

March 30, 2020

Commissioner Patricia Monahan
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95815

Subject: Clean Transportation Program 2020-2021 Investment Plan

Dear Commissioner Monahan:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Clean Transportation Program spending plan for 2020-2021. The American Lung Association views this program as a critical tool in improving and protecting public health against harmful transportation pollution.

California is home to the most difficult air pollution challenges in the United States, with over 90 percent of residents living in communities impacted by unhealthy air. These air quality challenges are dominated by transportation pollution, and many communities and populations are at increased risk and vulnerability to the negative impacts of fossil fueled-transportation combustion. Transportation is also the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change that amplifies a wide range of health risks. As our climate changes, the job of cleaning our air and preserving hard-fought clean air progress becomes more difficult as extreme heat, wildfires and other conditions increase harmful pollution.

The Clean Transportation Program is an important tool in confronting the negative effects of transportation systems on public health and our climate. We offer the following initial comments on the draft plan as follow-up to the March 3, 2020 workgroup meeting.

1. **Support for proposed multi-year approach.** Multi-year certainty for the planning and deployment of the infrastructure needed to support and accelerate the transition to zero emission is a critical step provided in the draft spending plan and we support this approach. The increasing levels of investment over time in heavy duty infrastructure are an important element of this draft.
2. **Support for continued prioritization of zero emission transportation.** The widespread and rapid transition to zero emission technologies – and enabling infrastructure – is necessary to achieving health protective clean air and climate standards. We support the ongoing focus of the Clean Transportation Program to prioritize the deployment of zero emission technologies and infrastructure, including priority for our most disadvantaged and highly impacted communities.
3. **Encourage medium- and heavy-duty infrastructure investments to complement zero emission regulatory efforts.** As the California Air Resources Board moves forward with the implementation of zero emission rules for medium- and heavy-duty transportation (e.g.

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Innovative Clean Transit, Advanced Clean Trucks, etc.), we recognize the important role that infrastructure will have in ensuring the widespread deployment of zero emission vehicles as these policies mature. We support the staff's proposal to increase levels of infrastructure investment for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles over time, and also encourage consideration of broadening the use of the proposed \$51 million now targeted for light-duty zero emission infrastructure to also include these categories.

Thank you for your work to develop a strong plan targeted to emission reductions and the transition to zero emissions for the transportation sector. We look forward to continuing to work with the Commission and stakeholders to improve public health for all California communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Will Barrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Will Barrett
Clean Air Advocacy Director

