



**CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION**



California Energy Commission
Clean Transportation Program

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

California Department of Transportation Installation Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Caltrans' Division of Equipment would like to take this opportunity to thank the California Energy Commission for providing match funding for charging stations at 22 locations throughout California. With your generosity, we have been able to gain tremendous knowledge in electric vehicle charging technology. For this electric vehicle charging station project, we have faced many challenges with the existing electrical of our aged facilities, however with determination, we were able to complete installing charging stations at all 22 locations.

As the result of this effort, in the last six months, we have displaced 1,760 gallons of fossil fuel and reduced 5,900 kg of CO₂.

PREFACE

Assembly Bill 118 (Núñez, Chapter 750, Statutes of 2007) created the Clean Transportation Program, formerly known as the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program. The statute authorizes the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop and deploy alternative and renewable fuels and advanced transportation technologies to help attain the state's climate change policies. Assembly Bill 8 (Perea, Chapter 401, Statutes of 2013) reauthorizes the Clean Transportation Program through January 1, 2024, and specifies that the CEC allocate up to \$20 million per year (or up to 20 percent of each fiscal year's funds) in funding for hydrogen station development until at least 100 stations are operational.

The Clean Transportation Program has an annual budget of about \$100 million and provides financial support 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 nonroad 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.

To be eligible for funding under the Clean Transportation Program, a project must be consistent with the CEC's annual Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan Update. The CEC issued PON-13-606 to which Electric Vehicle Charging Stations was a successful award. In response to PON-13-606, the recipient submitted an application which was proposed for funding in the CEC's notice of proposed awards April 4, 2014 and the agreement was executed as ARV-13-048 on June 30, 2014.

ABSTRACT

The objective of this Agreement was to install workplace charging stations and to accommodate future charging infrastructure demand at existing state facilities.

Before this electric vehicle charging station project began, Caltrans already launched the process of replacing its older light-duty fleet vehicles with electric vehicle to meet the Executive Order B-16-12. At that time, Caltrans owned a small number of battery electric and plug-in hybrids. Although, with a limited number of charging stations, Caltrans managed to use the combination of level 1, level 2 and publicly available chargers to charge its electric vehicle fleet.

Faced with many challenges, Caltrans achieved the goals of this agreement by providing charging stations at all 22 required locations. Of those 22 locations, Caltrans deployed 10 units of the mobile Electric Vehicle Autonomous Renewable Charger solar charging stations.

The mobile Electric Vehicle Autonomous Renewable Charger solar charging station is 100 percent renewable energy. In addition, a benefit of its use is that there is no need to dig trenches and provide electrical power lines. Once the solar charging station is delivered to the site it's ready to use.

Keywords: Caltrans, charging infrastructure, electric vehicle, electric vehicle autonomous renewable charger, parking facilities, solar charging station.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governor's Executive Order (EO) B-18-12 (see chapter 5), requires State agencies to take actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In order to comply with the EO B-18-12, Caltrans decided to meet that goal by installing more electric vehicle charging stations. These electric vehicle charging stations were specifically picked in existing employee parking facilities in order to accommodate future demand of more employees driving their electric vehicles to work.

Early Development

The grant's requirement was to install workplace charging stations to accommodate future charging infrastructure demand at existing employee parking facilities. The grant funding supported Caltrans in its effort to install electric vehicle charging stations at 22 locations.

Determine Charger Sites

Caltrans' management conducted assessments of several sites and they determined that 22 of those locations were suitable for development of the electric vehicle charging stations.

Selecting Charging Station Type

A problem with the development of 10 of the electric vehicle charging stations was that existing electrical grid infrastructure could not support the increased demand of electricity to the electric vehicle charging stations. In order to make the sites feasible, Caltrans used a mix of fixed chargers and solar charger. The solar chargers provided supplemental electricity to the site during the day where demand for electricity was large since the employees park their electric vehicles there during the day. The other 12 locations did not need solar chargers, therefore only chargers were installed.

CHAPTER 1: Technical Background

The State of California has awarded the Envision Solar International, Inc. contract #1-15-61-16 to supply EV ARC™ products to State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as well as, other state and local governmental agencies or entities. The EV ARC™ delivers clean solar energy directly to an electric vehicle (EV) without any disruption or negative environmental impacts. A huge success of this project was due to convenience of electric vehicle supply equipment since they could be installed in pre-existing structures such as parking lots.

Invented and manufactured in the US, the EV ARC™ fits inside a parking space and generates enough clean, solar electricity to power 150 miles of EV driving each day. The system's solar electrical generation is enhanced by EnvisionTrak™, which enables the array to follow the sun, generating 18 to 25 percent more electricity than a fixed array. The energy is stored in the EV ARC™ Power Storage Technology, allowing EV's to charge during the day or at night. The EV ARC™ requires no trenching, foundations or installation work, allowing it to be deployed in minutes and moved to a new location with ease. "California has about 40 percent of the United States' EVs," said Desmond Wheatley, CEO of Envision Solar. EV ARC™ is the perfect solution for a State that requires a scalable, sustainable and easily deployable EV charging infrastructure that does not require trenching or foundations and can be easily moved.

CHAPTER 2: Data on the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Each of the 22 locations had one of two types of chargers installed, the “EV ARC” or the “Fixed” chargers. The EV ARC had a solar array included in its installation in order to provide the supplemental electricity that was necessary to service the amount of electric vehicles that would be relying on those stations for electricity. The Fixed chargers did not have a solar array installed with these stations. The information pertaining to each of the 22 locations where the workplace electric vehicle charging stations were installed is displayed in Table 1.

Table 1: List of the 22 Workplace Charging Locations

Address	City	ZIP Code	County	Charger Type
1993 Marina Boulevard	San Leandro	94577	Alameda	1 Fixed
34th Street & Stockton Blvd.	Sacramento	95816	Sacramento	1 EV ARC
66 Madonna Road	San Luis Obispo	93401	San Luis Obispo	1 Fixed
13204 Golden State Road	Sylmar	91342	Los Angeles	2 Fixed
1090 Bristol Street	Costa Mesa	92626	Orange	2 Fixed
3165 Gold Valley Drive	Rancho Cordova	95742	Sacramento	1 EV ARC
8502 Railroad Avenue	Santee	92071	San Diego	1 Fixed
7179 Opportunity Road	San Diego	92111	San Diego	2 Fixed
7183 Opportunity Road	San Diego	92111	San Diego	1 EV ARC
855 M Street	Fresno	93721	Fresno	1 EV ARC
4821 Adohr Lane	Camarillo	93010	Ventura	1 Fixed
1940 S. Workman Mill Road	Whittier	90601	Los Angeles	1 EV ARC
28820 The Old Road	Valencia	91355	Los Angeles	1 Fixed
5160 W. Imperial Highway	El Segundo	90245	Los Angeles	1 Fixed
1201 Baldwin Park Blvd.	Baldwin Park	91706	Los Angeles	2 Fixed
6641 Marine Way	Irvine	92618	Orange	1 Fixed
32941 Camino Capistrano	San Juan Capistrano	92675	Orange	1 Fixed

451 West Slover Avenue	Bloomington	92316	San Bernardino	1 EV ARC
4050 Taylor Street	San Diego	92110	San Diego	1 EV ARC
1463 Broadway	El Cajon	92021	San Diego	1 EV ARC
1976 E. Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd.	Stockton	95205	San Joaquin	1 EV ARC
9087 Elkmont Way	Elk Grove	95624	Sacramento	1 EV ARC

Source: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

The benefits from installing these electric vehicle charging stations is that it encourages people to drive electric vehicles, which do not emit air pollutants as internal combustion engine vehicles do. To demonstrate the improvement of air quality Caltrans monitored the sites over a timeframe of 6 months for three main air pollutants: volatile organic compounds (VOCs), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and particulate matter 10 (PM10). During the 6 months the data in Table 2 displays significant reduction of these three air pollutants emitted from the sites. Table 2 also shows the amount of fossil fuels in gallons as well as the amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) in kilograms reduced at each site due to the electric vehicle charging stations encouraging people to drive electric vehicles to work rather than internal combustion engine vehicles.

Table 2: Summary of the Emission Data Collected from Each Location

Address	Count of Sessions	Sum of Energy (kWh)	Equivalent Miles	Sum of GHG Savings (kg)	Sum of fossil fuel Savings (gallons)	VOC	NOx	PM10
1090 Bristol St, Costa Mesa, CA , 92626								
Feb	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1201 Baldwin Park Blvd, Baldwin Park CA, 91706								
Feb	3	0	1	12	4	1	1	0

Address	Count of Sessions	Sum of Energy (kWh)	Equivalent Miles	Sum of GHG Savings (kg)	Sum of fossil fuel Savings (gallons)	VOC	NOx	PM10
Mar	6	1	3	29	9	3	2	0
Apr	35*	1	5	46	14	5	4	0
May	18	2	5	47	14	6	4	0
Jun	19	1	4	38	11	5	3	0
Jul	6	1	2	19	6	2	1	0
Total	87	6	20	191	58	22	15	0
13200 Golden State, Sylmar, CA 91342								
Feb	8	52	182	22	7	188	126	1
Mar	23	230	804	96	29	831	557	4
Apr	11	88	309	37	11	319	214	1
May	17	235	823	99	29	850	570	4
Jun	11	84	293	35	10	303	203	1
Jul	19	229	803	96	29	830	556	4
Total	89	918	3212	385	115	3321	2226	14
1463 Broadway, El Cajon, CA92021								
Feb	20	173	604	72	22	625	419	3
Mar	25	222	776	93	28	802	537	3
Apr	18	168	589	71	21	609	408	3
May	21	203	710	85	25	734	492	3
Jun	20	187	655	79	23	677	454	3

*This number may be an outlier.

Address	Count of Sessions	Sum of Energy (kWh)	Equivalent Miles	Sum of GHG Savings (kg)	Sum of fossil fuel Savings (gallons)	VOC	NOx	PM10
Jul	21	170	596	71	21	616	413	3
Total	125	1122	3928	471	141	4061	2722	17
1940 S. Workman Mill Rd, Whittier, CA90601								
Jul	21	85	297	36	11	307	206	1
Total	21	85	297	36	11	307	206	1
1976 E. D r MLK Jr Blvd, Stockton, CA95205								
Feb	15	186	649	78	23	671	450	3
Mar	13	169	593	71	21	613	411	3
Apr	15	188	659	79	24	681	456	3
May	22	333	1167	140	42	1207	809	5
Jun	17	233	816	98	29	844	566	4
Jul	17	121	424	51	15	438	294	2
Total	99	1231	4308	517	154	4454	2986	20
1993 Marina Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577								
Feb	45	490	1715	206	62	1774	1189	8
Mar	8	116	406	49	15	420	281	2
May	4	82	288	35	10	298	200	1
Jun	4	32	112	13	4	115	77	0
Jul	3	47	166	20	6	172	115	1

Address	Count of Sessions	Sum of Energy (kWh)	Equivalent Miles	Sum of GHG Savings (kg)	Sum of fossil fuel Savings (gallons)	VOC	NOx	PM10
Total	64	768	2687	322	96	2778	1862	12
28820 The Old Rd, Valencia, CA91355								
Jun	1	4	13	2	0	13	9	0
Total	1	4	13	2	0	13	9	0
3165 Gold Valley Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA95742								
Feb	23	202	708	85	25	732	490	3
Mar	12	133	466	56	17	482	323	2
Apr	20	194	681	82	24	704	472	3
May	19	174	607	73	22	628	421	3
Jun	20	213	744	89	27	769	516	3
Jul	12	132	463	56	17	479	321	2
Total	106	1048	3669	440	132	3794	2542	16
32941 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, CA , 92675								
Feb	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mar	2	11	40	5	1	41	28	0
May	3	9	30	4	1	31	21	0
Jun	1	2	7	1	0	7	5	0
Total	7	22	77	9	3	80	53	0

Address	Count of Sessions	Sum of Energy (kWh)	Equivalent Miles	Sum of GHG Savings (kg)	Sum of fossil fuel Savings (gallons)	VOC	NOx	PM10
34th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816								
Feb	36	218	761	91	27	787	528	3
Mar	21	134	467	56	17	483	324	2
Apr	53	307	1074	129	39	1111	745	5
May	27	222	776	93	28	803	538	3
Jun	40	249	871	105	31	901	604	4
Jul	32	176	614	74	22	635	426	3
Total	209	1306	4563	548	164	4720	3165	20
4050 Taylor St, San Diego, CA 92110								
Feb	45	222	779	93	28	805	540	3
Mar	49	225	787	94	28	814	546	3
Apr	52	236	825	99	30	853	571	4
May	6	22	78	9	3	81	54	0
Jun	45	302	1057	127	38	1093	732	5
Jul	41	332	1161	139	42	1200	804	5
Total	238	1339	4686	562	168	4846	3248	21
451 Slover Ave, Bloomington , CA 92316								
Feb	14	48	168	20	6	174	116	1
Apr	19	49	171	21	6	177	119	1
May	3	45	157	19	6	162	109	1
Jun	10	118	412	49	15	426	285	2

Address	Count of Sessions	Sum of Energy (kWh)	Equivalent Miles	Sum of GHG Savings (kg)	Sum of fossil fuel Savings (gallons)	VOC	NOx	PM10
Total	46	259	908	109	33	939	629	4
4821 Adohr Ln, Camarillo, CA 93012								
Mar	1	17	59	7	2	61	41	0
Jul	3	44	155	19	6	161	108	1
Total	4	61	215	26	8	222	149	1
5160 W Imperial Hwy, El Segundo, CA 90045								
Apr	3	48	167	20	6	172	115	1
May	8	137	480	58	17	497	333	2
Jun	8	106	370	44	13	383	257	2
Jul	8	133	467	56	17	483	324	2
Total	27	424	1484	178	53	1535	1029	7
66 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401								
Feb	9	120	419	50	15	433	290	2
Mar	16	117	409	49	15	423	283	2
Apr	38	391	1370	164	49	1416	949	6
May	33	443	1549	186	55	1601	1073	7
Jun	34	417	1460	175	52	1509	1011	6
Jul	27	316	1105	133	40	1142	765	5
Total	157	1803	6310	758	226	6525	4373	28

Address	Count of Sessions	Sum of Energy (kWh)	Equivalent Miles	Sum of GHG Savings (kg)	Sum of fossil fuel Savings (gallons)	VOC	NOx	PM10
6681 Marine Way, Irvine, CA 92618								
Jun	4	28	96	12	3	100	67	0
Jul	19	235	822	99	29	850	570	4
Total	23	263	918	111	32	950	637	4
7179 Opportunity Rd, San Diego, CA 92111								
Mar	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	3	13	45	5	2	47	31	0
Jun	1	1	4	1	0	4	3	0
Total	5	14	49	6	2	51	34	0
7183 Opportunity Rd, San Diego, CA 92111								
Feb	17	152	534	64	19	552	370	2
Mar	22	197	690	83	25	714	478	3
Apr	15	114	399	48	14	412	276	2
May	24	220	769	92	28	795	533	3
Jun	15	127	445	53	16	461	309	2
Jul	19	231	809	97	29	836	561	4
Total	112	1041	3646	437	131	3770	2527	16
8502 Railroad								

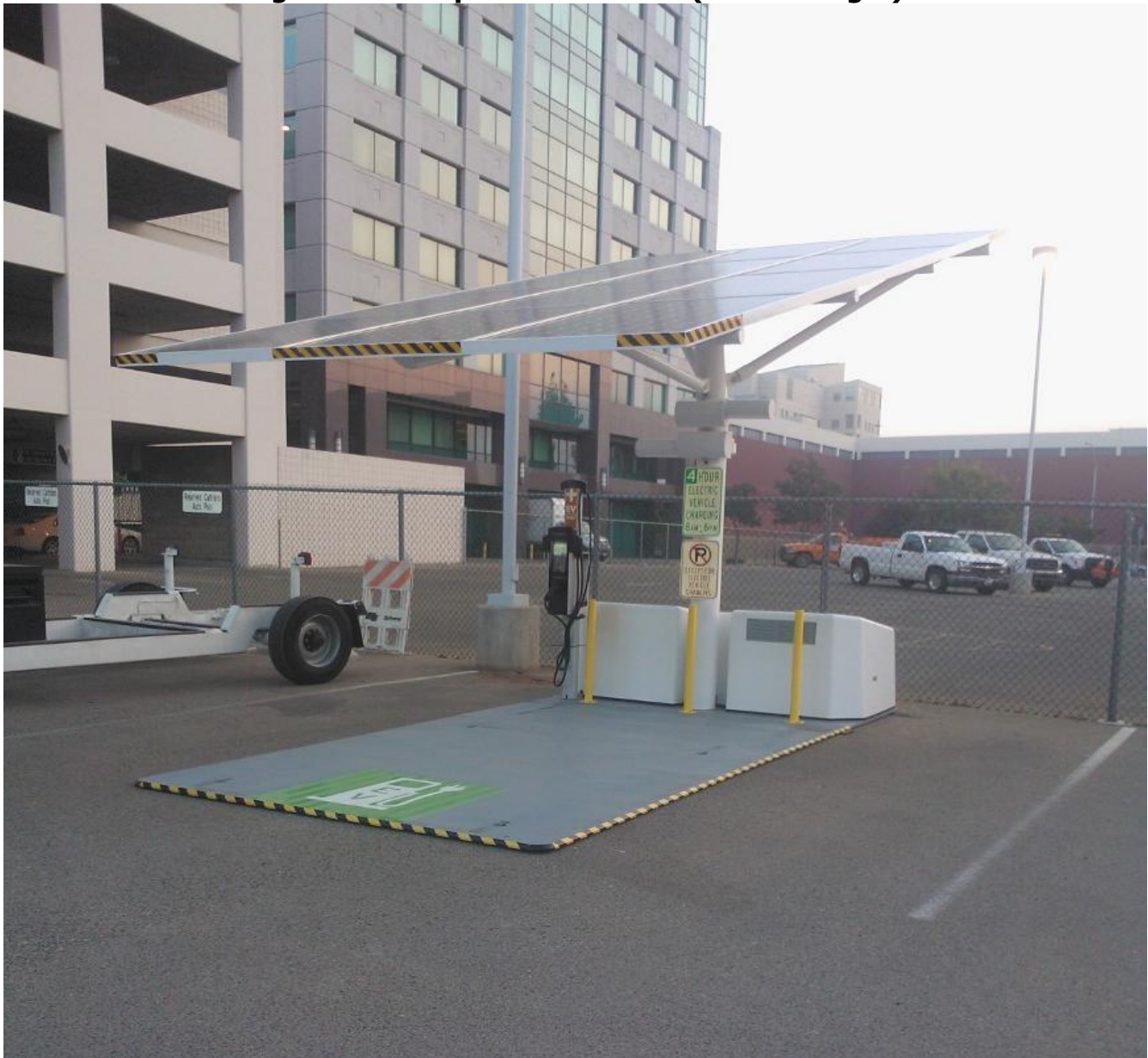
Address	Count of Sessions	Sum of Energy (kWh)	Equivalent Miles	Sum of GHG Savings (kg)	Sum of fossil fuel Savings (gallons)	VOC	NOx	PM10
Ave, Santee, CA , 92071								
Feb	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul	1	19	66	8	2	68	46	0
Total	2	19	66	8	2	68	46	0
855 M St, Fresno, CA 93721								
Feb	38	225	787	94	28	813	545	3
Mar	29	188	657	79	24	679	455	3
Apr	55	321	1123	135	40	1161	778	5
May	69	351	1227	147	44	1269	851	5
Jun	74	350	1225	147	44	1266	849	5
Jul	58	319	1115	134	40	1153	773	5
Total	323	1754	6134	736	220	6341	4251	26
9087 Elkmont Way, Elk Grove, CA 95624								
Feb	10	50	174	21	6	180	120	1
Mar	7	46	160	19	6	165	111	1
Apr	1	6	22	3	1	23	15	0
May	2	13	46	6	2	48	32	0
Total	20	115	402	49	15	416	278	2
Grand Total	1767	13602	47592	5903	1763	49212	32987	209

Source: Caltrans

CHAPTER 3: Figures Displaying the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Figure 1 displays one of the EV ARC (solar charger) that was installed at the parking lot at 855 M Street, Fresno, CA.

Figure 1: Example of an EV ARC (Solar Charger)



Source: Caltrans

Figure 2 displays one of the fixed chargers that was installed in a parking facility at 8502 Railroad Avenue, Santee, CA.

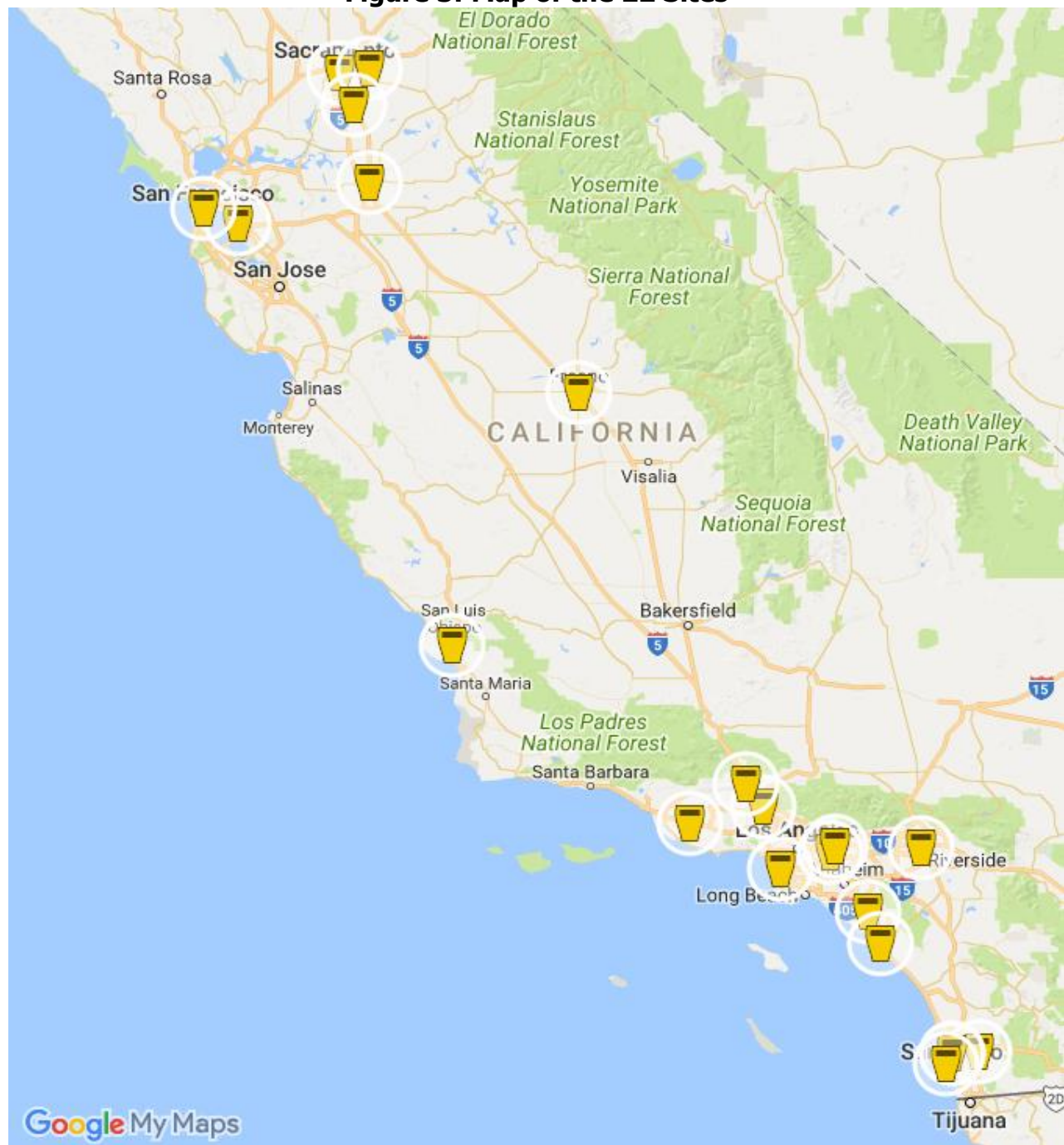
Figure 2: Example of a Fixed Charger



Source: Caltrans

Figure 3 is a map that displays all the 22 locations electric vehicle charging stations were developed throughout the State of California.

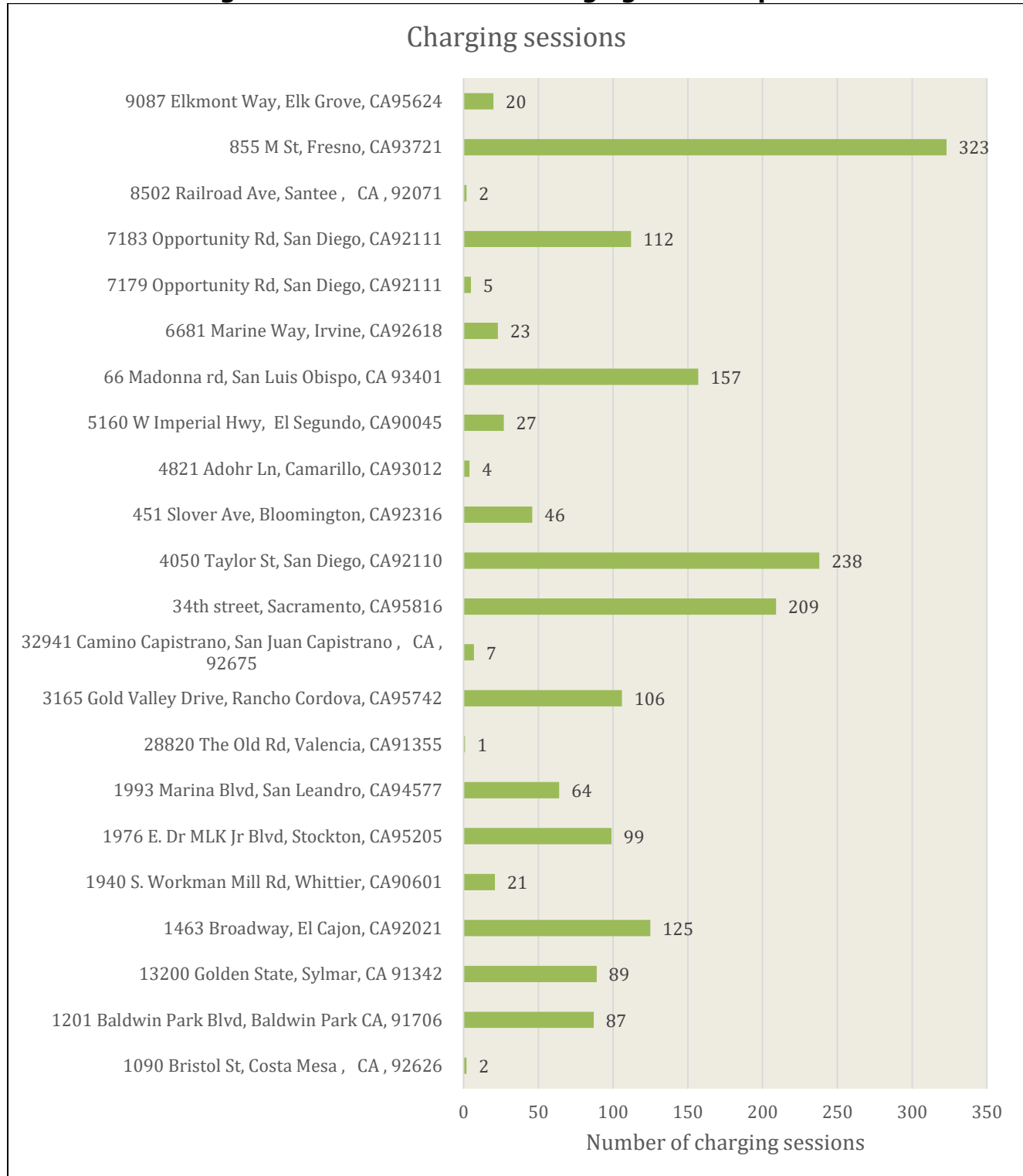
Figure 3: Map of the 22 Sites



Source: Caltrans

Figure 4 displays the total charging sessions data for each of the 22 locations. The vertical axis lists the locations and the horizontal axis is the total number of charging sessions at each site over the six month timeframe Caltrans was monitoring the electric vehicle charging stations (February 2018 to July 2018).

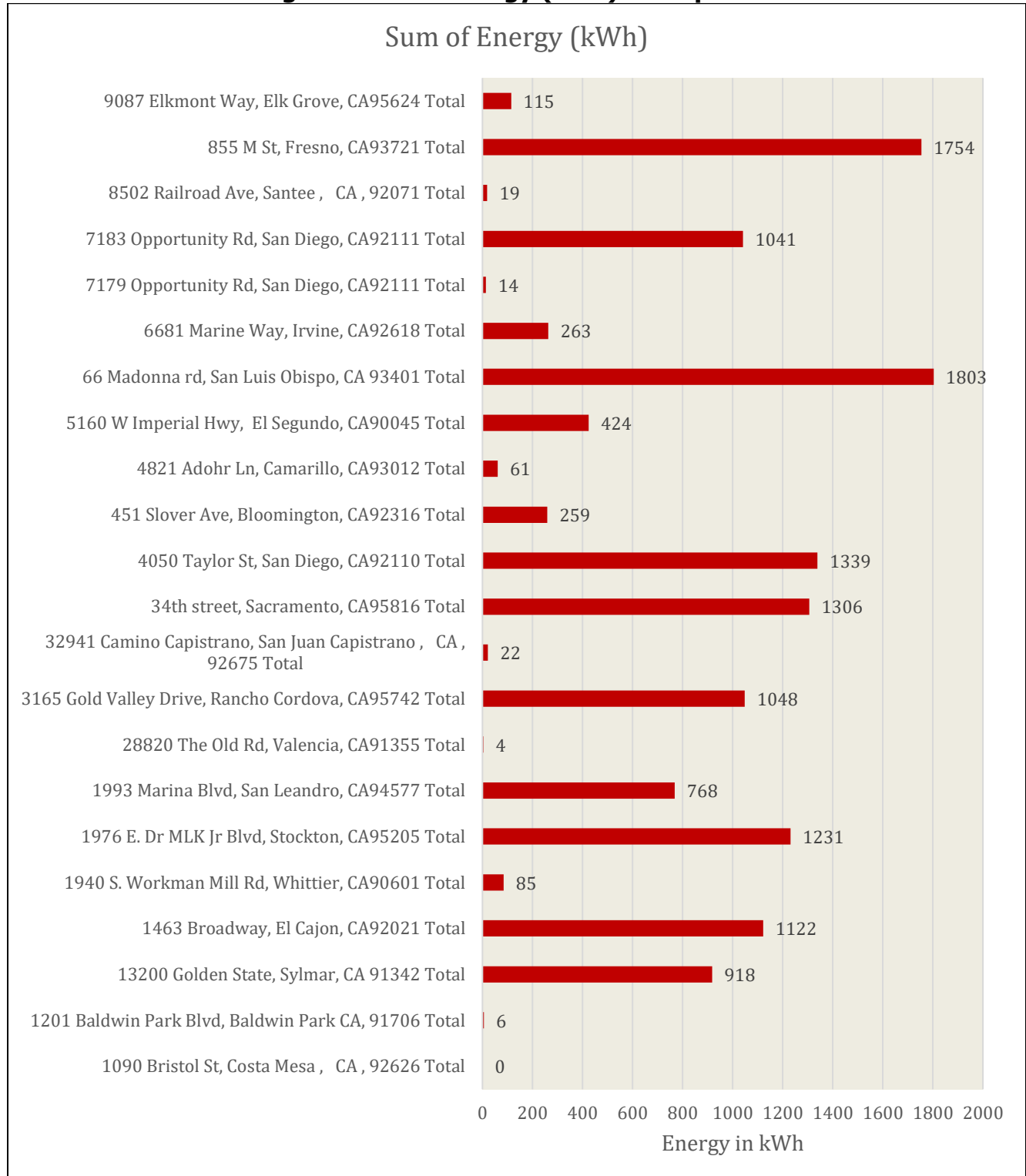
Figure 4: Total Number of Charging Sessions per Site



Source: Caltrans

Figure 5 displays the total energy (kWh) used for each of the 22 locations. The vertical axis lists the locations and the horizontal axis is the total energy (in kilowatt hours (kWh)) used at each site over the six month timeframe Caltrans was monitoring the electric vehicle charging stations (February 2018 to July 2018).

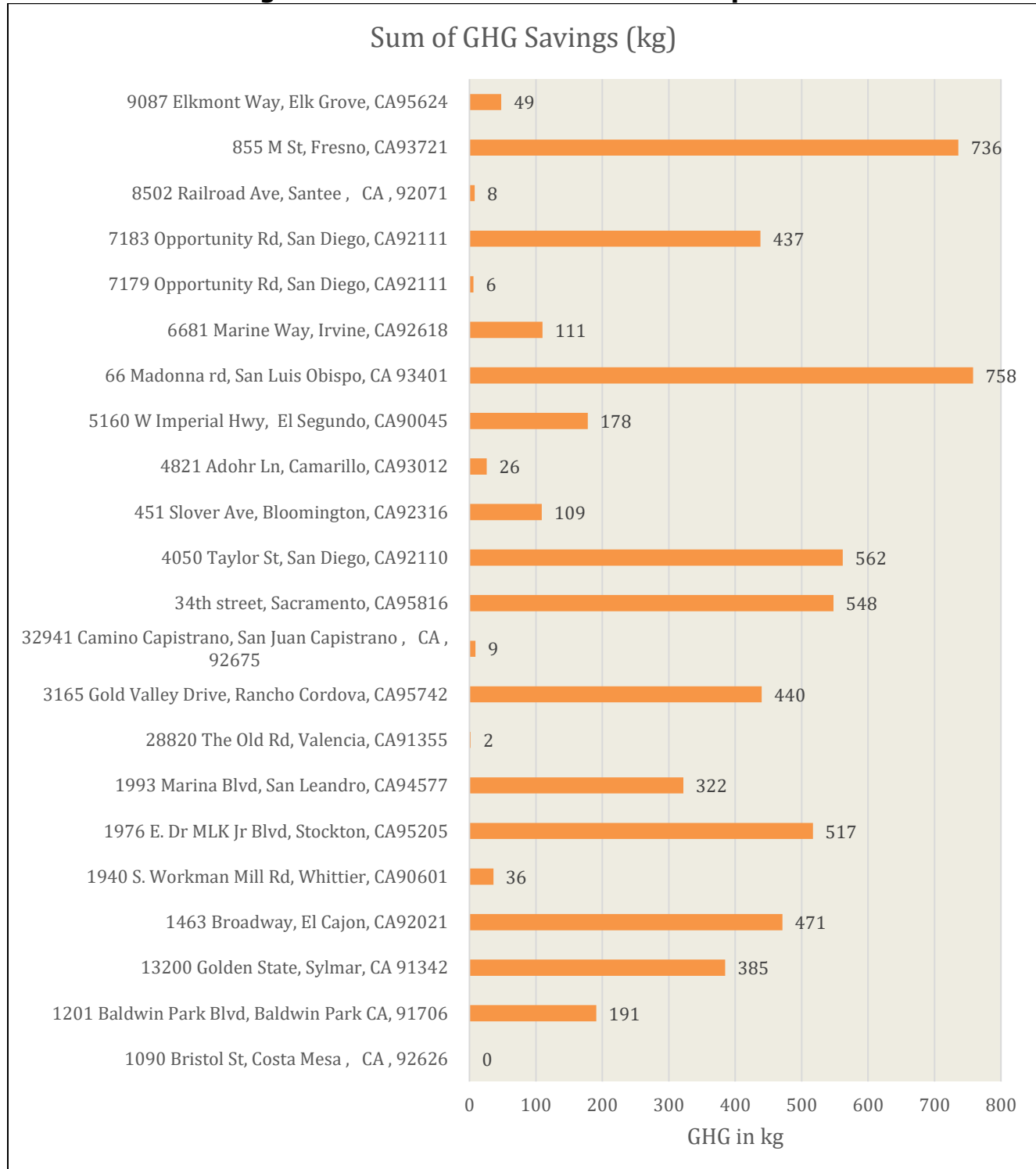
Figure 5: Total Energy (kWh) Used per Site



Source: Caltrans

Figure 6 displays the sum of the GHG emissions saved for each of the 22 locations. The vertical axis lists the locations and the horizontal axis is the sum of GHG emissions in kilograms that were saved by people driving electric vehicles at each site over the six month timeframe Caltrans was monitoring the electric vehicle charging stations (February 2018 to July 2018).

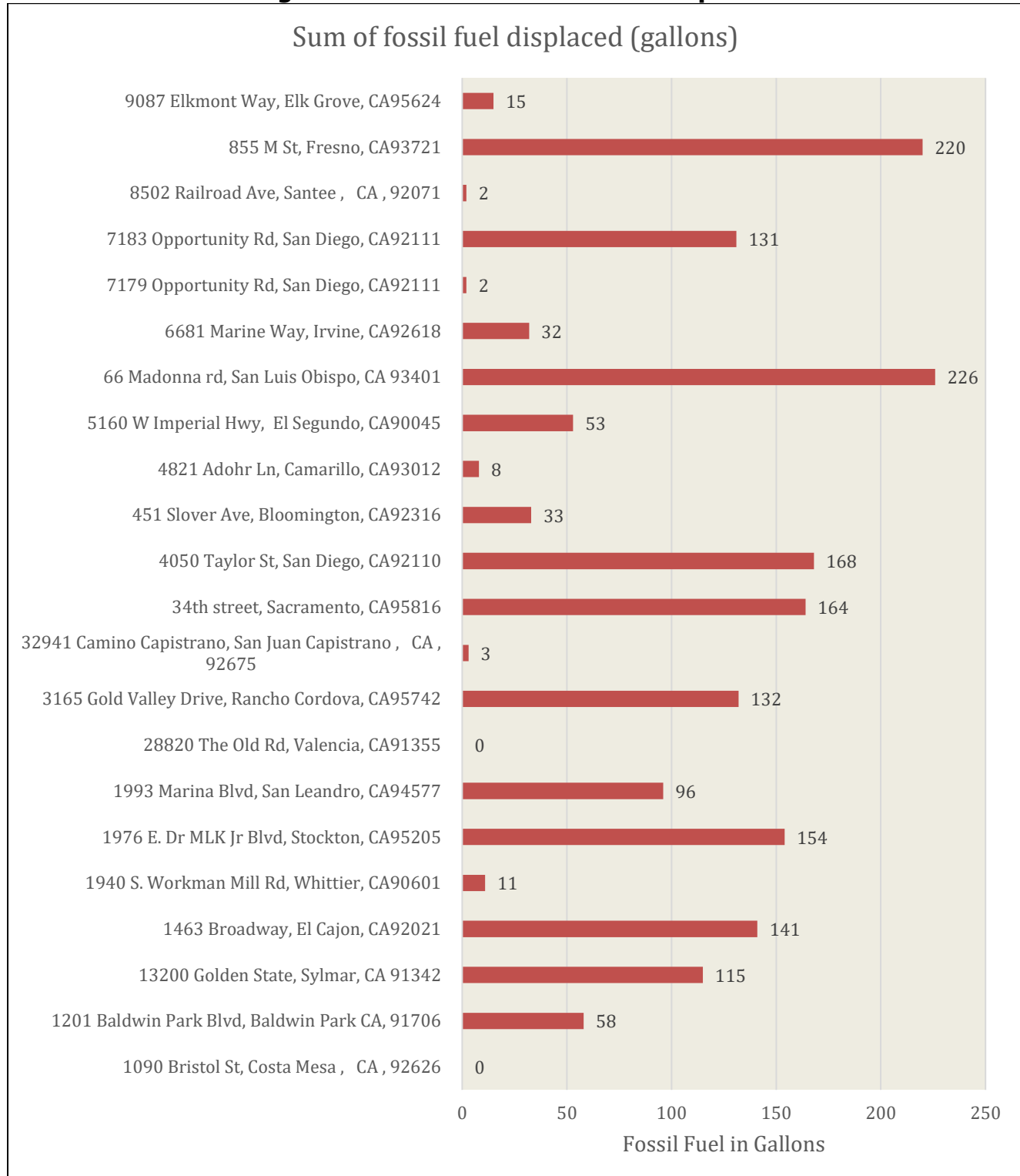
Figure 6: Sum of GHG Emissions Saved per Site



Source: Caltrans

Figure 7 displays the sum of fossil fuels saved for each of the 22 locations. The vertical axis lists the locations and the horizontal axis is the sum of fossil fuels in gallons that were saved by people driving electric vehicles at each site over the six month timeframe Caltrans was monitoring the electric vehicle charging stations (February 2018 to July 2018).

Figure 7: Sum of Fossil Fuels Saved per Site



Source: Caltrans

CHAPTER 4: Conclusion

Most of Caltrans' facilities were built more than 50 years ago. Their electrical capacity was not designed to accommodate the extra power load for installing these conventional chargers. This problem typically occurs for those locations that required more than one dual-charger. To accommodate chargers at locations where the cost of upgrading the existing electrical panel to meet demand well over our budget, Caltrans placed a solar charger (EV ARC) in replace of the traditional/conventional charger.

EV ARC worked well where either electricity was not available or the cost of installing an adequate power system at the site was enormous. Another major challenge was selecting locations for the charging stations within each facility. Most of Caltrans' facilities were designed to service and maintenance heavy equipment and are required to keep the area clear for large vehicles. As a result of this constraint, employee parking stalls are often located away from the buildings and the main electrical panel.

Within Caltrans' 22 charging locations, there are facilities where the EV usage is very low to nearly zero. Currently, there is no EV assigned to those locations because Caltrans' EV range of 100 eMile or less does not meet the duty cycle need. Caltrans is planning to purchase longer range EV. In the meantime, plug-in hybrids will serve these locations.

For those locations where charger use is in high demand, Caltrans addressed this situation by rotating the charging of its EV fleet with employee charging. There are locations where a charging sign-in sheet was created for Caltrans employees, which assigned time slots for charging personal EVs, while prioritizing the State's EV charging needs first.

Since Caltrans' new EV charging policy allows employees to use the chargers, the department has seen an increase in the number of new EV ownership among its employees. At the Caltrans Sacramento facility, two years ago, there was only two employees with EVs. As of July 2018 it has a total of nine employees with EVs.

CHAPTER 5: References

1. Executive Order B-16-12¹
2. Executive Order B-18-12²
3. Assembly Bill 118³

1 [Executive Order B-16-12](https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2012/03/23/news17472/index.htm) (https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2012/03/23/news17472/index.htm)

2 [Executive Order B-18-12](https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2012/04/25/news17508/index.html) (https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2012/04/25/news17508/index.html)

3 [Assembly Bill 118](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=200720080AB118) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=200720080AB118)

GLOSSARY

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION (CEC) – The state agency established by the Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act in 1974 (Public Resources Code, Sections 25000 et seq.) responsible for energy policy. The Energy Commission's five major areas of responsibilities are:

- Forecasting future statewide energy needs
- Licensing power plants sufficient to meet those needs
- Promoting energy conservation and efficiency measures
- Developing renewable and alternative energy resources, including providing assistance to develop clean transportation fuels
- Planning for and directing state response to energy emergencies

Funding for the Commission's activities comes from the Energy Resources Program Account, Federal Petroleum Violation Escrow Account and other sources.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (Caltrans) - is responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of the California State Highway System, as well as that portion of the Interstate Highway System within the state's boundaries.

CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) - A colorless, odorless, non-poisonous gas that is a normal part of the air. Carbon dioxide is exhaled by humans and animals and is absorbed by green growing things and by the sea. CO₂ is the greenhouse gas whose concentration is being most affected directly by human activities. CO₂ also serves as the reference to compare all other greenhouse gases (see carbon dioxide equivalent).

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV) – A broad category that includes all vehicles that are fully powered by electricity or an electric motor.

GREENHOUSE GASES (GHG) – Any gas that absorbs infra-red radiation in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), halogenated fluorocarbons (HCFCs), ozone (O₃), perfluorinated carbons (PFCs), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

KILOGRAM (kg) - The base unit of mass in the International System of Units that is equal to the mass of a prototype agreed upon by international convention and that is nearly equal to the mass of 1000 cubic centimeters of water at the temperature of its maximum density.

KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh) - The most commonly-used unit of measure telling the amount of electricity consumed over time. It means one kilowatt of electricity supplied for one hour. In 1989, a typical California household consumes 534 kWh in an average month.

NOx - Oxides of nitrogen that are a chief component of air pollution that can be produced by the burning of fossil fuels. Also called nitrogen oxides.

PARTICULATE MATTER (PM) - Unburned fuel particles that form smoke or soot and stick to lung tissue when inhaled. A chief component of exhaust emissions from heavy-duty diesel engines.

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCs) - Carbon-containing compounds that evaporate into the air (with a few exceptions). VOCs contribute to the formation of smog and/or may themselves be toxic. VOCs often have an odor and some examples include gasoline, alcohol and the solvents used in paints.