Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) from MD/HD trucks. Identifying and planning the necessary zero emission charging and fueling infrastructure to support MD/HD zero emission truck fleets is essential to transitioning our community, and ultimately our region, to zero emission and/or lower emitting trucks.

The MD/HD ZEV Blueprint will advance the goals of the AB 617 CERP and will identify actions and milestones needed for implementation of MD/HD ZEVs and related electric charging and hydrogen refueling infrastructure within the San Diego region. Through regional collaboration, the MD/HD ZEV Blueprint will build upon regional work to date to identify major MD/HD corridors, emerging ZEV charging and fueling technologies, potential infrastructure locations, grid and resiliency considerations, and near term implementable projects and pilots as well as long term efforts. Implementation of the MD/HD ZEV Blueprint will improve air quality in the region and directly benefit the Portside Community.

SANDAG has long been a leader in innovation, technology, and infrastructure-related job creation in the San Diego region. The AB 617 Portside Community Steering Committee has the utmost confidence in SANDAG to lead this effort and strongly recommends the CEC support this grant application.

Sincerely,

Chair

AB 617 Environmental Justice Neighborhoods Steering Committee

Steering Committee Members:

Ashley Rosia-Tremonti, City of San Diego
Jack Monger, Industry (Industrial Environmental Association)
Sara Giobbi, Industry (General Dynamics NASSCO)
Larry Hofreiter, Port of San Diego
Elisa Arias, SANDAG
David Flores, Environmental Health Coalition
Joy Williams, Environmental Health Coalition
Raymond Pe, City of National City
Roman Partida-Lopez, The Greenlining Institute
Stephanie Yoon, Medical Expert
Jose I. Marquez-Chavez, Caltrans
A.C. Dumaul, U.S. Navy
Lianna Rios, SDG&E
Philomena Marino, Resident
Sandy Naranjo, Mothers Out Front Organization
Tedd Godshalk, Resident
Hilary Medina, Resident
Alicia Sanchez, Resident
Margarita Moreno, Resident
Irma Ortiz, Resident
Jiapsi Gomez, Resident
Olympia Andrade Beltran, Resident
Vanessa Contreras, Resident,
Salvador Razo Abrica, Union Representative
Monseratt Hernandez, Resident
Silvia Calzada, Resident