

**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Board of Directors
AGENDA**

**Thursday, May 20, 2021
10:30 a.m.**

**No Location
Meeting will be Conducted Via Zoom**

SPECIAL NOTICE: VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE HAS DETERMINED THIS MEETING TO BE AN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC MEETING THAT WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS N-29-20 AND N-33-20 AND VENTURA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER

IN RESPONSE TO THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS, GOVERNOR NEWSOM HAS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED THE REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL AGENCIES TO PROVIDE A PHYSICAL LOCATION FROM WHICH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN OBSERVE AND OFFER PUBLIC COMMENT AND HAS ORDERED ALL CALIFORNIANS TO STAY HOME EXCEPT AS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS OF CERTAIN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

REGARDING MEETING PARTICIPATION:

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCESS THE MEETING TELEPHONICALLY, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO VCREA.ADMIN@VENTURA.ORG BY 5.00 PM THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING AND ZOOM INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED.

REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENTS:

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE EITHER A GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT OR COMMENT ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM BEING HEARD, YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT VIA EMAIL BY 9.00 AM THE DAY OF THE MEETING TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: VCREA.ADMIN@VENTURA.ORG. PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN YOUR EMAIL: (A) MEETING DATE, (B) AGENDA ITEM NUMBER, (C) SUBJECT OR TITLE OF THE ITEM, (D) YOUR FULL NAME. DURING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEM SPECIFIED IN YOUR EMAIL, STAFF WILL READ ALOUD YOUR COMMENT FOR THE RECORD.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair LaVere

2. ROLL CALL

Kelly Cattanach

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW VCREA BOARD MEMBERS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 18, 2021 VCREA BOARD MEETING

6. AGENDA REVIEW

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

See Guidelines above

8. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

At this time members of the VCREA Board of Directors may comment on matters pertaining to VCREA

9. PRESENTATION- PORT OF HUENEME- SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY

10. APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- YEAR END JUNE 30, 2020

11. APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGETS

12. PRESENTATION- GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION RECOGNITION

13. GENERAL UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

14. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

15. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting- August 19, 2021



**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Board of Directors**

Item 5

Subject: Minutes from the February 18, 2021 Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021

Requested Action:

1. Approve

Attachments:

1. Summary Minutes from the February 18, 2021 Board Meeting
-



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Action Minutes

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board Meeting

February 18, 2021

10:30 a.m.

No Location- Zoom Meeting

1. Welcome/ Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director Sue Hughes at 10:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Directors Present:

Richard Araiza	City of Santa Paula
Scott Quady	Calleguas Municipal Water District
Gabriela Basua	City of Oxnard
Laura Hernandez	City of Port Hueneme
Mike Judge	City of Simi Valley
Matt LaVere	County of Ventura
Christina Villaseñor	City of Fillmore
Sofia Rubalcava	City of Ventura
Ed Jones	City of Thousand Oaks
Joshua Chancer	Ventura County Community College District
Mark Austin	Ventura Regional Sanitation District

Directors Not Present:

Matthew Almaraz	Ventura Unified School District
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3. Pledge of Allegiance

Executive Director Sue Hughes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Oath of Office for New VCREA Directors

The following Directors were sworn in by Executive Director Sue Hughes:

Christina Villaseñor
Gabriela Basua
Richard Araiza
Raul Avila
Sofia Rubalcava
Matt LaVere
Joshua Chancer

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Upon motion of Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Chancer, the Board elected Director LaVere as Chair of the Board.

Upon motion of Director Jones, seconded by Director Austin, the Board elected Director Hernandez as Vice Chair of the Board.

6. Minutes from the September 17, 2020 VCREA Board Meeting

Upon motion of Director Austin, seconded by Director Quady, the Board received and filed the Minutes of the September 17, 2020 meeting. Director Quady requested that the word "alternate" be removed next to his name under Roll Call.

7. Agenda Review

Staff member Kelly Cattnach requested that Item #14 be removed from the agenda.

Upon motion of Director Villaseñor, seconded by Director Judge, the Board accepted the change to the agenda.

8. Public Comments

None

9. Board Member Comments

None

10. Javier Saucedo Contract Amendment

Staff member Alejandra Telléz provided a brief overview of Mr. Saucedo's various roles and responsibilities as well as highlighted his valuable expertise demonstrated within VCREA.

Upon motion of Director Judge, seconded by Director Edmonds, the Board approved Javier Saucedo's contract amendment.

11. Service Rates

Staff member Alejandra Telléz, provided an overview of the Service Rates being presented. Ms. Telléz stated that VCREA staff members are County employees implementing the VCREA program. VCREA rates are calculated based on the County Service Rates in addition to additional overhead associated with implementing the VCREA program.

Upon motion of Director Judge, seconded by Director Austin, the Board approved the Service Rates for VCREA supporting staff.

12. 2021 Meeting Schedule

Staff member Kelly Cattnach provided an overview of the two options presented before the Board, meeting four times annually or meeting six times annually. After some discussion amongst the Board, four meetings a year was approved.

Approved schedule:

February 18, 2021
May 20, 2021
August 19, 2021
November 18, 2021

Upon motion of Director Quady, seconded by Director Austin, the Board approved the 2021 Meeting Schedule.

13. Ready, Set, Go Ventura County Electric Vehicle Project

Staff member Heather Allen provided a summary of the Board Letter and was available to answer any questions.

Chair LaVere, Vice Chair Hernandez, and Director Judge acknowledged staffs' efforts in being awarded the grant.

Upon motion of Vice Chair Hernandez, seconded by Director Judge, the Board approved the delegation of authority for the following:

1. Approve and Sign the Clean Transportation Program Grant Agreement with the California Energy Commission to Implement the Ventura County Electric Vehicle Ready Community Blueprint.
2. Approve and Sign Contract with Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project to Implement the Community Electric Vanpool.
3. Approve and Sign Contract(s) for Yet to Be Determined EV Coach(es).
4. Approve and Sign Memorandum of Understanding with Gold Coast Transit District to Implement the GOnow Microtransit Route.
5. Approve and Sign Memorandum of Understanding with City of Thousand Oaks to Implement the Electric Bus Accelerator Pilot Project.
6. Approve and Sign Memorandum of Understanding with County of Ventura General Services Agency to Implement the Electric Remote Motor Pool Expansion.
7. Manage and Administer the Ready, Set, Go Electric Ventura County Project.

14. Program Update

Removed from agenda

15. General Updates and Announcements

Staff member Alejandra Telléz discussed potential opportunities to work on projects including recycling and food waste recovery, projects dealing with sustainable issues beyond energy efficiency. With the passage of recent legislation, certain mandates will be put on cities and counties for such efforts requiring additional planning and implementation. VCREA currently does

not have the capacity to undertake such projects; however, if the Board deems it appropriate, there is potentially the opportunity to hire local workforce to assist.

Chair LaVere and Vice Chair Hernandez stated that if there are regional environmental initiatives that VCREA can be pursuing that align with VCREA mission and goals, then they support those efforts.

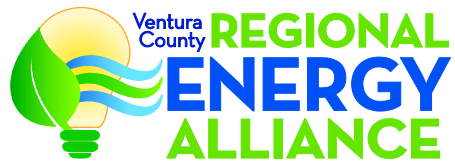
Director Quady commented on Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and their effect on agencies in the region. He stated that many agencies are starting to look at how they can independently operate during PSPS events. Director Quady inquired about any potential grant opportunities available in the future to assist with such efforts.

Staff member Heather Allen highlighted efforts found in the Program Update. She congratulated Ocean View School District and Oxnard Union High School District for their recent purchases of electric buses (eBuses). She also shared that VCREA applied for a Drive Electric Earth Day grant to host five events during the week of April 19th through April 23rd. Ms. Allen also shared information pertaining to the recently launched Home Energy Saving DIY Toolkits. Outreach efforts for the launching of this program were shared.

16. Next Meeting- Scheduled for May 20, 2021

17. Adjournment

Chair LaVere adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.



**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Board of Directors**

Item 9

Subject: Port of Hueneme Sustainability and Community Presentation

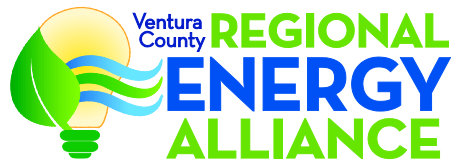
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021

Requested Action:

1. None

Attachments:

1. None
-



**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Board of Directors**

Item 10

Subject: Financial Statements- Year End June 30, 2020

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021

Requested Action:

1. Approve

Attachments:

1. Financial Statements- Year End June 30, 2020
-

***VENTURA COUNTY
REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE***

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended June 30, 2020

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**VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ended June 30, 2020**

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Financial Section

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Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors
Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Ventura, California

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise VCREA's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance as of June 30, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the *management's discussion and analysis* be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 23, 2020 on our consideration of VCREA's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering VCREA's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Davis Farr LLP

Irvine, California
December 23, 2020

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

As management of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA), we offer readers of VCREA's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities and performance of VCREA for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. Please read it in conjunction with additional information that we have furnished in the accompanying basic financial statements, which follow this section.

Financial Highlights

- VCREA's net position decreased by \$4,185 from \$127,694 to \$123,509 as a result of decreased contracted services and grant projects in the current year.
- Total revenues from all sources decreased by 47.01% or \$372,797, from \$793,096 in 2019 to \$420,299 in 2020. The decrease is due to the reduction in funding sources and the conclusion of the Electrical Vehicle Readiness Communities Challenge grant.
- Total expenses for VCREA's operations decreased by 46.22% or \$364,790, from \$789,274 in 2019 to \$424,484 in 2020. The decrease is directly related to the reduction in both contracted services revenue and grant funding received to support VCREA's involvement with various projects.

Using This Financial Report

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities and performance of VCREA using accounting methods similar to those used by private sector companies. The Statement of Net Position includes all of VCREA's investments in resources (assets) and its obligations to creditors (liabilities). It also provides the basis for computing a rate of return, evaluating the capital structure of VCREA and assessing the liquidity and financial flexibility of VCREA. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Activities. This statement measures the success of VCREA's operations over the past year and can be used to determine VCREA's profitability and creditworthiness.

Financial Statements

Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities

One of the most important questions asked about VCREA's finances is, "Is VCREA better off or worse off as a result of this year's activities?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities report information about VCREA in a way that helps answer this question. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private sector companies and public enterprise agencies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

Financial Statements (continued)

Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities (continued)

These two statements report VCREA's net position and changes in net position. Think of VCREA's net position – the difference between assets and liabilities – as one way to measure VCREA's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in VCREA's net position are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. However, you will need to consider other non-financial factors such as changes in VCREA's grant funding and availability to assess the overall health of VCREA.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements. The notes to the basic financial statements can be found on pages 11 through 14.

Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of VCREA, assets of VCREA exceeded liabilities by \$123,509 as of June 30, 2020, compared to the \$127,694 at the end of the fiscal year 2019.

Condensed Statement of Net Position

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Assets			
Current Assets	\$ 155,377	243,456	(88,079)
Total	<u>155,377</u>	<u>243,456</u>	<u>(88,079)</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	<u>31,868</u>	<u>115,762</u>	<u>(83,894)</u>
Total liabilities	<u>31,868</u>	<u>115,762</u>	<u>(83,894)</u>
Net position			
Unrestricted	<u>123,509</u>	<u>127,694</u>	<u>(4,185)</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 123,509</u>	<u>127,694</u>	<u>(4,185)</u>

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

Financial Analysis (continued)

Condensed Statement of Activities

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Expenses			
Energy program	\$ 424,484	789,274	(364,790)
Total Expenses	<u>424,484</u>	<u>789,274</u>	<u>(364,790)</u>
Program revenues	<u>420,299</u>	<u>793,096</u>	<u>(372,797)</u>
Total revenues	<u>420,299</u>	<u>793,096</u>	<u>(372,797)</u>
Change in net position	(4,185)	3,822	(8,007)
Net position - beginning	<u>127,694</u>	<u>123,872</u>	<u>3,822</u>
Net position - ending	<u>\$ 123,509</u>	<u>127,694</u>	<u>(4,185)</u>

The statement of activities shows how the government's net position changed during the fiscal year. In the case of VCREA, net position decreased by \$4,185 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.

Requests for Information

VCREA's basic financial statements are designed to present users with a general overview of VCREA's finances and to demonstrate VCREA's accountability. If you have any questions about the report, annual financial statement or need additional information regarding operating activities please contact the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance, County of Ventura, 800 South Victoria Ave L #1940, Ventura, California 93009.

Basic Financial Statements

VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2020

	<u>2020</u>
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 92,392
Accounts receivable	45,826
Grants receivable	<u>17,159</u>
Total assets	<u>155,377</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 23,385
Accrued salaries and wages	<u>8,483</u>
Total liabilities	<u>31,868</u>
Net position	
Unrestricted	<u>123,509</u>
Total net position	<u><u>\$ 123,509</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	<u>2020</u>
Revenues	
Charges for services	\$ 277,691
Grant revenue	<u>142,608</u>
Total revenues	<u>420,299</u>
Expenses	
Salaries and benefits	156,435
Professional services	261,663
General and administrative	<u>6,386</u>
Total expenditures	<u>424,484</u>
Change in net position	(4,185)
Net position - beginning	
Unrestricted	<u>127,694</u>
Net position - ending	<u><u>\$ 123,509</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	2020
Cash flows from operating activities:	
Receipts from customers for services	\$ 341,581
Receipts from operating grants	215,368
Payments to employees for goods and services	(186,773)
Payments to vendors for materials and services	(321,605)
Net cash provided by operating activities	48,571
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	48,571
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	43,821
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 92,392
 Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Operating income (loss)	\$ (4,185)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
(Increase) decrease in assets:	
Accounts receivable	63,890
Grants receivable	72,760
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(53,556)
Accrued salaries and wages	(30,338)
Total adjustments	52,756
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 48,571

There were no significant noncash activities for the current year.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
Year ended June 30, 2020

Note 1: Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Organization and Operations of the Reporting Entity

Formed in July 2003, the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) composed of public agencies working in collaboration to approach the availability, reliability, conservation and innovative use of energy resources in the Ventura County region. The current JPA consists of the County of Ventura and the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley, and Thousand Oaks, along with the special districts of the Ventura Regional Sanitation District, Calleguas Municipal Water District, the Ventura County Community College District and the Ventura Unified School District.

Formed as a JPA, each member in VCREA has designated a locally elected public official to serve as a Member of the Board.

B. Basis of Accounting and Measurement Focus

VCREA reports its activities as an enterprise fund, which is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to a private business enterprise. Revenues and expenses are recognized on the full accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they are earned and expenses are recognized in the period incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place.

Operating revenues result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of VCREA. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Non-operating revenues result from non-exchange transactions in which VCREA gives (receives) value without directly receiving (giving) value in exchange.

C. Financial Reporting

VCREA's basic financial statements are presented in conformance with the generally accepted accounting principles. VCREA has elected to follow all pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

D. Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position

1. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)
Year ended June 30, 2020

Note 1: Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

D. Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position, continued

2. Cash and Cash Equivalents

VCREA considers all highly liquid investments with initial maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

3. Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources

Deferred outflows of resources are transactions that result in the consumption of net position in one period that are applicable to future periods and are not considered assets. Deferred outflows of resources are required to be presented separately after assets on the statement of net position.

Deferred inflows of resources are transactions that result in the acquisition of net position in one period that are applicable to future periods and are not considered to be liabilities. Deferred inflows of resources are required to be presented separately after liabilities on the statement of net position.

4. Net Position

The financial statements utilize a net position presentation. Net position is categorized as follows:

- **Net investment in capital assets** – This component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation reduced by any debt outstanding against the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.
- **Restricted net position** – This component of net position consists of constraints placed on net position use through external constraints imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- **Unrestricted net position** – This component of net position consists of net position that do not meet the definition of *restricted* or *net investment in capital assets*. VCREA’s policy is to consider restricted net position to have been depleted before unrestricted net position.

Note 2: Cash and Investments

Cash and cash equivalents as of June 30, 2020 consist of the following:

Deposits held with financial institution	\$ 92,392
Total	<u>\$ 92,392</u>

VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)
Year ended June 30, 2020

Note 2: Cash and Investments, continued

Authorized Deposits and Investments

VCREA's investment policy only authorizes investments in the local government investment pools administered by the Ventura County Treasurer – Ventura County Pooled Investment Fund (VCPHF) and financial institutions.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for *deposits* is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, a government will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The California Government Code and VCREA's investment policy do not contain legal or policy requirements that would limit the exposure to custodial credit risk for deposits, other than the following provision for deposits: The California Government Code requires that a financial institution secure deposits made by state or local governmental units by pledging securities in an undivided collateral pool held by a depository regulated under state law (unless so waived by the governmental unit). The market value of the pledged securities in the collateral pool must equal at least 110% of the total amount deposited by the public agencies. VCREA had deposits with a bank in the amount of \$96,461 at June 30, 2020. Bank balances are federally insured up to \$250,000.

The custodial credit risk for *investments* is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty (e.g., broker-dealer) to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of another party. The Code and VCREA's investment policy do not contain legal or policy requirements that would limit the exposure to custodial credit risk for investments. With respect to investments, custodial credit risk generally applies only to direct investments in marketable securities. Custodial credit risk does not apply to a local government's indirect investment in securities through the use of mutual funds or government investment pools.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The longer the maturity an investment has, the greater its fair value has sensitivity to changes in market interest rates. VCREA's investment policy does not discuss interest rate risk.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)
Year ended June 30, 2020

Note 2: Cash and Investments, continued

Concentration of Credit Risk

VCREA's investment policy contains no limitations on the amount that can be invested in any one governmental agency or non-governmental issuer.

Fair Value Measurement

VCREA has no investments subject to the fair value measurement hierarchy.

Note 3: Employee Benefits and Pension Plan

The County of Ventura has contracted to provide staff to VCREA. As employees of the County of Ventura, they will continue to participate in the cost sharing employer contributory defined benefit pension plan administered by the Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association and other post-employment benefits plan. These benefits are handled by the County of Ventura. Payroll for these employees is processed by the County of Ventura Auditor-Controller's Office payroll section. Total costs of payroll and benefits are reimbursed by VCREA to the County of Ventura throughout the year.

Note 4: Contingencies

Litigation

In the ordinary course of operations, VCREA is subject to claims and litigation from outside parties. As of June 30, 2020, VCREA believes the ultimate outcome of such matters, if any, will not materially affect its financial condition.

Report on Internal Control and Compliance

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Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors
Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Ventura, California

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise VCREA's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 23, 2020.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered VCREA's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of VCREA's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of VCREA's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether VCREA's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Davis Farr LLP

Irvine, California
December 23, 2020



**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Board of Directors**

Item 11

Subject: General and Administrative Budgets

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021

Requested Action:

1. Approve FY 2021/2022 & FY 2022/2023 Budgets

Attachments:

1. General and Administrative Budgets and Comparative Analysis
-

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance- FY 2021/2022 & FY 2022/2023 General and Administrative Budgets

	Previously Approved		FY 2021/2022 ¹		FY 2022/2023 ¹	
	REVENUE	EXPENSES	REVENUE	EXPENSES	REVENUE	EXPENSES
Local Govt Partnership (LGP)						
SoCal Gas	\$105,845		\$94,000 ²		\$94,000 ²	
VCREA Salaries		\$68,595		\$40,000		\$39,500
Contractor: Javier Saucedo		\$35,000		\$53,500		\$54,000
Printing and Graphics		\$250		\$100		\$100
Mileage/Travel		\$750		\$200		\$200
Conference Fees (staff)		\$1,250		\$200		\$200
Misc						
LGP Total	\$105,845	\$105,845	\$94,000	\$94,000	\$94,000	\$94,000
Ventura County Green Business Program (VCGB)						
California Green Business Network (CAGBN)	\$10,000		\$10,000		\$10,000	
Contractor: Javier Saucedo		\$10,000		\$10,000		\$10,000
VCGB Total	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
EV 2.0- 3 Year Grant³						
CA Energy Commission			\$1,777,450		\$365,407	
VCREA Staff				\$57,967		\$47,344
Contractors:						
EV Coach				\$149,765		\$112,323
Gold Coast Transit District				\$139,000		\$0
County of Ventura General Service Agency				\$1,052,890		\$0
MV Transportation				\$161,004		\$161,004
City of Thousand Oaks				\$177,087		\$0
MICOP				\$29,988		\$34,986
Total Contractors				\$1,709,733		\$308,313
Other (Travel, materials)				\$9,750		\$9,750
EV 2.0 Total	\$0	\$0	\$1,777,450	\$1,777,450	\$365,407	\$365,407
Local Govt Challenge Grant (LGCG)-Year 3 of 3						
CA Energy Commission	\$101,706					
VCREA Staff		\$14,495				
Contractors:						
Community Enviro Council		\$35,309				
Abraxas		\$8,557				
TRC		\$23,404				
Cost Benefit Analysis TBD		\$15,000				
Total Contractors		\$82,270				
Other (Travel, materials)		\$4,941				
LGCG Total	\$101,706	\$101,706	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	\$217,551	\$217,551	\$1,881,450	\$1,881,450	\$469,407	\$469,407

¹ FY budgets are based on the assumption that current funding levels will remain the same. Staff will continue to seek additional funding sources.

² Assumption that SoCalGas funding for Program Years 2022 and 2023 will remain the same as 2021.

³ Funding total is \$2,500,000 for three years, remaining funding of \$357,143 will be allocated in FY 2023/2024

⁴ Approved by Board on May 20, 2020, listed for reference

Comparative Analysis FY 2021/2022 & 2022/2023

Since staff previously presented the FY 2020/2021 General and Administrative Budget before the Board on May 20, 2020, the following has occurred:

- Due to project completion of the Local Government Challenge Grant, a slight reduction in SoCalGas funding (11 percent), and being awarded the EV 2.0 grant, the current overall budget for VCREA for FY 2021/2022 is approximately 765 percent more than FY 2020/2021.
- Due to the estimated project timeline for EV 2.0, expenses will dramatically decrease from FY 2021/2022 (\$1,777,450) to FY 2022/2023 (\$365,407) resulting in an approximated decrease in the overall budget for VCREA of 75 percent.
- Staff will continue efforts to pursue other funding sources that align with our mission and goals and will come back to the Board when other funding sources are secured.

Projects Finalized:

Project	Dollar Amount	Date Ended
Local Government Challenge Grant- 3-year grant	\$427,554	April 2021
Total	\$427,544	

New Funding:

Project	Dollar Amount	Date Ending
EV 2.0- 3-year grant	\$2,500,000	June 2024
Total	\$2,500,000	



**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Board of Directors**

Item 12

Subject: Green Business Certification Recognition Presentation

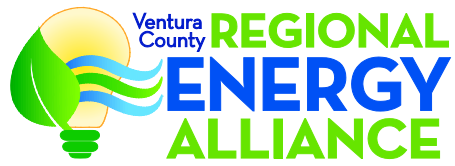
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021

Requested Action:

1. None

Attachments:

1. None
-



**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Board of Directors**

Item 13

Subject: General Updates and Announcements

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021

Requested Action:

1. None

Attachments:

1. Program Update
-



VCREA Program Update

Electrified Transportation Updates

Drive Electric Earth Day

Drive Electric Earth Day ([DEED](#)) is a national campaign to promote electric vehicles (EVs) as better driving options for the environment, more fun to drive, more convenient to fuel, and less expensive to operate than gasoline vehicles. For DEED, VCREA and EV Advocates of Ventura County hosted several EV-related activities throughout the week of April 19th. Activities included:

- **Evie McWheelie Coloring Contest.** More than 300 students from three local school districts participated in the event. Sierra Club donated \$200 for teachers to raffle off twenty \$10 gift cards. VCREA and EV Advocates created a fun EV lesson plan and VCREA donated EV-related thermal color changing (mood) pencils, buttons, and stickers to the classrooms.
- **EV Movie Night.** Check out our [list](#) of movies, TV shows, and YouTube videos that highlight EVs.
- **Virtual Green Car Show.** VCREA and EV Advocates joined forces with similar organizations in Santa Barbara County to host a [Virtual Green Car Show](#) on April 23rd. The Green Car Show included a fun video showcasing EVs along the Ventura and Santa Barbara coastline and a virtual booth where more than 200 event participants asked questions about EVs. Ventura specific video links for the Green Car Show video follow as well as the entire video:

[Supervisor Ramirez Welcomes Earth Day 2021](#) (56 sec)

[County of Ventura Talks About Their Green Fleet](#) (53 sec)

[Ocean View School District Highlights Their New Electric School Buses](#) (39 sec)

[EV Advocates of Ventura County Showcase Ojai's Charging Infrastructure](#) (39 sec)

[Entire Green Car Show video](#) (21 min 47 sec)

**Film clips provided by Will Hahn Productions and paid for by Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5) and Community Environmental Council.*

Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5)

VCREA recently formed a new partnership with the [Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition \(C5\)](#), which is a voluntary, locally-based government-industry partnership whose goal is to expand the use of alternative fuel vehicles and fueling infrastructure throughout the Central Coast. The following highlights some of the recent successes VCREA has had partnering with C5 and [Electric Drive 805](#):

- Advocating for Electrify America to include the Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura metro area for charging infrastructure investments in their [Cycle 3 Zero Emission Vehicle \(ZEV\) Investment Plan](#); the metro area was not included in the previous Cycle 1 and 2 ZEV Investment Plans.
- Launching the South Central Coast Incentive Project (SCCIP), proposed for July 2021. The SCCIP will provide ~\$5.7M in Level 2 and Level 3 (DCFC) charging infrastructure rebates for Ventura County. The funding for the SCCIP rebates is provided the California Energy Commission, Ventura

County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and Clean Power Alliance (CPA). More details about the SCCIP program and the program launch will be provided in June.

Energy Efficiency Updates

DIY Home Energy Savings Toolkit

This past February, VCREA, in partnership with Ventura County Library and 3C-REN (Tri-County Regional Energy Network), launched a [Do-It-Yourself \(DIY\) Home Energy Savings Toolkit](#) program. The DIY toolkits include instruction guidebooks in both English and Spanish and free items like LED lightbulbs, low-flow showerheads, weather stripping, and aerators to install at home. Also included are measuring devices like a Kill-a-Watt meter, infrared laser thermometer, and flow rate bag to help to save energy, water, and money. The toolkits can easily be checked out at eleven participating Ventura County libraries and patrons have two weeks to use the tools and supplies in the kit to complete their DIY projects.

A total of 37 toolkits are shared between the libraries and they were an instant success, resulting in a three-month waitlist within a day of the program's launch. Since its launch in late-February, 62 households have check-out the toolkits from the libraries and another 104 are currently on the waitlist. Library staff has reported that while most toolkit customers keep the free supplies, what is of most interest are the actual guidebooks because they describe what is needed for home energy efficiency upgrades as well as how to install the upgrades.

Guidebook Links: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Local Government Challenge Grant

In April, VCREA completed the ~\$428,000 Energy Commissions grant to launch the kWh Countdown Pilot program and to develop Energy Action Plans (EAP) and greenhouse gas inventories for the cities of Ventura, Moorpark, and Thousand Oaks. EAP template and greenhouse gas inventory workbooks were also developed to share with interested cities in the region. Please check out [VCREA's Energy Action Plan](#) page for more information about the grant and to view the draft plans. See below for some of the project results or click on the link to view the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program ([ICARP](#)) project summary:

1. GHG emissions are forecasted to decrease by 2030 by the following amount:
 - City of Ventura: 281,915 MT CO₂e (44%)
 - City of Moorpark: 96,235 MT CO₂e (43%)
 - City of Thousand Oak: 611,750 MT CO₂e (45%)
2. The kWh Countdown program's energy audits and solar analysis identified the total potential for the following:
 - 3.30 million kWh reductions
 - 11,659 therm reductions
 - 1,147 kW demand savings per year
 - 892 kW of solar systems

Support Letters (attached)

VCREA would like to share the following letters supporting electrified transportation efforts in our region:

- To the US Department of Transportation, on behalf of [Electric Drive 805](#), to support San Luis Obispo County Regional Transit Authority (RTA) grant application to the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Vehicle program to request funding for the joint purchase of eleven Battery-Electric Buses for the RTA and its partners at the City of San Luis Obispo's local fixed-route operations (SLO Transit).
- To the US Department of Transportation, on behalf of [Electric Drive 805](#), to support Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District's grant application to the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Vehicle program for funding to purchase three 35 foot battery-electric buses to replace diesel buses that are well beyond their useful life.
- To the Senate Transportation Committee, on behalf of VCREA and 57 other organizations, to express support for Senate Bill 551 (Stern & Hertzberg), which would establish the California Electric Vehicle Authority in the Governor's Office.



air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County



Ventura County
Air Pollution
Control District



April 6, 2021

Amy Volz
Office of Program Management,
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: **Letter of Support for the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District's Low or No Emission Program Grant Application**

Dear Ms. Volz:

The steering committee members of the Electric Drive 805 coalition – a partnership formed in 2011 to encourage and support the adoption of zero emission vehicles in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties - are pleased to offer our support for Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District's (SBMTD) grant application for three 35 foot battery-electric buses from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Low or No Emission (LowNo) Grant Program. These electric buses will replace diesel buses that are well beyond their useful life, as measured by the FTA.

As part of MTD's Next Wave project, these buses will build on infrastructure and fleet electrification work already underway, in an effort to achieve SBMTD's ambitious goal of a fully zero-emissions fleet by 2030.¹ The battery-electric buses will provide a viable alternative to fossil fuel buses, will reduce GHG emissions, and will help achieve local, state, and federal air quality, climate, energy, and transportation goals. SBMTD also expects the project to reduce fuel and maintenance costs.

This project supports the Electric Drive 805 coalition's transportation goals of adopting zero emission vehicles and is in alignment with both regional and statewide plans to reduce emissions, increase transit ridership, and improve community health. The increased focus on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, along with the expected reduction in the operating cost of the vehicles, play a major role in the present and future of public transportation. With a proven track record of operating electric buses and providing robust public transit service for our region, SBMTD is primed to successfully execute this project, with the help of LowNo grant funds.

¹ <https://sbmtd.gov/electricfuture/>

We fully support SBMTD’s grant application for battery-electric buses as a step forward for public transit and the environment on Santa Barbara County’s South Coast.

Sincerely,

Members of the Electric Drive 805 Steering Committee:



Alex Economou
Coordinator
Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5)



Tyler S. Harris
Supervising Air Quality Engineer
Ventura County Air Pollution Control District



Andy Mutziger
Planning, Monitoring & Grants Division Manager
San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District



Molly Pearson
Planning Division Manager
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District



Michael Chiacos
Director of Energy and Climate Programs
Community Environmental Council



Heather Allen
Program Administrator
Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

OPEN FOR ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES UNTIL 4/20 (SHEVONNE@LACI.ORG)



April 20, 2021

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
State Capitol, Room 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 551 (Stern & Hertzberg) California Electric Vehicle Authority - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Gonzalez:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for Senate Bill 551 (Stern & Hertzberg), which would establish the California Electric Vehicle Authority in the Governor's Office.

California is the national leader in the adoption and manufacturing of electric vehicles ("EV"), home to nearly 50 percent of all EVs on U.S. roads, with EVs now ranking as the state's top export. California's leadership has helped spur transportation electrification to tackle the climate crisis, improve air quality and public health particularly in disadvantaged communities, and grow cleantech industries while creating green jobs.

In September 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-79-20, establishing a goal for all new passenger cars and trucks, as well as all drayage and cargo trucks and off-road vehicles and equipment, sold in California, to be zero-emission by 2035, where feasible. The order also sets a goal for all medium and heavy-duty vehicles to be zero-emission by 2045.

California faces significant barriers to achieving these goals and related air and climate policies, including lack of:

- **Sufficient and consistent funding and financing** to support the widespread build out of needed charging infrastructure, procurement of public and private EV fleets, incentives for adoption including affordable EV access for low-income residents and disadvantaged communities who face disproportionate burden of air pollution and transportation deserts, ensuring maximum utilization of federal stimulus for transportation electrification, among other priorities;
- **A clear statewide leader with the authority to accelerate progress** by coordinating, aligning, and holding accountable the 29 state agencies touching transportation electrification along the regional, local and private sector entities; and
- **Clear economic development tools** to grow the industry and supply chain (e.g., Lithium Valley) and **investment in workforce development needs** to support the transition regionally and statewide.

SB 551 bill would establish the California Electric Vehicle Authority, led by an EV czar, within the Governor's office to:

- **Create a set of funding and financing tools to support the transition and economic development**, including enhancing existing sources for charging, mobility and vehicles, addressing gaps in related financial products, identifying new sources that can be used to unlock private capital, and coordinating related future federal stimulus and ongoing funding;
- **Serve as the unified face of transportation electrification and zero emissions goods movement**, coordinating across statewide efforts to update interim targets, create clear responsibility and ensure accountability; and
- **Prioritize equity in all funding and programs, economic development, and enhanced workforce training.**

SB 551 would help address barriers to achieving Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-79-20 by streamlining consistent funding, providing clear economic development tools to grow the industry and supply chain, and establishing a clear statewide leader with the authority to accelerate progress by coordinating, aligning, and holding accountable the many state agencies that play important roles in transportation electrification.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully request your support of SB 551. With the current health and economic crisis, California needs to help put people back to work, restart our economy, and clean up our air by accelerating progress in transportation electrification and zero-emission goods movement while prioritizing equity, job training, and growing existing and new businesses through bold actions such as SB 551.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Gallier
Board Member
350 Sacramento

Nicole Kemeny
President
350 Silicon Valley

Heidi Sickler
Policy Director
AMPLY Power

Spencer Reeder
Director of Government Affairs & Sustainability
Audi of America

Cecilia V. Estolano
CEO
Better World Group

Patrick Guild
Chief Operating Officer
Breathe California Sacramento Region

Frank Girardot
Senior Director of Communications
BYD North America

Ruben Aronin
Director
California Business Alliance for a Clean Economy

Drew Wood
Executive Director
California Kids IAQ

Brian Nowicki
Climate Policy Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Kevin Hamilton
Co-founder & Co-director
Central California Asthma Collaborative

Jennifer Helfrich
Senior Manager, State Policy West
Ceres

Kameale Terry
CEO
ChargerHelp

Alexander Esposito
Co-founder & CEO
Circuit

Bobbie Singh-Allen
Mayor
City of Elk Grove

Gina Goodhill
Policy Director
Clean Power Alliance

Jesse Marquez
Executive Director
Coalition for a Safe Environment

Janelle London and Matthew Metz
Co-Executive Directors
Coltura

Bahram Fazeli
Director of Research and Policy

Communities for a Better Environment

Richard Pulido
Executive Director
Community Dreams

Michael Chiacos
Director of Energy and Climate Programs
Community Environmental Council Santa Barbara

Alex Fisch
Mayor
City of Culver City

Guy Hall
Director of Policy
Electric Auto Association

Magali Sanchez-Hall
Executive Director
EMERGE

Dr. Karim Farhat
Director of Mobility Solutions
ENGIE Impact

Laura Deehan
State Director
Environment California

Michael Colvin
Director Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, California Energy Program
Environmental Defense Fund

Kent Bullard
Member
EV Advocates of Ventura County

Danny Hom, Strategy Officer
Adewale Ogunbadejo, Workforce Development Manager
GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles

Weston Labar
CEO
Harbor Trucking Association

Craig Newman
Regional Vice President
Itron

Marie Bedard
Director of Commercial Operations
Lion Electric Co.

Roger Dickinson
Policy Director
Local Government Commission

Mary Leslie
President
Los Angeles Business Council

Feroza Stegmann
Sales Operation Manager
Motiv Power Systems

Joe R. Gatlin
Vice President
NAACP - San Pedro-Wilmington Branch #1069

Max Baumhefner
Senior Attorney, Climate and Clean Energy Program
Natural Resources Defense Council

Rachel Nguyen
Director, Nissan Mobility Lab
Nissan North America

Veronica Padilla
Executive Director
Pacoima Beautiful

Joseph Pekarovic
Vice President, Strategic Alliances
PCS Energy

Joel Levin
Executive Director
Plug In America

Chelsea Jenkins
Vice President of Government and Industry Relations

ROUSH CleanTech

Shannon Parry
Chief Sustainability Officer
City of Santa Monica

Steve Frisch
CEO
Sierra Business Council

Daniel Barad
Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California

Andrew Baldonado
Managing Director, State Public Affairs
Southern California Edison

Modesta Pulido
Chairperson
St. Philomena Social Justice Ministry

Victor N. La Rosa
President & CEO
Total Transportation Services (TTSI)

Austin Heyworth
Senior Public Affairs Manager
Uber

Charles Jolley
CEO
URB-E

Conyers Davis
Director of Programming & Special Projects
USC Schwarzenegger Institute

Evan Schmidt
CEO
Valley Vision

Sue Hughes
Executive Director
Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Jacquelyn Badejo
Director of Programs
Watts Clean Air and Energy Committee

Jenny Scanlin
Chief Development Officer
Watts Rising Collaborative

Anabell Romero Chavez
Board Member
Wilmington Improvement Network

Dakota Semler
CEO
XOS Trucks

Carol Brock
Ventura, CA

Cc: Senator Stern and Senator Hertzberg
Assemblymember E. Garcia



air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County



Ventura County
Air Pollution
Control District



April 7, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: **Letter of Support for the SLO County Region's Low or No Emission Vehicle Program Discretionary Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The steering committee members of the Electric Drive 805 coalition – a partnership formed in 2011 to encourage and support the adoption of zero emission vehicles in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties – are pleased to express our support for the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority (RTA) discretionary grant application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339(c) **Low or No Emission Vehicle program** for funding to advance the region's transition to zero-emission bus operations. The RTA is requesting grant funding for the joint purchase of eleven Battery-Electric Buses for the RTA and its partners at the City of San Luis Obispo's local fixed-route operations (SLO Transit).

This is a unique opportunity to advance the missions of the RTA and SLO Transit in providing safe, reliable, and efficient transportation services that improve and enhance the quality of life for the citizens and visitors of our region. With the support of local partnerships, the RTA and SLO Transit have developed a Battery Electric Bus Readiness Plan¹ to advance a phased-in transition of fleet operations to zero-emission buses throughout the San Luis Obispo County. Both the RTA and SLO Transit were awarded funding through the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District's Community Air Protection Program and have already invested in the infrastructure to implement Battery-Electric Buses. As such, they will be able to begin operating these zero-emission buses as soon as they arrive.

This project supports the Electric Drive 805 transportation goals of adopting zero emission vehicles and is in alignment with both regional and statewide plans to reduce emissions, increase transit ridership, and improve community health. Specifically, the acquisition of zero-emission buses addresses the increasingly important

¹ San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority Bus Maintenance Facility Programming and Master Plan Report, April 2019. Appendix K: Battery Electric Bus Readiness Plan (p. 83-96), <http://www.slorta.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/RTA-Bus-OMF-Programming-Plan.pdf>

role of California’s climate investments by facilitating the reduction of greenhouse gases while also reducing air pollution, helping communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, and providing meaningful benefits to vulnerable and low-income communities. With vehicles contributing about half of the air pollutants emitted in San Luis Obispo County, transitioning to electric buses will have a substantial and positive impact on the air quality in communities served by RTA and SLO Transit.

If awarded, this grant will help the RTA and SLO Transit achieve early compliance with the California Air Resources Board’s *Innovative Clean Transit Fleet Rule* which requires the transition to zero-emission transit vehicles statewide. This project will also have regional significance by accelerating the zero-emission transition of existing intercounty transit opportunities between the adjacent counties of Monterey and Santa Barbara. It is for these reasons that we offer our full support for the RTA discretionary grant application to fund the region’s project for zero-emission buses.

Sincerely,

Members of the Electric Drive 805 Steering Committee:



Alex Economou
Coordinator
Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5)



Molly Pearson
Planning Division Manager
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control
District



Tyler S. Harris
Supervising Air Quality Engineer
Ventura County Air Pollution Control District



Michael Chiacos
Director of Energy and Climate Programs
Community Environmental Council



Andy Mutziger
Planning, Monitoring & Grants Division Manager
San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control
District



Heather Allen
Program Administrator
Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance