

EVHYBRIDNOIRE

ELECTRIFYING, ENGAGING & EDUCATING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES THROUGH MOBILITY

November 1st, 2023

California Air Resources Board
1001 I St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Electrify America's Cycle 4 Investment Plan

Dear California Air Resources Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of EVHybridNoire in support of Electrify America's Cycle 4 California ZEV Investment Plan. This significant, \$200 million investment in California over 30 months will bring the state closer to achieving its zero emission vehicle (ZEV) deployment and emissions reduction goals to combat climate change and improve air quality by transitioning to zero emission transportation.

As the voice of diverse EV drivers and enthusiasts, EVHybridNoire engages with communities often left out of e-mobility discussions, advocates for e-mobility solutions in underserved communities, and works to shift the narrative about e-mobility to be more inclusive of diverse populations. Our work involves a mix of grassroots engagement; advocacy and decision-maker education; media outreach; speaking engagements; and research. EVHybridNoire envisions a world where *all* communities are free of air pollution from cars and trucks, and *everyone* can reap the benefits of electric vehicles and multimodal e-mobility solutions. We believe that the Cycle 4 California ZEV Investment Plan will not only create a better and cleaner California, but also help lead the way toward a zero-emission future for the nation.

This is the fourth and final investment cycle by Electrify America as part of its initial \$800 million commitment over 10 years to accelerate transportation electrification in California. The Cycle 4 ZEV Investment Plan will continue to advance ZEV adoption in California by further building out public ultra-fast charging infrastructure in metropolitan areas and along highway corridors, and continuing to invest in brand neutral education and awareness efforts, including supporting and sponsoring ZEV education, STEM programming and workforce development training. To date, Electrify America has invested \$9 million in community-based organizations and nearly \$3 million in STEM and workforce development programs over Cycles 1-3.

Furthermore, the plan continues Electrify America's commitment to providing increased access through its investments to rural, disadvantaged, and low income communities, to ensure that all communities can access charging and participate in the transition to electric vehicles. Currently, over 50% of Electrify America's public ultra-fast charging stations at various stages of development are in disadvantaged or low-income communities, exceeding the company's 35% target.

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We believe that the Cycle 4 Investment Plan is critical to continuing to grow EV adoption in California at this important juncture. People of color are 3.7 times more likely than white people to live in a county with three failing air quality grades. Not only are the existing inequities appalling, but polluting cars and trucks are making these disparities worse. Light-duty gasoline vehicles and heavy-duty gasoline vehicles were found to be two of the sectors that produce the greatest disparity in levels of pollutants impacting communities of color compared to other communities. These results hold regardless of income level, urban/rural settings, states, and exposure levels. By investing in charging infrastructure, particularly in low-income and historically disadvantaged communities (such as Black, LatinX, Indigenous communities, rural communities, elderly populations, and the LGBTQ+ communities), Electrify America's work supports amplifying California in reaching the goal of 100% of new car sales being electric by 2035. EVHybridNoire works to ensure that all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, income, or location, can access the benefits of clean vehicle technology, and we believe this plan is crucial to realizing these goals.

Electrify America's investments are also creating economic opportunities for many stakeholders. For example, responding vendors to Electrify America's 2022 year-end survey identified nearly 4,000 workers employed by themselves and subcontractors that worked on Electrify America projects from July to December 2022, including 914 workers in California. Of these workers, vendors reported that 32% lived in low-income and disadvantaged communities, while vendors reported that approximately 1% of workers self-identified as veterans. Survey respondents also indicated that nearly 600 jobs were created or sustained because of work with Electrify America, roughly 50% of which were employees and contractors living and working in California.¹

We respectfully urge you to find that Electrify America's Cycle 4 California ZEV Investment Plan is consistent with requirements at your December Board meeting, in order to keep California on the forefront as a leader in the fight against climate change.

Respectfully,

Dr. Shelley Francis
Co-Founder and Managing Partner, EVHybridNoire

¹ "2022 Annual Report to CARB." April 30, 2023.
<https://media.electrifyamerica.com/assets/documents/original/1016-2022CaliforniaAnnualReport.pdf>