

May 28, 2021

California Air Resources Board 1001 I St. Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Electrify America's Cycle 3 Investment Plan

Dear California Air Resources Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of Earthjustice in support of Electrify America's Cycle 3 California Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Investment Plan. This significant, \$200 million investment in California over 30 months will bring the state closer to achieving its emissions goals to combat climate change and improve air quality by transitioning to zero emission transportation, including in transit and heavy-duty applications. Earthjustice has consistently supported zero-emissions investments in California through its Right to Zero campaign, and we believe these funds will be important to push us forward to this zero-emission future.

This is the third of four investment cycles by Electrify America, which is investing \$800 million over 10 years to accelerate transportation electrification in California. The Cycle 3 ZEV Investment Plan will continue to expand access to ZEVs in California, by further building out ultra-fast charging infrastructure in metropolitan areas and along highway corridors, supporting transit and medium- and heavy-duty fleet charging, and continuing to invest in brand neutral education and awareness efforts, including supporting and sponsoring the ZEV education and training of other organizations. Importantly, the plan continues to prioritize rural, disadvantaged, and low-income communities for investment, to ensure that all communities can access charging and benefit from the transition to electric vehicles.

Among other activities identified in the plan, Electrify America will invest \$25 million in a Green City program in the Long Beach-Wilmington community, home to the nation's busiest port complex and served by a fleet of more than 18,000 drayage trucks. This targeted investment to support electrification of transit and medium and heavy-duty vehicles in these communities will advance CARB's priorities to quickly transition buses and drayage trucks to ZEVs, and quickly reduce pollution in a community that is classified as extreme non-attainment under the Clean Air Act.

Earthjustice has worked with many community and environmental justice groups in the harbor area of Los Angeles and Long Beach to push for zero-emissions. These groups have been clear that they want zero-emissions, not combustion technologies like natural gas. This funding focused on zero-emissions infrastructure will be a critical down payment to achieve the City of Los Angeles and Long Beach's promise to have zero-emission drayage trucks by 2035, in addition to other zero-emission commitments.

Electrify America's investments are also creating economic opportunities for many stakeholders throughout California. For example, responding vendors to Electrify America's 2020 survey identified more than 8,000 workers employed by themselves and subcontractors that worked on Electrify America projects from July to December 2020, including 1,022 workers in California. Of these workers, vendors reported that 62% lived in low-income and disadvantaged communities.¹

We respectfully urge you to find that Electrify America's Cycle 3 California ZEV Investment Plan is consistent with requirements at your June 24th meeting, in order not just to keep California on the forefront of, but a leader in, the fight against climate change.

Respectfully,

Adriano L. Martinez

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 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ "2020 Annual Report to CARB." April 30, 2021.