

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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## **Request for Information Regional Readiness and Planning Solicitation Development January 25, 2016**

**Purpose of Request:**

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to determine areas of readiness and planning activities for potential funding. Responses received from this RFI, as well as staff research and public comments from the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP) Investment Plan Advisory Committee workshops, will guide the development of the next solicitation that will utilize the Regional Alternative Fuel Readiness and Planning funding allocation.

**Background:**

The ARFVTP was created by Assembly Bill 118 (Núñez, 750, Statutes of 2007), which authorized the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) “to develop and deploy technology and alternative and renewable fuels in the marketplace, without adopting any one preferred fuel or technology.” The ARFVTP has an annual budget of approximately \$100 million for projects that:

- Reduce California’s use and dependence on petroleum transportation fuels and increase the use of alternative and renewable fuels and advanced vehicle technologies.
- Produce sustainable alternative and renewable low-carbon fuels in California.
- Expand alternative fueling infrastructure and fueling stations.
- Improve the efficiency, performance, and market viability of alternative light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicle technologies.
- Retrofit medium- and heavy-duty on-road and non-road vehicle fleets to alternative technologies or fuel use.
- Expand the alternative fueling infrastructure available to existing fleets, public transit, and transportation corridors.
- Establish workforce training programs and conduct public outreach on the benefits of alternative transportation fuels and vehicle technologies.

**Requested Information:**

The Energy Commission is accepting public comments under this RFI to help guide the development of the next Regional Readiness and Planning solicitation.

The Energy Commission released an initial solicitation for Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) regional readiness planning in 2011. Funding recipients from this solicitation included

combinations of local planning entities, air districts, government associations, and nongovernmental organizations. The awardees covered 40 counties and all major metropolitan areas.

The California PEV Collaborative subsequently received a \$1 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop a statewide, multiregional approach for planning and implementing charging infrastructure. The PEV Collaborative has developed multiple materials for regions to use in developing their own plans, including resources on multi-unit dwelling charging and workplace charging.

The Energy Commission released a second solicitation in this area in 2013. Unlike the previous solicitation, this one was open to multiple alternative fuel types. Eight successful applications were submitted, including the first planning award for hydrogen refueling.

In 2014, the Energy Commission released PON-14-603, its third solicitation in this area. Funding in this solicitation was divided into three categories pertaining to PEVs and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV). The first category focused on implementation activities identified in previous regional PEV planning awards, such as implementing improvements to Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) installation processes, installation of local EVCS signage, hosting PEV awareness events, and/or local government code adoption and training. The second category funded development of regional PEV readiness plans in areas where no such plans had yet been developed. The third category funded FCEV readiness activities, such as streamlining the permitting process for hydrogen stations, promoting interest in FCEV adoption, installation of local hydrogen refueling signage, and the identification of preferred sites for future hydrogen stations. Eight successful applications were awarded grants.

For upcoming solicitations on Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV), including PEV and FCEV, Readiness and Planning, this RFI seeks feedback and comments for the following questions.

- What areas of Regional Readiness and Planning, eligible under previous solicitations, should be continued?
- What new areas of Regional Readiness and Planning should be included?
- What specific activities should be considered to increase ZEV penetration in disadvantaged communities?
- What activities should be considered to address the challenges of installing EVCS in Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs)?
- What metrics should be included in upcoming solicitations to evaluate the effectiveness of public awareness and education events?

All comments should contain clear and substantiated reasoning and include the following:

1. Identification and explanation of the funding area.

2. A discussion of the benefits which may be realized from support and development of the funding area.
3. A discussion on why ARFVTP funding is necessary for the funding area.
4. Web links or references to documentation supporting the need for funding or opportunities available, including publications, other funding solicitations, and other relevant documentation.

Suggested funding areas must be eligible for ARFVTP funding. A description of project types for which the Energy Commission have funded in the past can be found at [\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/drive/projects/electric.html\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/drive/projects/electric.html).

***Respondents to this Request for Information should not include any proprietary, sensitive, or confidential information. This Request for Information will not consider the merits of individual projects or any requests for funding.***

**How to Comment:**

Comments may be submitted through February 10, 2016. Comments received after this date may be excluded from consideration when developing the Regional Readiness and Planning solicitation. Comments must be emailed to [AB118@energy.ca.gov](mailto:AB118@energy.ca.gov) and the subject line must begin with "RFI Regional Readiness".

Thank you for your participation.