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Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Dave Van Mullem, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Molly Pearson, Planning & Grants Supervisor, 961-8838

SUBJECT: Update on Plug-in Central Coast EV Readiness Plan and other activities related to zero-emission and alternative fuel vehicles

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on Plug-in Central Coast EV Readiness Plan and other activities related to zero-emission and alternative fuel vehicles.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2012, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order directing state government to help accelerate the market for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) in California. The Executive Order established several milestones on a path toward 1.5 million ZEVs in California by the year 2025. ZEVs include battery electric vehicles (BEVs), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs). Accelerating the market for ZEVs and developing functional fueling and charging infrastructure are key to achieving California's long-term transportation strategy to reduce localized pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, save consumers money, and enable continued economic growth.¹ A related interest is the development of alternative and renewable fuel vehicles and infrastructure, in order to advance renewable sources of transportation fuels, diversify, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

At the local and regional level, the District has been actively pursuing projects that enhance the local infrastructure for zero-emission and alternative fuel vehicles.

¹ 2013 ZEV Action Plan, A roadmap toward 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles on California roadways by 2025, Governor's Interagency Working Group on Zero-emission Vehicles, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., February 2013, First Edition.

DISCUSSION:

The District has engaged in a number of initiatives and activities to advance alternative fuel transportation and thus improve air quality. These are summarized below:

Plug-in Central Coast

The District participates in the Plug-in Central Coast initiative, which started in 2011 as the regional plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) coordinating council for Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. Key leaders from the following organizations form the Steering Committee of Plug-in Central Coast: C5 – the Clean Cities Coalition of the Central Coast, the Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara, and the Air Pollution Control Districts of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties. This group has obtained grants for tri-county PEV and alternative fuels planning from the U.S. Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission. Plug-in Central Coast has facilitated many charging station installations and there are currently 86 in Santa Barbara County and 270 in the tri counties region.

Plug-in Central Coast EV Readiness Plan – this plan was developed for the tri-counties area under an Energy Commission grant. It is available as a resource to local jurisdictions, commercial and residential property owners, and fleet managers. See our website at www.ourair.org/sbc/plugincentralcoast.htm.

Alternative Fuels Readiness Planning Grant – Santa Barbara County's Long Range Planning Division is the lead for another Energy Commission grant to develop this plan, and the project kicked off this summer. This planning grant will involve outreach and training activities, and again will be developed for the tri-counties region. The plan will address the following fuel types: electricity, natural gas, propane, hydrogen, and biofuels.

APCD Grant Program for EV Charging Infrastructure – The District continues to offer grant funding, under your board-approved program, to help pay for EV charging equipment and installation costs. Funding is available to public agencies.

Central Coast-Charge Ahead Project Grant for Level 2 Charging – funded through an Energy Commission grant, this program involves the installation of approximately 78 Level 2 charging ports throughout the tri-counties area. Installations are anticipated to occur in 2015.

Energy Commission Grant Award for Hydrogen Fueling Station in Santa Barbara – In May, 2014 the Energy Commission announced that a hydrogen fueling station will be funded in the City of Santa Barbara at 150 South La Cumbre Road. This station is slated for installation by October 2015.

The Central Coast – Charge Ahead Project will greatly enhance Level 2 charging at public locations, and the District's program will continue to help public entities enhance the charging network in Santa Barbara County. However, more Level 3 fast charging stations are needed, as well as charging capabilities at multi-unit dwellings and workplaces. Hydrogen-fueled FCEVs are not yet established in the Santa Barbara region; the Energy Commission-funded station in the

City of Santa Barbara will open this area up to FCEV ownership as well as to destination travel for FCEV owners in the Southern California region. There is a current grant solicitation from the Energy Commission for ZEV Readiness planning and implementation, and the tri-counties area is well positioned to take advantage of this opportunity.

In sum, the tri-counties area is off to a good start in planning and installing infrastructure for electric and other alternatively fueled vehicles. The District is committed to coordinating with our neighboring counties to leverage state grant funding to further these efforts.