



DATE: October 1, 2014
TO: STA Board
FROM: Drew Hart, Associate Planner
RE: Zero Emission Vehicle Readiness Grant for Electric Vehicle Implementation

Background:

Assembly Bill (AB) 118 created the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program which was renewed through 2024 by AB 8. The statute authorizes the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop and initiate alternative and renewable fuels and advanced transportation technologies to help attain the state's climate change policies. This will be accomplished through, but not limited to, the following:

- Reduced dependence on petroleum fuels
- Increase the use of alternative and renewable fuels
- Expand alternative fueling infrastructure and fueling stations
- Establish workforce training and public outreach on the benefits of alternative transportation fuels and vehicle technologies

The Bay Area and Solano County have taken a proactive role in achieving these statewide goals. In December of 2013, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) published the Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan. Additionally, at the December 11, 2013 STA Board meeting, the Solano County Alternative Fuels & Infrastructure Plan was adopted.

Discussion:

Under the CEC and the AB 8 legislation, the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program is making funding available for regions and local jurisdictions implement local level support for cleaner transportation in California. The funding is through the Zero Emission Vehicle Readiness Grant. \$3.3 Million is available to support new and existing planning efforts for plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs). This is administered through the CEC and is open for submission from September 9, 2014 through December 2, 2014. The funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Since planning documents have been adopted for both the region and the county, STA is eligible for the funds dedicated to plan implementation (Category A) which has a cap of \$300,000 per application. The total pot of funds is expected to be completely allocated before the December 2 deadline. It would be prudent to submit an application quickly.

Should STA be awarded funding, the type of implementation activities must come from the existing and adopted PEV Readiness Plan. Types of possible activities include:

- Identify public and private implementation paths and funding for infrastructure
- Streamlining of permitting and inspection process for EV infrastructure
- Adopt California Building Code standards for electric vehicle supply equipment

- Improve EV charging station installation process in residential, public, and commercial sites as well as corridors
- Host “Green Car” shows, Ride and Drives, and “Electric Vehicle 101” workshops to promote PEV awareness for consumers, businesses, and local governments
- Local government code adoption and training to city planners, permitting staff, inspectors, and builders to implement codes by 2015

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

Authorize the STA Executive Director to apply for the California Energy Commission’s Zero Emission Vehicle Readiness Grant for up to \$300,000 for implementation of the Electric Vehicle Component of the Solano Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure Plan.