



ECOS

ENVIRONMENTAL
♦ COUNCIL ♦
OF SACRAMENTO

Post Office Box 1526 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 444-0022

April 10, 2017

Mary D. Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1011 I Street, P.O. Box 2415
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Volkswagen Settlement California ZEV Investment Plan

Dear Chairman Nichols,

We are writing to express our support of the Volkswagen's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Investment Plan, including the designation of Sacramento as the first Green City with a proposed investment of \$44 million. We believe that the City of Sacramento is a strong, capable partner that is ready to deliver on this important opportunity. The Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) has a history of working with the City to deliver ambitious projects and programs that benefit the region.

ECOS' mission is to achieve regional and community sustainability and a healthy environment for existing and future residents. By working proactively with our members, member organizations, local government, and community groups, ECOS energizes and brings positive change to the Sacramento region as we strive to develop thriving communities.

ECOS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a coalition consisting of individuals and 17 organizations who create a united voice for local environmental concerns. Some of ECOS' member organizations that would facilitate the success of "Green City" include: 350 Sacramento, Breathe California-Sacramento Emigrant Trails, Sacramento Citizens' Climate Lobby, Sacramento Electric Vehicle Association, Sacramento Housing Alliance, and Sierra Club Sacramento Group.

Two of our guiding objectives are:

- Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow climate change
- Achieve equity in housing, public health, and economic opportunity

ECOS believes that Volkswagen's investment in Sacramento can provide a broad benefit that spurs innovation across the region. We support proposed investments in EV car sharing programs, ZEV delivery and taxi fleets, community charging infrastructure, and public education activities.

ECOS has been closely involved with efforts by local citizen groups (e.g., Sacramento Transit Advocates and Riders) to support efforts to enhance mobility for those with lower incomes, who would especially benefit from enhanced car share programs. These ongoing group efforts enhance the likelihood of success for the ZEV investment plan.

Sacramento is one of the most diverse communities in the nation, with significant potential to bring new ideas and service models to scale. Sacramento provides an ideal test market that is large enough to test new concepts, but small enough to implement visible change. Strong public-private partnerships provide a unique opportunity for the development of the ZEV industry, including new jobs-training programs and an emerging market for autonomous vehicle deployments. Sacramento's diverse neighborhoods also stand to benefit from new programs for clean and affordable transportation, including low-cost ZEV vehicles, public charging infrastructure, and new car share programs.

The Sacramento area has a long history of cooperation between business and public health organizations. For example, since 1986, Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails (the originator of ECOS) and the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce have successfully teamed up through the Cleaner Air Partnership to improve the Sacramento region's air quality. It's a unique collaboration between the region's major business organization and its major health and environmental groups, that tend to be at odds with each other in other locales. This has facilitated the dramatic improvement in air quality that has occurred since then, in spite of having the country's worse potential for air pollution on a meteorological basis. Similarly, Sacramento residents tend to be more aware of the need to deal with climate change, considering the increasingly hot summers that the region already experiences.

Sacramento has the potential to deliver a transformational program that delivers real benefits to our communities. We note that Sacramento is served by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) a publicly owned electric utility, with Board members who understand the potential benefits of the ZEV investment plan and have worked with the community to promote renewable energy and EVs. We thank you for your consideration of Sacramento for this exciting program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph Propper". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light gray rectangular box.A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John E. Deeter". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light gray rectangular box.

Ralph Propper and John Deeter, Co-Chairs
ECOS Transportation, Air Quality & Climate Change Committee

cc: ARB Board members