

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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March 3, 2015

Mr. Eli Harland
California Energy Commission
Sent Via-email
Eli.Harland@energy.ca.gov

Re: Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC): Implementation Workshop

Dear Mr. Harland,

The City is providing additional comments regarding the EPIC program because it works with multiple research centers at the UC Davis Energy Efficiency Center (EEC). We are writing to encourage the Energy Commission to fund multi-year, multi-project research centers with EPIC funds. Working with the UC Davis Energy Efficiency Center (EEC) and its associated research centers has provided immense direct and indirect benefit to the City. In particular, with this letter, we encourage the support of one or more centers focused on the electrification of transportation and the related issues for regulated utilities and the automotive industry. Based on decades of policy and implementation experience related to alternative transportation at the local level, the City believes that the issues addressed by the UC Davis EEC must be confronted for the efficient adoption of plug-in EVs to meet local and statewide transportation goals.

There are many challenges for our City that a center could address in a timely and flexible manner, and in ways that project-based funding does not allow. For example, over the next decade and beyond, the transition to electric vehicles requires longitudinal surveys and driver use data to monitor the development of consumer markets and energy use. We believe that multi-year research centers provide continuity of expertise and focus to a research area, through their ongoing work in the field and relationships with policy leaders, industry partners and environmental stakeholders. The City believes that university centers such as the UC Davis EEC develop the human resources that local jurisdictions require for long-term development of utility policies, deployment of critical infrastructure, leading to broad scale adoption of PEVs. Centers should be evaluated on their ability to produce statewide impacts, their history of research, interaction and collaboration with industry, and ability to leverage state funding with other funding sources.

More specifically, the City has worked with the PHEV Research Center at UC Davis to forecast local demand and identify the most viable pathway for local deployment of charging infrastructure. This will help the City develop not only a local deployment plan but also develop policies, ordinances, standards, and practices for charging infrastructure that will be shared with other local jurisdictions. In addition, the City depends on the applied research of the EEC to understand the local implications of electrifying our transportation system. This practical information informs smarter local policy and more rapid deployment of the critical infrastructure. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for there to be a working local jurisdiction model, backed up by applied research, to accelerate the installation of charging infrastructure and speed adoption of plug-in vehicles. Without the support of the UC Davis EEC and specifically the PHEV Research Center, it would not be possible for the City to research, deploy, and demonstrate the local value of these critical technologies.

Thank you very much for considering these comments in support of research center funding in general, and the area of electric-drive transportation in particular.

Sincerely,



Dirk Brazil
City Manager

cc: Chairman Robert Weisenmiller
Commissioner Janea Scott
Deputy Director Laurie ten Hope