



November 6, 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 Valley Clean Air Now (Valley CAN) 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.

Valley CAN is a 501c3 public charity committed to improving air quality in communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley, one of the most polluted regions in the country. We lower transportation costs and improve the region's air quality by helping working families access cleaner vehicles thanks to our partnership with the Valley Air District on the Tune In & Tune Up smog repair program and the Clean Cars 4 All vehicle replacement program.

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.

Importantly, the plan continues Electrify America's commitment to providing benefit 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.

We have been impressed by Electrify America's very thorough and inclusive stakeholder process while developing their Cycle 4 plan. Our team has interacted with the Electrify America team frequently over the past seven years, and throughout this time they have proven themselves to be a committed partner in finding quantifiable solutions to increasing ZEV use. Valley CAN is in strong support of all of the elements in Electrify America's very thorough and strategic plan for maximizing the value of Cycle 4 investments.

Of particular interest to Valley CAN, the Electrify America team has paid close attention to the development and implementation of the disadvantaged and low-income community (DAC/LIC) ZEV education and outreach element. In our opinion, they have demonstrated a true dedication to finding new and better ways to unlock the transformative economic benefits of ZEVs for DAC/LIC residents.

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Electrify America funding for ZEV education in DAC/LICs has been a primary factor in the ongoing success of the Clean Cars 4 All program in the San Joaquin Valley since 2018. The DAC/LIC education funds allowed Valley CAN to make two critical improvements to our outreach and education program:

- In partnership with Charge Across Town, we added Used ZEV Ride & Drives to all of our Saturday morning Tune In & Tune Up events, which gave thousands of Valley residents a first-hand experience with ZEVs
- We have hosted weeknight Clean Car Community Clinics in every community with population greater than 5,000 throughout the Valley, where residents come to local restaurants to learn more about available clean vehicle incentives and get help with completing applications and submitting qualification paperwork for incentives.

By adding hands-on ZEV experiential education as well as supportive help with program qualification, we saw an immediate and sustained increase in program applications as well as an increase in the percentage of low-income customers who are choosing to replace their older, high-emitting vehicles with ZEVs. Without Electrify America's help, we would not have had the resources to make these important program improvements.

Over and above the funding, the Electrify America team has contributed their considerable expertise in vehicle technology and marketing. They have handled program administration in a very fast and efficient manner. Valley CAN is grateful for Electrify America's partnership.

Based on Electrify America's track record of accomplishment during Cycles 1 through 3, Valley CAN respectfully urges you to find that Electrify America's Cycle 4 California ZEV Investment Plan is consistent with requirements at your December Board meeting, to continue California's momentum as a leader in the fight against climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Knox", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tom Knox
Executive Director
tom.knox@valleycan.org