

To: California Air Resources Board  
RE: VW Electrify America, Cycle 1 Investment Plan

The FOURTH LARGEST METROPOLITAN AREA in California, the Sacramento Region, greatly needs to advance the adoption of emission-free vehicles to address the region's NATIONAL #6 RANKING for poor metropolitan air quality. Air quality related medical and health issues are significantly higher in the eastern areas of the Central Valley, as vehicle pollution is trapped under the inversion layer and caught by the rising elevations of the lower Sierras.

One of the huge challenges for air quality in this region is the fact that Sacramento downtown is the conjunction of I-5, I-80, and state route 99 which bring major vehicle activity to a focus in our immediate downtown as well.

Since Sacramento is the state capital and so many state office workers commute from outlying areas for their downtown work settings, commuting drivers are the major source of much of this vehicle based air pollution. Reducing the impact of ICE vehicles in this commuter driven region, where more than 30,000 college students are using personal cars to commute to their education will significantly improve overall metropolitan health issues.

On a rational level, most of those commuters drive less than 35 miles each way to their place of employment/education, so an electric vehicle or even an electric van for car pooling SHOULD be a considered option, but....

The adoption acceptance of electric and plug-in vehicles is still highly compromised by the user concerns of "range anxiety" and the difficulty in finding, especially faster, charging stations. We need to have chargers that are as convenient to electric vehicle users as gas stations are for ICE vehicle drivers.

In addition, since electric vehicles still represent less than 1% of all vehicle sales nationally, it is consistently reported in surveys that the general public still largely unaware about the options in electric drive vehicles. It is imperative that stronger educational programs be implemented to increase understanding and awareness of emission-free driving options. The non-profit Sacramento Electric Vehicle Association (SacEV) has a long history of educational outreach to schools, colleges, businesses, publications and public events to enlighten the public about this new technology.

SacEV, with its partners, put on 31 EV educational events plus wide ranging activities in 2016 which included:

- 1,919 Test drives for people interested in experiencing driving electric.
- 8,225 One-on-one conversations on whether an EV can work for you.
- 162 Member EVs provided for event support (show and tell) at over 25 events
- Providing educational scholarships for Automotive Technology programs
- Bimonthly public informational events on EV offerings, programs, infrastructure and an opportunity to meet EV industry experts for direct Q & A on "how an EV works for you."

- Engaged State Government offices and utilities in consultation on policy and planning for the adoption and infrastructure needed for EVs
- Working closely with the NATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE ASSOCIATION to share ideas, success strategies and programs that work.
- Published several articles not just across the country, but also into Germany, about EV events and activities, along with tips and techniques for holding successful EV events.
- Provided SacEV generated public material to train Auto Sales reps with regard to success in the EV sales process.

These required over 4000 hours of volunteer time across six counties for community events and EV promotion.

The city, together with close partners:

- SMUD,
- Sacramento County,
- Sacramento Electric Vehicle Association (SacEV),
- Sacramento Clean Cities,
- Council of Governments,
- California Auto Museum,
- UC Davis Institute of Transportation,
- Air Quality Districts,
- Sierra Club,
- Sacramento Area Regional Technology Alliance,
- businesses such as Kaiser-Permanente and
- other local cities/governments in the region

Has committed to promoting better air quality and community health through the development and support of emission-free driving options. The SacEV organization of over **600** volunteers intends to provide hundreds of hours of educational outreach and promotion to tens of thousands of potential EV owners and service users.

The **Sacramento region** has a unique and substantial history of cooperative efforts between governmental, public, and community groups in promoting community interests in health. The Green City award would allow that **history** to become a **future** with a major impact on improving community health and wellness, and extend to broader regions.

Respectfully Submitted,

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