

# Grant Solicitation

Clean Off-Road Equipment Voucher Incentive Project

Mobile Source Control Division  
California Air Resources Board  
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## I. Summary

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or the Board) is soliciting a Grantee for the implementation of the Clean Off-Road Equipment Voucher Incentive Project (CORE) with any appropriated and allocated funds from Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 with an option to renew the Grant Agreement for the following two FYs of potential funding (FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28).

CORE is intended to accelerate the deployment rate of zero-emission technology in the off-road sector. CORE provides vouchers to California purchasers and lessees of CORE-eligible equipment on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition, CORE offers increased incentives for equipment that will be domiciled in disadvantaged communities. CORE's goal is that at least 50 percent of CORE supported equipment is domiciled in disadvantaged communities.

CORE encourages the development, deployment, and commercialization of advanced off-road equipment technology. These technologies are critical to help California meet its near- and long-term air-quality and climate-change goals. Additionally, CORE benefits the citizens of California by providing immediate air-pollution and greenhouse-gas emission reductions.

Appropriated and allocated CORE funds will be administered and implemented through a partnership between CARB and a Grantee selected via this competitive solicitation. Eligible applicants wishing to apply for the role of CORE administrator must submit an application via email to CARB no later than 4:00 PM Pacific, May 12, 2026. More information regarding the application process can be found in Section VIII, Application Instructions, of this solicitation.

## II. Background

There are several key pieces of legislation that provide the overall policy framework and funding to support CORE. In 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law the California Alternative and Renewable Fuel, Vehicle Technology, Clean Air, and Carbon Reduction Act of 2007 (Assembly Bill (AB) 118, Statutes of 2007, Chapter 750). AB 118 created the Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), a voluntary incentive program implemented by CARB, to fund clean vehicle and equipment projects, air quality research, and workforce training.

As required in Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 44274(a), the Board adopted regulatory guidelines in 2009 for AQIP. The Guidelines for the AB 118 Air Quality Improvement Program (Guidelines) define the overall administrative requirements, policies, and procedures for program implementation based on the framework established in statute. SB 1204 (Lara, Chapter 524, Statutes of 2014) guides CARB's heavy-duty vehicle investments funded with Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds. SB 1204 creates the California Clean Truck, Bus, and Off-Road Vehicle and Equipment Technology Program intended to

help accelerate the introduction of the next generation of cleaner heavy-duty vehicles and engines with a priority on projects that benefit disadvantaged and low-income communities. Among other requirements, SB 1204 directs CARB to develop an annual framework and plan to guide these investments.

SB 1403 (Lara, Chapter 370, Statutes of 2018) guides CARB's heavy-duty vehicle investments funded with Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds. SB 1403 extended the California Clean Truck, Bus, and Off-Road Vehicle and Equipment Technology Program created under SB 1204 (Lara, Chapter 524, Statutes of 2014). The Heavy-Duty Investment Strategy included in the annual Funding Plan is designed to help address this requirement.

CORE will fund commercialized zero-emission off-road technologies, facilitate GHG emission reductions, and further the purposes of AB 32, the more recent SB 32 (Pavley, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2016), which codified a 2030 GHG emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels, SB 1 (Beall, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017), and related statutes.

### **III. Available Funding**

CARB staff routinely submits a proposed funding plan to the Board for approval that serves as the blueprint for expending GGRF, AQIP, and other funds appropriated to CARB in the State budget for Low Carbon Transportation and related investments. These funding plans establish CARB's priorities, describe the projects CARB intends to fund, and set funding targets for each project. Funding is provided for projects that support evolution through three phases of technological advancement: demonstration, commercialization, and transition to widespread deployment. The appropriation and allocation of funding to CORE in any FY is not guaranteed.

The majority of any new CORE funds shall be utilized as vouchers for CORE-eligible equipment, but up to 10.0 percent of the total CORE funding from any FY may be disbursed to the Grantee for administrative costs and for support/services towards CORE (local assistance). In addition, up to 5.0 percent of the funding may be used by CARB for administrative purposes (state operations). For more information on Grantee administrative funds, see the Sample Grant Agreement (Appendix B).

The current CORE Implementation Manual (Appendix C) provides information on equipment categories and requirements for CORE implementation.

### **IV. Terms of the Agreement and Options to Extend**

The Grant "Term" for the Grant Agreement between CARB and the Grantee will be from the date of grant execution until June 30, 2032, until CARB determines no equipment funds and no administrative funds remain available for end users, or until CARB demands the Grantee transfers all CORE implementation to a new administrator. CARB, in its sole discretion, may award new funding to the Grant Agreement from FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28

appropriations and allocations. The Grantee understands and agrees that there is no guarantee that the subsequent FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 grant funding will be awarded.

## V. Advance Pay

Consistent with the Legislature's direction to expeditiously disburse grants, CARB in its sole discretion may provide advance payments of grant funds (including Administrative Fees) in a timely manner to support program initiation and implementation with a focus on mitigating the constraints of modest reserves and potential cash flow problems.

Grant Agreements and all advance payment requests must comply with Government Code section 11019.3 (as applicable), as well as Health and Safety Code section 39603.1, and its implementing regulations in title 17 of the California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.).

Recognizing that appropriate safeguards are needed to ensure grant monies are used responsibly, CARB has developed the grant conditions described below to establish control procedures for advance payments. CARB may provide advance payments to Grantees of a grant program or project if CARB determines all of the following:

- A. The advance payments are necessary to meet the purposes of the grant project.
- B. The use of the advance funds is adequately regulated by grant or budgetary controls.
- C. The request for application or the request for proposals contains the terms and conditions under which an advance payment may be received consistent with this section.
- D. The Grantee is either a small air district or the Grantee meets all of the following criteria:
  1. Has no outstanding financial audit findings related to any of the moneys eligible for advance payment and is in good standing with the Franchise Tax Board and Internal Revenue Service.
  2. Agrees to revert all unused moneys to CARB if they are not liquidated within the timeline specified in the grant agreement.
  3. Submits a spending plan to CARB for review prior to receiving the advance payment.
  4. The spending plan shall include project schedules, timelines, milestones, and the Grantee's fund balance for all state grant programs.
  5. CARB shall consider the available fund balance when determining the amount of the advance payment.
  6. Reports to CARB any material changes to the spending plan within 30 days. In the event of the nonperformance of the Grantee, CARB shall require the full recovery

of the unspent moneys. A Grantee shall provide a money transfer confirmation within 45 days upon the receipt of a notice from CARB.

- E. The Grantee must complete and submit to CARB for review and approval, an Advance Payment Request Form, along with each grant disbursement that is requesting advance payment. The Advance Payment Request Form shall be provided by CARB to the Grantee after the grant execution.
- F. Grantee must also submit a certification to CARB pursuant to C.C.R, title 17, Section 91043 for each advance payment request.
- G. CARB may provide an advance of the direct project costs of the grant, if the program has moderate reserves and potential cash flow issues. Advance payments will not exceed the Grantee's interim cash needs.
- H. The Grantee assumes legal and financial risk of the advance payment.
- I. Grantee shall place funds advanced under this section in an interest-bearing account. Grantee shall track interest accrued on the advance payment. Interest earned on the advance payment shall only be used for eligible grant-related expenses as outlined in the Grant Provisions Exhibit A or will be returned to CARB.
- J. Grantee shall report to CARB the value of any unused balance of the advance payment and interest earned and submit quarterly fiscal accounting reports consistent with Section 7 Fiscal Administration of the Sample Grant Agreement.
- K. Grantee shall remit to CARB any unused portion of the advance payment and interest earned as specified in the Grant Agreement.

## VI. Eligibility

This competitive solicitation is open to California based public entities (e.g., local air districts, public agencies, municipalities, counties, special districts), or California based non-profit organizations. Specific requirements for the Grantee are described in this solicitation, the Current Implementation Manual (Appendix C), and the Sample Grant Agreement (Appendix B).

To be considered for the grant award, applicants must fully complete the Application (Appendix A) and all elements set forth in this solicitation Section X Required Elements. CARB may request clarification regarding application responses during the application review process.

If the applicant is anticipating subcontracting and the subcontractor is known at the time of Application submission, the applicant and subcontractor(s) relationships must be disclosed in the Application. If subcontractor(s) are subject to a public process for approval, that process must be fully disclosed in the application, including who must approve contracts, the process for approval, and the anticipated timelines for approvals. All disclosures

required of applicants are also required of subcontractor(s) at the time of Application submission. If the applicant anticipates subcontracting after Application submittal, the applicant should disclose that intent in the Application and disclose the subcontractor(s) relationship to CARB as soon as the subcontractor(s) are selected.

Applicants are only eligible to submit one application as the primary applicant under this solicitation. If more than one application is received, the application that was received last will be considered.

All applicants that are nonprofit organizations are considered conducting intrastate business in California, and are, therefore, required to be registered and in good standing with the California Secretary of State prior to submitting an application in response to this solicitation. Additional information can be found on the Secretary of State website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov).

## VII. Scope of Work

The Grantee, under CARB guidance, is responsible for CORE and voucher administration, including, but not limited to the following tasks:

### A. Program Planning, Development, and Implementation

1. Finalize and update the Implementation Manual in consultation with CARB throughout the grant term.
2. Develop a Policies and Procedures document and flow chart that describes the Grantee's administrative action for processing vouchers. Examples include details on acceptable supporting documentation for voucher applications, process for voucher payments, fiscal procedures, protocols for recording CARB case-by-case approvals, and recordkeeping and audit procedures.
3. Coordinate with CARB and project administrators from CARB's other projects, as necessary, to ensure streamlined implementation of all projects in a way that is easy for the consumer to understand. This includes, but is not limited to, revising definitions as necessary, coordinating outreach efforts, and assisting in the development of outreach materials.
4. Grantee's key project personnel will participate in an initial project kick-off meeting with CARB staff before work on CORE begins. The purpose of the initial meeting will be to discuss the overall plan, details for performing the tasks, the project schedule, and any issues that may need to be addressed.
5. Schedule, organize, and participate in regular project update meetings at least quarterly. Additional meetings may be scheduled at the CARB Project Liaison's sole discretion. The regular project update meetings shall include the following items:

- a. An agenda with call-in information for all participants and details for any issues to be discussed during the update meeting.
  - b. Statement of work expected to be completed by the next status report; and
  - c. A discussion on what milestones and work plan tasks are expected to be completed before the next regular update meeting.
6. Throughout the Grant "Term" (as set out in the Grant Agreement) and in consultation with CARB, work with CARB to develop a Project Implementation Manual for manufacturers and purchasers based on the elements set forth in the Current Implementation Manual (Appendix C) and thorough public engagement that outlines how CORE will be implemented. The public will be offered the opportunity to provide comments and receive feedback on draft versions of the Implementation Manual, and one or more public meetings may be held as an element of the process. Development of the Implementation Manual will include finalizing all Terms and Conditions and forms included as examples in the Implementation Manual Framework. The Implementation Manual will be reviewed and approved by CARB before being finalized. The Grantee must continue to update the Implementation Manual throughout the grant term, as needed or directed by CARB. NOTE that this Implementation Manual is separate and apart from the Project Implementation Plan that is required to be submitted by the applicant as a part of the grant application package.
  7. Train and approve equipment dealers for participation in CORE based upon eligibility criteria identified in the Current Implementation Manual (Appendix C).
  8. Develop a policies and procedures document and flow chart that describes the Grantee's administrative action for processing vouchers. Examples include details on acceptable supporting documentation and protocols for recording CARB case-by-case approvals.
  9. Facilitate the engagement of stakeholders, including underserved communities and priority populations during technical project implementation.
  10. Establish a standardized data collection regime for all CARB funded projects, which is consistent with CARB policies, and applicable state and federal laws.
  11. Collect data for public dashboards and portals.
  12. Keep Project data in compliance with all privacy requirements as set forth in the Grant Agreement and applicable laws.
  13. Consult with and get CARB approval before the release of any data that has been collected during the course of the Project.
  14. Coordinate with other funding programs, including but not limited to, the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program, Prop 1B Goods Movement Emission Program, Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust

Funding, AB 617 Community Air Protection Program, and Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program funds, to ensure that fleets are not inappropriately accepting multiple funding sources.

15. Support CARB in responding to questions from the Governor's office, Legislature, media, or other state agencies.
16. In consultation with CARB and its technical Grantees, assess options for including equity elements into the Program.
17. Participate in CARB-approved events (e.g., CARB Board hearings, press events, conferences, forums, symposiums, etc.) to represent the CORE.
18. Help to develop and implement public events that showcase eligible equipment of interested stakeholders and the public as appropriate. Assist in the tracking of zero-emission equipment sales by manufacturer in California and in other states as needed to understand zero-emission technology demand and funding needs and in light of regulatory requirements.
19. Support infrastructure solutions, including providing mobile and temporary charging equipment as requested by CARB.
20. Assist CARB in updating the CORE chapter of CARB's Funding Plan on an annual basis starting with the FY 2026-27 Funding Plan by providing information and support to CARB upon request.
21. Assist CARB in data collection and reporting as required, including the use of CORE funds into the California Climate Investments Reporting and Tracking System (CCIRTS).
22. Track and report equipment inquiries to CARB.
23. At the discretion of CARB, develop an annual equipment-user survey (Questionnaire) that evaluates equipment usage, operational business changes implemented by the fleet user, and user satisfaction with equipment purchased through CORE. Grantee will, at a minimum:
  - a. Develop and implement an effective mechanism for equipment operators to respond to the Questionnaire annually for three years from the equipment purchase date;
  - b. Conduct quality control for Questionnaire data to CARB as part of the monthly CORE status reports; and
  - c. Provide a mechanism, which should be outlined in the Grantee's transfer plan, for potential subsequent Grantees to continue collecting such data from fleets for a three-year period after voucher redemption.

24. With input from equipment manufacturers, the Grantee will develop and maintain a mechanism, such as a database, website, or data-access portal, for equipment manufacturers to transmit key telematics data to the Grantee. The Grantee is responsible for ensuring the data are stored appropriately and securely, making the data available to CARB or its future designee upon request for a period of three years from the equipment delivery date, and ensuring subsequent Grantees can continue to utilize the mechanism to collect and store the data. The equipment manufacturers are responsible for uploading the telematics data to the Grantee, CARB, or CARB's designee using the mechanism developed by the Grantee at a frequency to be determined by CARB and the Grantee.
25. Once the term of the CORE grant agreement has ended, the Grantee shall deliver the collected data to CARB or the subsequent Grantee in a format approved by CARB.
26. The Grantee will develop a mechanism to notify the electric utility for the service area of the equipment operator of any plug-in equipment purchase plans, based on the details of voucher requests. The utility will be able to determine if there are any infrastructure requirements and upgrades needed to successfully utilize the additional zero-emission equipment. The Grantee will facilitate coordination between the utility/energy provider and the purchaser to ensure the necessary infrastructure installation or upgrades take place successfully.
27. Provide periodic data summaries to the public via a method approved by CARB.
28. Assist CARB in updating the Long-Term Heavy-Duty Investment Strategy on an annual basis starting with the FY 2026/27 Funding Plan by providing information to CARB upon request. Information requested by CARB may include, but not limited to, the following:
  - a. Status of the off-road market;
  - b. Market and technical analysis on commercialized and emerging vehicle and equipment and infrastructure to determine the state of technologies;
  - c. Challenges and potential solutions;
  - d. Recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CORE investments;
  - e. Recommendations to improve CORE and other off-road incentive projects; and
  - f. Role of incentives and how incentive programs can complement near-term regulatory measures.
29. Review and deliver a report on other heavy-duty incentive programs for CARB and other local, State, Federal, and international agencies that support the

commercialization and deployment of advanced clean heavy-duty equipment and technologies.

30. Facilitate collaboration and coordination with other local, State, Federal, and international agencies on zero-emission incentive programs and supportive policies, including regulations.
31. Document findings and update the three-year heavy-duty investment strategy as part of the annual AQIP Funding Plan.
32. Meet all applicable requirements of the following: any applicable statutes, all applicable Funding Plans, CARB's Funding Guidelines, this solicitation, the Sample Grant Agreement (Appendix B), the final Grant Agreement, and the CORE Implementation Manual including any future updates and/or revisions issued during the grant term. The Grantee must also ensure its subcontractors meet all the aforementioned requirements, as applicable. CARB's Funding Guidelines and Funding Plan are available at: [www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aqip/aqip.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aqip/aqip.htm).
33. Closely communicate with CARB to ensure that the most current equipment eligibility list is being used.
34. Support and help inform CARB's determination of appropriate base voucher amounts for eligible pieces of equipment and voucher enhancement amounts for infrastructure, bulk deployments, extended warranties, and any other voucher enhancements outlined in the Implementation Manual. This will include gathering and providing cost information to help support CARB's determination of the estimated aggregated cost of new conventionally fueled pieces of equipment that could perform the same function as the zero-emission pieces of equipment for which manufacturers seek eligibility. This information will be used to calculate the incremental cost for each manufacturer's equipment models seeking eligibility. This will be performed for each eligible equipment category outlined in the Implementation Manual, and reviewed periodically as market shifts take place. This cost will be determined on an equipment-specific basis and informed by discussions with fleets and other stakeholders, market data, and/or other relevant information.
35. Work with equipment manufacturers to create and maintain a list of dealerships authorized to receive CORE vouchers.
36. Provide data updates to CARB upon request, which could include any data collected as part of CORE, funding that has been spent, timelines, all voucher records or any other data needs that CARB has in relation to Sustainable Heavy-Duty Initiatives for Future Technology (SHIFT).
37. Provide CARB with a Final Report that encompasses the three-year term of the grant agreement or any extensions, that summarizes and evaluates total funds expended (including match, interest earned, and in-kind funds), equipment

funded, benefits to disadvantaged communities, outreach efforts, implementation challenges, and recommends potential Program improvements (see Section 9 of Appendix B: Sample Grant Agreement).

38. Provide CARB with all webpage(s), databases, computer software, or other intellectual property developed or purchased by the Grantee for the purposes of administering or implementing CORE, if requested.
39. CARB reserves the right to request participation in ongoing research efforts that support the CORE and CARB goals.

## B. Public Outreach and Workforce Development

1. Prepare outreach and educational materials, in consultation with CARB, and work with community-based organizations (CBOs) to:
  - a. Conduct statewide public outreach necessary to educate local community members about the benefits of the local projects and about technical training opportunities that may result from such projects.
  - b. Conduct statewide public outreach necessary for CORE to be successful.
  - c. Conduct statewide public outreach to equipment dealers, fleets (especially small fleets) and work with community-based organizations (CBOs) necessary for CORE to be successful. Outreach could include on-site dealer trainings, public question and answer sessions, and could entail the following:
    - i. Target outreach in areas that are classified as extreme nonattainment of the federal 8-hour ozone standard (i.e., the South Coast and San Joaquin Valley Air Basins), and disadvantaged and low-income communities (based on CalEnviroScreen 4.0); and
    - ii. Develop and implement a strategy to engage lower-income and disadvantaged communities through activities relevant to the community being served. Bring communities together with equipment dealers to foster greater communication between sellers and customers and increase overall program awareness.
    - iii. Advise CARB on potential additional opportunities for outreach and technical assistance.
2. The Grantee shall clearly identify an outreach plan that contains, at minimum:
  - a. The types of outreaches planned (e.g., printed materials, web based, and social media).
  - b. Outreach materials, such as fact sheets, infographics, and other multimedia tools, such as videos, readily accessible on the website or social media platforms.

- c. Translation services for CARB staff and documents to support the Program.
- d. Targeted outreach in disadvantaged and low-income communities (based on CalEnviroscreen 4.0).
- e. A list of CBOs by region that will partner with the Grantee.
- f. A strategy to support organizations and groups that are representative of disadvantaged communities and that are connected to a network of similar organizations, institutions, and community service providers to provide education, technical assistance, ride opportunities, etc. to these communities.
- g. A strategy to engage lower-income and disadvantaged communities through activities relevant to the community being served.
- h. A strategy to increase the awareness of fleets and dealers of the incentives to spur the adoption of advanced clean heavy-duty equipment statewide and to support dealerships and manufacturers in reaching out to sales staff and consumers to ensure widespread awareness of the program.
- i. Dealer trainings (possibly on site) and public question and answer sessions.
- j. Conduct technical assistance to fleets to spur the adoption of advanced clean heavy-duty equipment statewide. Technical assistance could include one-on-one support, fleet case management, infrastructure planning, fleet electrification reports, personalized referrals and personalized follow-up and must include:
  - i. Assistance to fleets in the planning necessary to adopt advanced clean heavy-duty equipment.
  - ii. Assistance to fleets in the planning necessary to ensure fueling infrastructure is available to operate advanced clean heavy-duty equipment; and
  - iii. Collection of fleet information and lessons learned through interactions to encourage continuous improvements to the services provided, marketing techniques, and industry relationships needed to execute the adoption of advanced clean heavy-duty equipment.
- k. Public recognition of fleets that are deploying zero-emission heavy-duty equipment and facilitate broad public awareness of zero-emission technology availability and recognizes:
  - i. Fleets based on percentage of zero-emission equipment that make up the fleet, with the understanding that the percentage will increase over time.

- ii. Fleets who meet recognition standards to assist entities who have prioritized the hiring of zero-emission equipment for their shipping purposes.
    - iii. Entities who hire fleets that meet set recognition standards.
  - l. Interaction with fleets through focus groups or other mechanisms to gain a better understanding of fleet requirements and solutions to enable zero-emission heavy-duty equipment adoption.
3. Execute Memorandums of Understanding, subcontracts, or other agreements with regional or centralized community-based organizations to support local organizations that conduct on-the-ground outreach and education activities that support CORE.
4. Develop and/or maintain a user-friendly public website that may be hosted by CARB, the Grantee, or a CARB approved third party. If hosted by CARB, the website and all content posted thereto must be ADA-compliant in accordance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, level AA, and any subsequent versions, published by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium at a minimum Level AA of success criteria. The website must include, at a minimum:
- a. General CORE information and instructions on how to participate
  - b. A list of eligible equipment and related equipment, and associated voucher amount
  - c. Voucher request and voucher redemption forms which include terms and conditions to which purchasers must attest or commit
  - d. Real-time voucher statistics, including vouchers requested and vouchers redeemed, dollars awarded by funding source, available and expended funds, location of voucher, and other statistics as defined by CARB such as vehicle and equipment type, location, vocation, and where equipment is domiciled
  - e. A mapping tool that provides a visual representation of where vouchers are being requested and/or disbursed
  - f. A mapping tool to track the number of zero-emission vehicles and equipment, ordered and deployed in California as part of CORE and other incentive programs administered by CARB and other public agencies.
  - g. A mapping tool to track zero-emission school bus population in California and provide data visualization, hosting, and download capabilities for public access.

- h. User survey data to display information such as demographics, buying experience, motivations to purchase, decision-making process, etc., upon request by CARB.
  - i. Applicable documents and forms related to CORE.
  - j. Other information to support fleets including infrastructure funding information and links to other funding sources.
5. Develop, make available, and distribute language-specific and culturally appropriate materials (to be determined by CARB) that will be used for the effective implementation of CORE. Language-specific materials must include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - a. Outreach and education materials;
    - b. Website;
    - c. Owner requirements;
    - d. Terms and conditions agreement forms;
    - e. Frequently asked questions; and
    - f. Grantee contact information.
  6. In consultation with CARB, develop a best practices manual for the proper implementation of the Program and the Project.
  7. Create a Community Advisement Group (CAG) comprised of representatives, equipment-users, manufactures, dealers, and community-based organizations to discuss outreach strategies and goals to promote CORE's success.
  8. Conduct outreach to manufacturers and encourage their participation in the Project along with participation in the Industry Working Group.
  9. Establish the CORE Champions Initiative, creating ambassadors across California to support outreach and education for the CORE project. They will meet regularly with champions to strategize outreach, hold recognition events, and feature their participation on the CORE website and in webinars.
  10. Focus on workforce development in the transition to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and infrastructure. Use best practices and lessons learned from administration of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA), for example, developing outreach materials in specified languages and tactics for Off-Road Zero Emission Technology Inventory, Clean Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP), and other advanced transportation programs. The task force has outlined strategic guidelines for WFD work. The following areas have been identified in WFD for ZEVs and infrastructure:

- (1) Market Acceleration: Develop and administer a scalable mechanism for funding vehicle training within the voucher incentive program. This approach will facilitate the expansion of training opportunities.
- (2) Industry: Articulate and define the specific skills and requirements for WFD training programs. This will ensure that industry, government, and educational institutions can effectively participate in and benefit from these programs. Leverage internship opportunities at organizations to provide students from community college with practical experience.
- (3) Policy: Collaborate with state and federal entities to develop programs that encompass the aforementioned areas. By actively engaging with policymakers, shape policies that support WFD and promote the widespread implementation of ZEVs and associated infrastructure.
- (4) Personnel: Hire subject matter experts across all initiatives related to WFD. This role will be responsible for formulating and implementing strategies, policies, and equity considerations within all WFD programs and projects.

- C. Work with other states and nations to support zero-emission off-road policies, programs, and information exchange in other states and countries. The Grantee will convene, advise, and lead other nations to take actions consistent with CORE goals.
- D. Conduct educational events, outreach, and equipment displays in other states and outside the United States.
  1. Train and approve equipment dealers for participation in CORE based upon eligibility criteria identified in the Implementation Manual.
  2. Respond promptly to legislative and public requests regarding CORE in coordination with CARB.
  3. Work with equipment manufacturers to create a list of dealerships authorized to submit voucher requests and receive CORE voucher payments.
  4. Develop methodology to ensure that authorized dealerships respond to requests from fleets and track and respond to complaints made against individual dealers.
  5. Organize outreach events to showcase zero-emission off-road technology including displays of zero-emission equipment.

6. Develop and provide outreach materials (to be determined by CARB) that will be used to help inform fleets and stakeholders about how to access CORE, describe advanced clean technologies, and/or acknowledge California Climate Investments as a source of funding. Outreach materials may include, but are not limited to, the following: posters, stickers, pamphlets, flyers, and banners.

## E. Voucher Distribution and Processing

1. Ensure participating equipment manufacturers, dealers, purchasers, and lessees meet all applicable CORE requirements.
2. Support three-year ownership and lease-term requirements by identifying and reporting voucher recipients to CARB who are at risk of not meeting the requirements.
3. Track and report vehicle/equipment resale inquiries to CARB.
4. Contact voucher recipients that have or will potentially sell their vehicle/equipment early.
5. Establish and maintain a contingency list if CORE becomes oversubscribed and CARB determines a contingency list is appropriate.
6. Issue voucher payments to equipment dealers for eligible equipment purchases.
7. For all vouchers issued, track and report metrics, such as, but not limited to information regarding if the equipment is domiciled and benefiting a disadvantaged or low-income population, GHG emission reductions, and CORE co-benefits. Tracking and reporting will be done at an agreed upon length of duration and frequency to CARB. The Grantee will utilize the CCI quantification materials located at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cci-quantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials>. There is a quantification tool developed by CARB specifically for the CORE program.
8. Provide information, upon request, to individuals or organizations that wish to appeal a voucher denial to CARB. Provide data updates to CARB upon request, which could include all voucher records.
9. Review required documentation prior to voucher redemption. Documents include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Signed Final Invoice - must show the final purchase price less the voucher amount and any other additional incentive funding. It must also provide line items listing:
    - i. Equipment base price
    - ii. Price of equipment upgrades (i.e., non-standard features)

- iii. Sale price of any other equipment supported by CORE
  - iv. Voucher discount, including all voucher enhancements itemized
  - v. All applicable taxes and fees
- b. If the voucher is for a lease, the lease contract including all terms of the lease.
  - c. Financing/Lease Documentation – Provide a copy of check, money transfer receipt, financing/loan agreement identifying the lien holder, and/or lease contract indicating terms of lease.
  - d. Delivery Bill of Lading – must be signed and dated at delivery location.
  - e. Line Setting Ticket (Factory Build Sheet) – manufacturer issued.
  - f. Digital photos of equipment showing:
    - i. Equipment from left side – showing completed equipment with applicable numbering.
    - ii. Equipment Identification Number or Product Identification Number tag
    - iii. Odometer or usage indicator
  - g. CORE Equipment Inspection signed by authorized dealer or Grantee representative.
  - h. Site plans and cost documentation for supporting infrastructure if requested by CARB.
  - i. Proof of hours: Equipment must have no more than 500 hours at time of the equipment inspection. Vouchers for equipment with more than 500 hours may be redeemed on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the CARB Project Liaison.
  - j. Documentation to demonstrate that voucher applicants are in compliance with all applicable federal, state, CARB, and local air-quality rules and regulations.
  - k. Documentation to demonstrate that voucher applicants are compliant with applicable regulations and meet specified labor standards.
  - l. Documentation of other funding sources for voucher applicants proposing to use multiple grant or incentive funding sources including information on the name of the funding source, amount of funding requested, and what portions of the purchase will be covered by the funding. Follow the CORE Implementation Manual and CARB’s guidance to determine if co-funding is allowed with the proposed funding source.

10. Coordinate with other funding programs, including but not limited to, the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program, Prop 1B Goods Movement Emission Program, Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funding, AB 617 Community Air Protection Program, and Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program funds, to ensure that fleets are not inappropriately accepting multiple funding sources.
11. Determine if voucher requests meet the criteria of funding set aside for certain equipment or fleet types, or follow protocol described in the Implementation Manual and by CARB to administer set-aside funds. Use the criteria in the Implementation Manual to review and approve or disapprove voucher requests and document this process in each voucher file.
12. Use the criteria in the Implementation Manual to review and approve or disapprove voucher requests and document this process in each voucher file.
13. Require the purchaser/lessee and dealer to sign and date the CORE Voucher Request Form and provide all necessary information including fleet size and revenue information.
14. Establish safeguards to ensure CORE participants (i.e., equipment manufacturers and purchasers) conform to all applicable terms and conditions set forth in the Implementation Manual.
15. Distribute voucher payments to equipment dealers for eligible equipment purchases.
16. The Grantee will develop a mechanism to notify the electric utility for the service area of the equipment operator of any plug-in equipment purchase plans, based on the details of voucher requests. The utility will be able to determine if there are any infrastructure requirements and upgrades needed to successfully utilize the additional zero-emission equipment. The Grantee will facilitate coordination between the utility/energy provider and the purchaser to ensure the necessary infrastructure installation or upgrades take place successfully.
17. Establish and maintain accounting procedures to track funding reservations and expenditures by grant award, fiscal year, projects (CORE), and funding source.
18. Establish and use a process for returned voucher funds as a result of uncashed voucher checks, prorated returns, cancellations, etc.
19. Establish a waiting list if CORE becomes oversubscribed and use this waiting list if CARB determines its use is appropriate.
20. Continue the redemption process for reserved vouchers from prior Grant Agreements.

## F. Program Funding Distribution

1. The Grantee will not keep disbursed project voucher funding indefinitely and will be responsible for issuing voucher payments. The Grantee will be responsible for ensuring that project vouchers are complete and accurate before paying out vouchers. After CARB approval of Grantee disbursement requests, payments will be made by CARB to the Grantee for dispersal to completed voucher holders.
2. The Grantee will submit disbursement requests to CARB for administrative services as described in the Proposed Budget.

## G. Recordkeeping and Reporting

1. Establish and maintain incentive records (see Section N of Appendix B: Sample Grant Agreement).
2. Utilize best practices to store all records in a safe and secure storage facility that maintains confidentiality and provides fire and natural disaster protection. Files shall be retained for a period of five (5) years after termination or expiration of the Grant Agreement, whichever occurs first. Upon completion of the required record-retention period, the Grantee must submit all CORE records to CARB. Hardcopy or electronic records are suitable. Acceptable forms of electronic media must be approved based on prior written concurrence from CARB.
3. Support CARB in remediating documents and webpages, as needed, to be ADA-compliant in accordance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, level AA, and any subsequent versions, published by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium at a minimum Level AA success criteria.
4. Develop a systematic process and schedule to back-up Program data and information each day, at a minimum.
5. Deploy and enforce security measures to safeguard Program data and information.
6. At the discretion of CARB, develop and conduct CORE participant surveys including an annual equipment user survey (Questionnaire) that characterizes equipment usage and evaluates fleet user satisfaction with CORE funded equipment. Provide a summary of Questionnaire responses that includes survey statistics. Grantee will, at minimum:
  - a. Develop and implement an effective mechanism for CORE participants to respond to the surveys;
  - b. Conduct quality control for collected survey data, and provide to CARB as part of the periodic Status Report; and
  - c. Provide a mechanism, which should be outlined in the Grantee's transfer plan, for subsequent Grantees to continue collecting such data after incentive redemption.
  - d. Provide CARB a summary of survey responses which includes survey statistics.

7. Provide data updates to CARB upon request, which could include any data collected as part of CORE funding that has been spent, timelines, or any other data needs that CARB has in relation to any projects.
8. Provide periodic data summaries to the public via a method approved by CARB.
9. Provide monthly Status Reports to CARB detailing CORE activity, disbursement request received, status of draft grant agreements, disbursement requests expected to be received, and other deliverables as defined by CARB.
10. Support CARB efforts to track the distribution of State funds used to support the development, deployment, and commercialization of eligible vehicles and equipment.
11. Maintain CORE files that document all activity in CORE including completion of milestones, issues that CORE is encountering and solutions, disbursements, minor changes to scope of CORE, CEQA documents, correspondence with CARB and project partners, and all other relevant documents.
12. Acquire key telematics data from CORE-funded equipment, except military pieces of equipment, for a minimum of three years from the equipment delivery date. Grantee must provide a mechanism for subsequent Grantees to continue collecting such data from the equipment manufacturers for a three-year period after voucher redemption. Grantee must ensure the following data are collected by the equipment manufacturers and transmitted to the database that is maintained by the Grantee. Telematics data requirements, monitoring frequency, and data format will be determined by CARB and may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Load,
  - b. Motor Speed,
  - c. Equipment Speed,
  - d. Global Positioning System (GPS) data (when applicable),
  - e. Idle (on with no movement and no work being done),
  - f. Equipment hours,
  - g. Location and time of first key on and last key off of the work day,
  - h. Charging/refueling events and duration,
  - i. Cumulative charging time and energy charged,
  - j. State of charge/fuel capacity at beginning and end of charging/refueling events,
  - k. Battery cycle life or cycle count,

- l. Battery state of health (as defined by the manufacturer),
  - m. Hours and percentage of total time when the equipment is operating (key on) within and outside of a disadvantaged community (when applicable), and
  - n. Service, repair, and maintenance events.
13. Track and analyze for the number of jobs created as a result of the vehicles/equipment supported by CORE.
  14. If necessary, the Grantee shall support CARB's enforcement efforts, including the recapturing of funds (commonly referred to as *clawback* actions) by providing CARB with any fleet information, purchaser information, documents, data, and all other material needed to investigate or carry out such efforts.
  15. Provide information, upon request, to individuals or organizations that wish to appeal a voucher denial to CARB.
  16. Provide CARB with a monthly report that summarizes CORE activity during that time, CORE equipment and infrastructure usage, problems encountered, resolutions to problems as well as on-going challenges. The monthly reports will be compiled into an annual report with annual summaries of the monthly reports, an overall annual summary.
  17. Provide CARB with an annual report that summarizes CORE activity during that time, CORE equipment and infrastructure usage, problems encountered, resolutions to problems as well as on-going challenges.
  18. The Grantee will prepare annual reports presenting the data collected. The report will include analyses based on the requirements of CORE (e.g., operating time within a disadvantaged community). This may include fleet information associated with use, power consumption, and disadvantaged community activity. The report may also include information on performance anomalies, recommendations for future data collection activities, and recommendations to streamline the collection, storage, and analysis of future data sets. Should CARB identify a concern, additional or more frequent reports may be required beyond a single annual report.
  19. Track vouchers issued to equipment domiciled in disadvantaged and low-income communities, as defined in AB 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016), in a manner directed by CARB and outlined in the Implementation Manual.
  20. Establish and maintain voucher records.
    - a. Utilize best practices to store all records in a safe and secure storage facility that maintains confidentiality and provides fire and natural disaster protection. Files shall be retained during the term of the Grant Agreement plus three years. Upon completion of the required record-retention period, the Grantee

must submit all CORE records to CARB. Hardcopy or electronic records are suitable. Acceptable forms of electronic media must be approved based on prior written concurrence from CARB.

- b. Develop a systematic process and schedule to back-up the CORE database(s) each day, at a minimum.
- c. Develop and enforce security measures to safeguard the CORE database(s).

## H. Transition

1. Once the term of the CORE grant agreement is nearing completion, (or, at CARB's discretion, prior to termination, cancellation, or expiration of the Grant Agreement), the Grantee shall implement the preapproved transition (or transfer) plan and deliver all project data to CARB or at CARB's discretion, to the subsequent Grantee in a format approved by CARB.
2. Develop and execute a project transfer plan, as part of the Grantee's closeout duties, to ensure a complete and timely transfer of data records and website to CARB and to the next administrator on a timely basis. The project transfer plan, which must first be approved by CARB, includes at a minimum the following tasks:
  - a. Complete processing vouchers for all delivered equipment,
  - b. Complete all tasks associated with the project transfer plan,
  - c. Process vouchers for up to three months or until the subsequent Grantee is prepared to process vouchers, and
  - d. If applicable, transfer CORE data, records, and websites to CARB and the new Grantee/administrator selected by CARB according to CARB approved transfer plan.
3. Once the term of the CORE grant agreement is nearing completion, (or, at CARB's discretion, prior to termination, cancellation, or expiration of the Grant Agreement), the Grantee shall implement the preapproved transition (or transfer) plan and deliver all project data to CARB or at CARB's discretion, to the subsequent Grantee in a format approved by CARB.
4. Once the term of the CORE Grant Agreement has ended and if a subsequent Grant Agreement has been awarded to the Grantee, the Grantee shall continue the voucher redemption process for unredeemed vouchers as part of the subsequent Grant Agreement.
5. Provide CARB with a Final Report, that encompasses the three-year term of the grant agreement or any extensions, that summarizes CORE (including findings, conclusions and results) during the Term of the Grant Agreement, provides summaries of data collected, trends in equipment, component and infrastructure costs and other topics as requested by CARB such as summaries and evaluations of

total fund expenditures (including match, interest earned, and in-kind funds), equipment funded, outreach efforts, and implementation challenges and recommendations for potential program improvements.

6. Provide and transfer all ownership, use, intellectual property and licensing rights to CARB, including but not limited to all webpage(s), publications, data, copyrights, logos, patents, algorithms, websites, domain names, tradenames, databases, software or other intellectual property developed or purchased by the Grantee for the purposes of administering or implementing CORE, if requested.

## VIII. Application Instructions

Appendix A: Application contains the forms and information necessary for submitting a complete application. The Grantee selection will be based upon the scoring criteria identified in this solicitation. All information and data submitted as a response to this solicitation are the property of CARB and will become a public record. If no qualified proposal is submitted, CARB will not award a grant and will consider other options, such as discontinuing this solicitation or resoliciting for applications.

Applications will only be accepted electronically by email. No applications shall be submitted by mail or in person. Submit the application package electronically to AJ Edwards at the following email address: [adam.edwards@arb.ca.gov](mailto:adam.edwards@arb.ca.gov). After the application is received, an email will be sent to the applicant acknowledging receipt of the application. If an applicant does not receive an email confirming receipt of the application within 48 hours of submittal, please immediately contact AJ Edwards via email or phone at (916) 712-3891. An application package consists of one completed application form along with a complete set of documents as identified in Appendix A. These documents are to be submitted as one electronic file. All documents must be filled out completely. Where signature is required, all such documents must be signed and dated. Digital signatures are acceptable. All requested information must be provided in the application package.

Complete applications must be submitted no later than 4:00 PM Pacific on May 12, 2026 (the "Application Deadline"). Applicants will not be allowed to submit any additional records or materials after the Application Deadline.

Applications should be accurate, brief, and clear. In order to be considered a responsive (qualifying) application, it must include all the required elements identified in Section X of this solicitation. An incomplete application will be rejected on its face as non-responsive (non-qualifying). Please do not include in the application any personally identifiable information, such as project staff home addresses, personal phone numbers, or personal email addresses. Business addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are required.

Table 1: FY 2025-26 CORE Solicitation Timeline (subject to change)

Public Release of CORE Solicitation	March 24, 2026
Solicitation Workshop	April 14, 2026, 11:00 AM Pacific
Application Deadline	May 12, 2026, 4:00 PM Pacific
Preliminary Grantee Selection	June, 2026

## IX. Solicitation Workshop

CARB will hold a Solicitation Workshop after the public release of this solicitation. During this Solicitation Workshop, CARB staff will take comments and questions from potential applicants regarding eligibility, application completion, and other requirements. The Solicitation Workshop is open to all interested entities. It is intended to provide potential applicants with an opportunity to ask clarifying questions regarding general application or applicant requirements or terminology definitions.

Written comments and questions submitted before the Solicitation Workshop will be given priority. Comments and questions emailed to the Solicitation Lead, AJ Edwards, at [adam.edwards@arb.ca.gov](mailto:adam.edwards@arb.ca.gov) up to 11:00 AM Pacific three business days prior to the Solicitation Workshop date will be given priority. The questions and answers from the workshop will be posted on the CARB website about one week after the workshop. CARB will not answer questions regarding this CORE Solicitation except during this Solicitation Workshop. Any verbal communication with a CARB employee concerning this solicitation are not binding on the State and shall in no way alter any specification, terms, or conditions of this solicitation. The Solicitation Workshop will take place on the following date and time:

Date: April 14, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM to 11:50 AM Pacific

Registration Link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_EXi46tYqRMC9EaoFI9aITg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EXi46tYqRMC9EaoFI9aITg)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the online meeting.

## X. Elements of a Complete Application

The application is included as Appendix A of this solicitation, and it includes the following required elements:

- Attachment 1: Application Form MSCD/ISB-097 AQIP/LCTI
- Attachment 2: Application General Qualifications
- Attachment 3: Applicant Information MSCD/ISB-188
- Attachment 4: Proposed Budget
- Attachment 5: Project Implementation Plan
- Attachment 6: Applicant Resources to Implement CORE
- Attachment 7: Conflict of Interest Declaration
- Attachment 8: Payee Data Record STD 204
- Attachment 9: Compliance with the Law
- Attachment 10: References
- Attachment 11: Insurance Endorsement
- Attachment 12: Attestation of Readiness
- Attachment 13: Non-Collusion Declaration

## XI. Scoring of Applications

Rejected non-qualifying (non-responsive) applicants will be notified of their application status within 30 business days after the application deadline.

After screening out non-responsive applications, CARB will evaluate the responsive (qualifying) application based on the criteria described below. The maximum score is 100 points. The qualifying applicant with the highest overall score will be selected as the Proposed Grantee. The Proposed Grantee will be required to sign a Grant Agreement with CARB to fulfill the duties of Grantee (Appendix B: Sample Grant Agreement). CARB reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel this solicitation, re-solicit for a CORE Grantee, direct funding to another project in the Funding Plan, or reject any or all applications received in response to this solicitation.

Pursuant to the 2024 Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments<sup>1</sup>, CARB will also post basic information about all the applications submitted for consideration (excluding personally identifiable information for any private individuals). The minimum items that must be posted include the name of the applicant, the amount of funding requested, and the executive summary as required Attachment 5 of Appendix A. Table 2 shows the maximum possible points scored in each of the 7 scoring categories, A through G.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/funding-guidelines-agencies-administer-california-climate-investments>

Table 2: Maximum Points for Scoring Categories

Scoring Category	Maximum Possible Points
A. Applicant General Qualifications	25
B. Proposed Budget	20
C. Proposed Implementation	15
D. Ability to Promote Eligible Equipment Types	15
E. Resources to Implement CORE	15
F. Maximize Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities	5
G. Proposed Equity Considerations	5

### A. Applicant General Qualifications

Up to 25 points will be provided based upon the applicant’s ability to successfully act as Grantee based upon its experience/expertise in and history of successfully working with zero-emission off-road equipment manufacturers, dealers, fleets, and other stakeholders and implementing projects similar to CORE, as well as the Grantee’s ability to build upon the existing CORE in a way which is user-friendly and seamless for manufacturers, dealers, and fleets. The experience of applicant’s identified subcontractor may be considered if their information is also fully provided in the application.

0 - 5 Points: Applicant lacks necessary experience or expertise successfully implementing large scale air-quality incentive projects or programs and does not have a working relationship with advanced technology equipment, equipment and infrastructure manufacturers, dealers, end-user fleets, and other key project stakeholders.

6 - 15 Points: Applicant has demonstrated moderate expertise and experience necessary to successfully implement CORE, based on its history implementing large scale air quality incentive projects or programs and working with advanced technology vehicle, equipment, and infrastructure manufacturers, dealers, end-user fleets, and other key project stakeholders.

16 - 25 Points: Applicant clearly has the expertise and experience needed to successfully implement large scale advanced technology projects or

similar programs and clearly has a working relationship with advanced technology equipment and infrastructure manufacturers, dealer, end-user fleets, and other project stakeholders.

## B. Proposed Budget

Applicants must provide their proposed budget for completing the tasks of CORE consistent with the Current Implementation Manual (Appendix C), Sample Grant Agreement (Appendix B), their Project Implementation Plan (included as part of the application), and the requirements of this solicitation. For a complete description of administrator fees, see Section 6 in Appendix B: Sample Grant Agreement. The proposed budget must account for three distinct FYs of CORE funding with up to 10.0 percent of each FY's funding budgeted for CORE administration and CORE support/services. The CORE budget shall include a description of any applicable commitments for in-kind services and match funding. For the proposed budget, assume \$30 million in total CORE funding from FY 2025-26, \$10 million from FY 2026-27, and \$100 million from FY 2027-28. Note that these dollar amounts are not guaranteed grant amounts; they are meant to be representative amounts that approximate various funding levels for CORE.

In-kind services refer to goods or services contributed by the Grantee but not charged to CORE, which help to meet the goals of the program. Match funding refers to funds contributed by the Grantee to CORE to fund eligible equipment and/or costs for implementing the program.

Please be as specific as possible when describing in-kind contributions (i.e., itemize staff time, infrastructure, or other costs that are being committed). In-kind contributions provided in the form of outreach efforts must be appropriate for a statewide voucher. In-kind contributions committed in this application must be documented by the Grantee in the CORE Final Report (see Section 9 in Appendix B: Sample Grant Agreement). In-kind contributions do not include services already committed to another project (such as a similar federally funded project).

Match funding refers to funds contributed by the Grantee to CORE to fund additional eligible equipment. Match funding does not include funding provided by the applicant for other similar incentive projects or programs. An applicant may propose that match funding be used to fund only eligible equipment in a specific region (such as a county or air district). The applicant must include a letter describing and authorizing any proposed match funding commitment as part of this application. External projects or project elements, such as federally funded projects, proposed as match must be central to the applicant proposal and be included in the proposed project budget. See Appendix B: Sample Grant Agreement Section 6.d for a more detailed description of match funding.

Match funding is not required. Additional required fiscal obligations are set out in the Sample Grant Agreement (Appendix B) and must be followed. The application should demonstrate how these obligations will be met.

See Appendix A Attachment 4 for a Sample Proposed Budget.

- 0 - 5 Points: Budget is unclear, inconsistent with the Current Implementation Manual, the applicant's Project Implementation Plan, and the requirements of this solicitation, or is insufficient to successfully complete the project. No or limited match funding or no or limited in-kind support is committed. The applicant is proposing no additional CORE support/services within the 10.0 percent of funding allowed for the CORE administrator.
- 6 - 10 Points: Budget is moderately clear and relatively consistent with the Current Implementation Manual, the applicant's Project Implementation Plan, the requirements of this solicitation, and is almost adequate to complete the project. Costs are marginally represented. Some additional CORE support/services are budgeted for within the 10.0 percent of funding allowed for the CORE administrator.
- 11 - 15 Points: Budget is clear, detailed, and consistent with the Current Implementation Manual, the applicant's Project Implementation Plan, the requirements of this solicitation, and is adequate to complete the project. Costs are represented clearly. Applicant commits to provide match/in-kind funding. Substantive additional CORE support/services are budgeted for within the 10.0 percent of funding allowed for the CORE administrator.
- 16 - 20 Points: Budget is very clear, detailed, and consistent with the Current Implementation Manual, the applicant's Project Implementation Plan, the requirements of this solicitation, and is more than adequate to complete the project. Costs are represented very clearly and are appropriate for the level and quality of work to be performed. Applicant commits to provide match/in-kind funding. Extensive additional CORE support/services are budgeted for within the 10.0 percent of funding allowed for the CORE administrator.

### C. Proposed Implementation

Applicants will be evaluated based on the completeness of their plan for implementing CORE and the ability to complete the work in a timely manner. The Project Implementation Plan must address how the applicant will implement all the tasks in the Scope of Work (see Section VII of this solicitation).

The plan must demonstrate how the applicant will coordinate with CORE participants, relevant local agencies, state agencies, local air districts, community-based organizations, educational institutions, and other relevant parties. In addition, the plan must include a timeline for project completion and include all work to be performed by the identified subcontractor. Additional required fiscal, fiduciary, and other obligations are set out in

the Appendix B: Sample Grant Agreement and must be followed. The application should demonstrate how these obligations will be met.

- 0 - 4 Points: Plan is unclear and/or does not provide the highest impact for the funding provided.
- 5 - 9 Points: Plan is complete, provides sound recommendations for effective and efficient CORE development, implementation, outreach, administration, and considers the budget.
- 10 - 15 Points: Plan is sound and well organized, includes creative recommendations to successfully implement CORE, provides recommendations for effective and efficient CORE development, implementation and administration, and recommends high-impact activities that maximize the effectiveness of the budget. Plan includes effective recommendations to increase voucher demand and increase participation by public fleets. Plan also includes a firm commitment or detailed and viable plan to successfully leverage other public or private funding (such as federal or air district funds) to help accelerate deployment of CORE equipment.

#### D. Ability to Promote Eligible Equipment Types

Applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to promote and share the results of CORE with all stakeholders to help accelerate the transition toward zero-emission technologies in all heavy-duty categories where feasible.

In addition, applicants must demonstrate their ability and experience for organizing, coordinating, and complementing existing outreach and education efforts already underway through CARB's Low Carbon Transportation Projects and other related incentive programs. Applicants will be scored on their ability to maximize available funding and develop a broad range of partnerships, including participation with local or regional CBOs, other state agencies, and/or local air districts.

- 0 - 4 Points: The applicant does not demonstrate a clear understanding of how to promote the results and learnings from CORE and does not have a plan for sharing these results to all stakeholders.
- 5 - 9 Points: Plan is complete, provides sound recommendations for effective and efficient CORE development, implementation, outreach, administration, and considers the budget.
- 10 - 15 Points: Plan is sound and well organized, includes creative recommendations to successfully implement CORE, provides recommendations for effective and efficient CORE development, implementation and administration, and recommends high-impact activities that maximize the effectiveness of the budget. Plan includes effective recommendations to increase voucher demand and increase participation by public fleets. Plan also

includes a firm commitment or detailed and viable plan to successfully leverage other public or private funding (such as federal or air district funds) to help accelerate deployment of CORE equipment.

## E. Resources to Implement CORE

Applicant should have identified the staff, infrastructure, funding, and other resources they have available and will utilize to effectively and efficiently implement CORE. Personnel costs, fringe benefit costs, operating expenses, travel, including rent and supplies, equipment costs, overhead, records retention, and any other costs needed to implement CORE should be detailed in their Proposed Budget (see Appendix A Attachment 4).

- 0 - 1 Points: The applicant does not demonstrate sufficient staff, expertise, infrastructure and/or funding resources to effectively and successfully implement CORE. This includes the ability to quickly make staffing adjustments due to changes in funding.
- 2 - 7 Points: The applicant demonstrates, with limited clarity, the presence of some staff, expertise, infrastructure and/or funding resources to effectively and successfully implement CORE. This includes the ability to quickly make staffing adjustments due to changes in funding.
- 10 - 15 Points: The applicant has clearly demonstrated sufficient staff, expertise, infrastructure and/or funding resources to effectively and successfully implement CORE. This includes the ability to quickly make staffing adjustments due to changes in funding.

## F. Maximize Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities

The Proposed Budget should include funding for the Project Implementation Plan and should include an explanation of how the Grantee will conduct outreach and other activities to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities when developing and implementing CORE.

- 0 - 5 Points: The applicant has a plan for and the ability to target outreach in disadvantaged communities. This will be scored based upon the Application Attachment 3 and Attachment 4.

## G. Proposed Equity Considerations

The Project Implementation Plan should include an explanation of how the Grantee will consider equity when developing and implementing CORE.

- 0 - 2 Points: The applicant does not clearly explain how they will engage community members and help to ensure that all community voices are heard during future CORE development and implementation.

3 – 5 Points: The applicant clearly explains how they will engage community members and help to ensure that all community voices are heard during future CORE development and implementation.

## **XII. Administration**

### **A. Cost of Developing Application**

The applicant is responsible for the cost of developing an application, and this cost cannot be charged to the State. In addition, CARB is not liable for any costs incurred during environmental review (if applicable) or as a result of withdrawing the proposed award or canceling this solicitation.

### **B. Errors**

If an applicant discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in this solicitation, the applicant shall immediately notify CARB of such error in writing and request modification or clarification of the document during or before the Solicitation Workshop. CARB shall not be responsible for failure to correct errors.

### **C. Immaterial Defect**

CARB may waive any immaterial defect or deviation contained in an applicant's application. CARB's waiver shall in no way modify the application or excuse the successful applicant from full compliance.

### **D. Disposition of Applicant's Documents**

All applications and related material submitted in response to this solicitation become the property of the State and may be considered public records as solely determined by CARB.

### **E. Applicant's Admonishment**

This solicitation contains the instructions governing the CORE Grantee application process, including the required format of information and materials to be submitted, the eligibility criteria, and Applicant responsibilities. Applicants must take the responsibility to read this entire solicitation carefully, ask appropriate questions in a timely manner, submit a complete application with all required responses by the required date and time, and make sure that all procedures and requirements of this solicitation are followed and appropriately addressed.

## F. Agreement Requirements

The content of this solicitation and each selected grant recipient's application shall be incorporated by reference into the final Grant Agreement. CARB reserves the right to negotiate with applicants to modify the project scope, the level of funding, or both. If CARB is unable to successfully negotiate and execute a funding agreement with an applicant, CARB, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to withdraw the pending award and fund the next highest ranked eligible project. This does not limit CARB's ability to withdraw a proposed award for other reasons, including for no cause or to take any other direction consistent with applicable law.

## G. No Agreement Until Signed

No agreement between CARB and the selected Applicant is in effect until the Grant Agreement is signed by the recipient and signed by the authorized CARB representative. Qualifying costs may be reimbursed by CARB only after full execution of the Grant Agreement; no costs incurred prior to execution of the Grant Agreement are reimbursable using CARB funds.

## H. No Modifications to the General Provisions

Because time is of the essence, if an applicant at any time, including after Preliminary Grantee Selection, attempts to negotiate, or otherwise seeks modification of, the CARB proposed grant's General Provisions, CARB may reject an application or withdraw a proposed award. This does not alter or limit CARB's ability to withdraw a proposed award for other reasons, including no cause.

## I. Payment of Prevailing Wages

All applicants must read the Sample Grant Agreement (Appendix B) and pay particular attention to Section 15.dd entitled "Prevailing wages and labor compliance." Prevailing wage rates can be significantly higher than non-prevailing wage rates. Failure to pay legally required prevailing wage rates can result in substantial damages and financial penalties, termination of the grant agreement, disruption of projects, and other consequences.

## J. Remedies for Non-performance

In the case of non-performance, remedies detailed in this section may be utilized at CARB's discretion. Examples of non-performance include but are not limited to: misuse of funding for ineligible expenses, failure to comply with program guidelines or requirements, inability to meet performance requirements or schedule milestones, and failure to comply with the terms and conditions identified in legal agreements. Remedies may include:

1. CARB may seek to resolve the dispute directly with the Grantee, or involve a third-party mediator,

2. CARB may issue a stop work order,
3. CARB may terminate the agreement at its sole discretion,
4. CARB may recover grant funds, spent and unspent, to the degree they have been spent or are being spent inappropriately,
5. CARB may withhold funds from payment, and
6. CARB may take civil actions.

## K. Solicitation Cancellation and Amendments

CARB reserves the right to do any of the following:

1. Cancel this solicitation.
2. Revise the amount of funds available under this solicitation.
3. Amend this solicitation as needed.
4. Reject any or all applications received in response to this solicitation.

## L. Insurance Requirements

The Grantee must comply with all requirements outlined in the General Provisions and Grant Insurance Requirements below. No payments will be made under the Grant until the Grantee fully complies with all insurance requirements.

1. General Provisions
  - a. Coverage Term - Coverage needs to be in force for the complete Term of the Grant. If insurance is set to expire during the Term of the Grant, a new certificate must be received by the State at least ten days prior to the expiration of this insurance. Any new insurance must comply with the original Grant terms.
  - b. Policy Cancellation or Termination & Notice of Non-Renewal - Grantee is responsible to notify the State within five business days of any cancellation, non-renewal, or material change that affects required insurance coverage. New certificates of insurance are subject to the approval of CARB, and the Grantee agrees no work or services will be performed prior to obtaining such approval. In the event that the Grantee fails to keep in effect at all times the specified insurance coverage, the State may, in addition to any other remedies it may have, terminate the Grant upon the occurrence of such event, subject to the provisions of the Grant.
  - c. Premiums, Assessments and Deductibles - The Grantee is responsible for any premiums, policy assessments, deductibles or self-insured retentions contained within their insurance program.

- d. Primary Clause - Any required insurance contained in the Grant shall be primary, and not excess or contributory, to any other insurance carried by the State.
  - e. Insurance Carrier Required Rating - All insurance companies must carry an AM Best rating of at least "A-" with a financial category rating of no lower than VI. If the Grantee is self-insured for a portion or all of its insurance, review of financial information, including a letter of credit, may be required.
  - f. Endorsements - Any required endorsements requested by the State must be physically attached to all requested certificates of insurance and not substituted by referring to such coverage on the certificate of insurance.
  - g. Inadequate Insurance - Inadequate or lack of insurance does not negate the Grantee's obligations under the Grant.
  - h. Satisfying a Self-Insured Retention (SIR) - All policies with a SIR shall be endorsed to allow the State to satisfy the SIR or deductible at the State's discretion. The State may fund the SIR or deductible by deducting that amount from any grant funds otherwise due to the Grantee. Policies shall not contain any provision that limits the satisfaction of the SIR or deductible to the Named Insured. Alternatively, the Grantee can obtain from its insurer, and produce to CARB, an express elimination of the requirement to pay the SIR or Deductible for "the State of California, the California Air Resources Board, and each of its and their officers, agents, and employees as additional insureds."
  - i. Available Coverages/Limits - All coverage and limits available to the Grantee shall also be available and applicable to the State.
  - j. Use of Subcontractor - In the case of the Grantee's utilization of subcontractors to complete the Grant scope of work, the Grantee shall include all subcontractors as insureds under the Grantee's insurance or supply evidence of the subcontractor's insurance to the State equal to policies, coverages, and limits required of the Grantee.
  - k. Inadequate Insurance - Inadequate or lack of insurance does not negate the Grantee's obligations under the grant.
2. Grant Insurance Requirements - The Grantee shall display evidence of the following on a certificate of insurance, which includes all the required endorsements, including but not limited to additional insured endorsements. Failure to provide the certificate upon request will result in the termination of the Grant. The following coverages must be evidenced on the certificate of insurance:
- a. **General Commercial Liability**  
Each entity shall maintain commercial general liability (CGL) on an occurrence

form with limits not less than \$2,000,000.00 per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage liability combined with a \$4,000,000.00 annual policy aggregate. The policy shall include coverage for liabilities arising out of premises, operations, independent contractors, products, completed operations, personal and advertising injury, and liability assumed under an insured contract or grant. This insurance shall apply separately to each insured against whom a claim is made or a suit is brought subject to the entity's limit of liability.

**b. Automobile Liability**

If the entity will be using vehicles to complete the Project or driving a vehicle onto State property, automobile liability insurance or business automobile liability insurance is required. For vehicles used in a CARB-funded shared mobility services that are not subject to Civil Code section 2505 (e.g., carshare vehicles, shuttles, and buses), the entity shall maintain business motor vehicle liability with limits of not less than a \$5,000,000.00 per accident. For any other vehicle that is not used in a CARB-funded shared mobility service (e.g., vehicles used for project planning, rebalancing, maintenance, marketing, outreach, or driving to events), the entity shall maintain business motor vehicle liability with limits of not less than \$1,000,000.00 per accident. Such insurance shall cover liability arising out of a motor vehicle including owned, hired, and non-owned motor vehicles.

Grantee certifies that the Grantee and any of their Resource Entities or Grant Recipients possess valid automobile coverage in accordance with California Vehicle Code Sections 16450 to 16457, inclusive. At the request of CARB, each entity must show proof of automobile liability. Failure to provide proof upon request will result in the termination of the Grant.

**c. Workers Compensation and Employers Liability**

The entity shall maintain statutory worker's compensation, with statutory limits, and employer's liability coverage for all its employees who will be engaged in the performance of the Grant. In addition, employer's liability limits of \$1,000,000.00 per claim are required.

The entity shall notify CARB in writing if they have no employees, or are otherwise exempt from worker's compensation, and therefore also exempt from this requirement for employer's liability coverage. If the entity retains employees or otherwise loses its exemption from worker's compensation at any point during the term of this Grant Agreement, it shall immediately notify CARB and comply with the worker's compensation and employer's liability insurance requirements stated herein.

**d. Cyber Liability**

The entity shall maintain Cyber Liability coverage, with limits not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence or claim, and \$2,000,000.00 aggregate. Coverage shall be sufficiently broad to respond to the duties and obligations as undertaken by the Grantee in the Grant Agreement and shall include, but not be limited to, claims involving security breach, system failure, data recovery, business interruption, cyber extortion, social engineering, and infringement of intellectual property, including but not limited to infringement of copyright, trademark, trade dress, invasion of privacy violations, information theft, damage to or destruction of electronic information, release of private information, alteration of electronic information, extortion, and network security.

The policy shall provide coverage for breach response costs, regulatory fines and penalties, as well as credit monitoring expenses. The Policy shall include, or be endorsed to include, property damage liability coverage for damage to, alteration of, loss of, or destruction of electronic data and/or information "property" of the state of California in the care, custody, or control of the insured.

e. **Crime Insurance**

Crime insurance requirements are negotiable at CARB's sole discretion. At a minimum, the maximum amount of funding that the Grantee or Grant Recipient will have on hand at any time must be covered. Coverage shall include but not be limited to employee dishonesty, theft, forgery, or alteration, and inside/outside money and securities coverages including first- and third-party theft for state-owned or leased property in the care, custody, and/or control of the Grantee. The policy shall include as loss payee, the State of California, and the California Air Resources Board.

f. **Professional Liability (Errors and Omissions)**

Where licensed professionals will be performing work on the grant project, the entity shall maintain insurance appropriate to the entity's profession, with a limit of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence or claim, \$2,000,000.00 aggregate.

g. **Self-Insurance (If applicable)**

If a Grantee has elected to be self-insured, they must receive approval of their self-insurance program from CARB. To obtain approval, the Grantee must submit the following documents to CARB:

1) Workers' Compensation - The Grantee will provide a copy of its Certificate of Consent to Self-Insure from the Department of Industrial Relations.

2) All Other - The Grantee's Risk Manager, or comparable position holder, shall provide a written description of the plan including what is covered, what is not covered, identify the financial limits of the plan and identify the source of funds for financing the plan.

Grantee must also provide:

1. Their most recent audited annual financial statement including all accounting letters. The report must show the Grantee's owner's equity of at least \$5,000,000.00 and annual profit of at least \$500,000.00.
2. A signed written statement from the Grantee's certified public accountant (CPA) confirming the annual net profit for each of the prior four (4) years has been at least \$500,000.00.

## M. Additional Terms and Conditions

The following represent additional terms and conditions applicable to this solicitation. By participating in this solicitation process, each prospective applicant acknowledges, accepts and agrees to all terms and conditions of this solicitation, and represents and warrants that applicant will comply with and conform to all of the following:

1. Incurring Costs - This solicitation does not commit CARB to award, nor does it commit CARB to pay, any costs incurred by any applicants resulting from the submission of an application or participation in this solicitation process (including but not limited to travel expenses). Furthermore, no reimbursable cost shall be incurred by an application in anticipation of a Grant award. All costs associated with solicitation participation, application preparation, travel, interview preparation and attendance are the sole responsibility of each submitting applicant. Submitted applications become the property of CARB and will not be returned.
2. Claims against CARB - Each applicant acknowledges, accepts, and understands that neither applicant's organization nor any of applicant's representatives shall have any claims whatsoever against CARB or any of its respective officials, agents, or employees arising out of or relating to this solicitation or these solicitation procedures, except as between CARB as Grantor and applicant as Grantee, as set forth in the terms of a definitive grant agreement signed by authorized representatives of the Grant and the selected Grantee.
3. Basis for Proposal - Only information supplied by CARB in writing as a part of this solicitation process may be relied upon for the preparation of an application.
4. Form of Application - No oral, telephone, facsimile, or mailed applications will be accepted.

5. Amended Proposal - Applicants may only submit an amended application before the Application Deadline. Such amended applications must be a complete replacement of a previously submitted application package and must be clearly identified as such in the cover letter transmitting the new application (the "Letter of Transmittal"). CARB personnel will not merge, collate, or assemble application materials. Once received, the new amended application package will replace the previously submitted application package in its entirety. All amended application packages must be submitted and received by the Application Deadline.
6. Withdrawal of Application - Applicants may withdraw their applications at any time. The Applicant must submit a written withdrawal request signed by the Applicant's duly authorized representative addressed and submitted to the Solicitation Lead.
7. No Late Applications - In order for an application to be considered, the complete application package must be received by the Solicitation Lead, by no later than the Application Deadline. An application that was sent but not received by the Applicant Deadline is a non-qualifying application.
8. No Public Opening - There will be no public opening of the application packages for this solicitation.
9. California Public Records Act (CPRA) - All documents, information and records provided to or made available to CARB in response to this solicitation become the sole and exclusive property of CARB. CARB is a public agency subject to the disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act ("CPRA"). If trade secret or proprietary information is contained in documents or other information submitted by the applicant as a part of the application package, and the applicant has expressly claimed that such information falls within one or more CPRA exemptions, then the applicant must clearly mark such information "CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY" and identify the specific lines containing the confidential information on each document before submitting the application package to CARB. In the event of a request for such information, CARB will make reasonable efforts to provide notice to the applicant prior to disclosure under the CPRA. If the applicant contends that any documents are exempt from the CPRA and wishes to prevent disclosure, the applicant is required at its own cost, liability and expense to obtain a protective order, injunctive relief or other appropriate remedy from a court of law in Sacramento County at least three (3) business days before CARB's deadline to respond to the CPRA request. If the applicant fails to obtain such a court remedy within said timeframe, then CARB may, at its discretion, disclose the requested information and CARB shall not be liable or responsible for such disclosure. Applicant agrees that it shall defend, indemnify, and hold CARB harmless for, from and against any and all claims that may or do result from denial by CARB of a CPRA request for any applicant information.
10. Confidentiality - All data and information obtained from CARB by the applicant or provided to the applicant or its agents in this solicitation process, including reports,

recommendations, specifications, and other data, shall be treated by the applicant, and its agents, representatives, sub-consultants, assigns, and employees, as confidential. The applicant and its agents, assigns, employees, sub-consultants, and representatives shall not disclose/communicate this information to a third party or use it in advertising, publicity, propaganda, or in another job or jobs, unless written consent is obtained from CARB. In addition to the requirements of the CPRA, CARB may be under other legal obligations for release or disclosure of the information contained in any application package submitted and makes no warranty or representation that such information and accompanying documents will not be released where required or allowed to be released by applicable law.

11. Electronic Mail Address - Communications regarding this solicitation will be conducted by electronic mail (email). Potential applicants agree to provide the Solicitation Lead with a valid email address with the application. CARB is not responsible or liable for email communications that do not make it to the intended destination (receiver). If in doubt about the sending or receipt of any email communication, each applicant is required to contact the Solicitation Lead to confirm whether an email has been received, before any applicable deadlines.
12. Use of Electronic Versions of the Solicitation - This solicitation is made available by electronic means. In the event of conflict between a version of the solicitation in the applicant's possession and the version maintained by the Solicitation Lead, the version maintained by the Solicitation Lead will govern.
13. Assignment of Clayton Act, Cartwright Act Claims - In submitting an application to this solicitation, the responding person and/or entity offers and agrees that, if the application is accepted and results in the execution of a Grant Agreement, then it will assign to CARB all rights, title, and interest in and to all causes of action it may have under Section 4 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 15) and, where applicable, under the Cartwright Act (Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 16700) of Part 2 of Division 7 of the Business and Professions Code), arising from or relating to any and all purchases of goods, materials, or services by said responding person and/or entity relating to the Grant Agreement obligations.
14. CARB Rights - CARB reserves the right to do any of the following at any time:
  - a. Reject any or all application(s), without indicating any reason for such rejection,
  - b. Waive or correct any minor or inadvertent defect, irregularity, or technical error in an application, in this solicitation or the solicitation process, or as part of any subsequent grant negotiation,
  - c. Request that an applicant or applicants supplement or modify all or certain aspects of a submittal or other documents or materials that have been submitted,

- d. Terminate this solicitation at any time (even after an intent to award has been determined), and at CARB's sole discretion, issue a new Solicitation,
- e. Procure services or issue grants specified in this Solicitation by any other legal means,
- f. Modify the selection process, the grant terms, or the contents or format of the forms, conditions, instructions or requirements,
- g. Extend or modify deadlines specified in this solicitation or in the grant agreement, including deadlines for accepting applications;
- h. Modify any terms and/or conditions of the Sample Grant Agreement (Appendix B),
- i. Terminate failed negotiations without liability, and negotiate with other applicants,
- j. Negotiate with any or none of the applicants,
- k. Disqualify any applicant or Grantee on the basis of a real or apparent conflict of interest, or evidence of collusion that is disclosed by the applicant or other data available to CARB,
- l. Eliminate, reject, or disqualify an application from any applicant who fails to submit a responsive application or who later fails to demonstrate that they are a responsible applicant, as determined solely by CARB, and
- m. Accept all or a portion of an application.

15. No Contract/No Agreement - This solicitation and the selection process shall in no way be deemed to create a binding contract or agreement of any kind between CARB and any applicant, nor shall any information herein be construed as a representation or warranty on behalf of CARB or as a statement on which the applicant may justifiably rely in executing any license or agreement with CARB. All legal rights and obligations between any successful applicant and CARB will come into existence if and only if a Grant Agreement is signed by authorized representatives of both parties and approved by CARB. The legal rights and obligations of each party shall at that time be only those rights and obligations which are set forth in the approved and fully executed Grant Agreement.

16. Prohibition of Gifts - CARB officials are subject to several legal and policy limitations regarding receipt of gifts from persons, firms or corporations either engaged in business with CARB or proposing to do business with CARB. The offering of any gift may be grounds for disqualification. To avoid even the appearance of impropriety, applicants intending to submit or submitting an application shall not offer any gifts or souvenirs, even of minimal value, to any CARB officers, employees, or advisors.

17. Nondiscrimination - In the performance of the Grant Agreement, the applicant acknowledges, agrees and understands that the selected Grantee and all of its contractors, subcontractors, subgrantees, affiliates, employees, agents and assigns shall not unlawfully discriminate against, harass, or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age (over 40), sexual orientation, or veteran or military status, nor shall any employee be discriminated against or harassed based on a request for or because of taking family-care leave, medical-care leave, or pregnancy-disability leave.

The applicant acknowledges, agrees and understands that the selected Grantee and its contractors, subcontractors, subgrantees, affiliates, employees, agents and assigns shall ensure that the evaluation and treatment of employees and applicants for employment are free from such discrimination and harassment. Furthermore, the selected Grantee and its contractors, subcontractors, subgrantees, affiliates, employees, agents, and assigns shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (Gov. Code section 12900 et seq.) and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder (C.C.R., title 2, section 11000 et seq.).

The applicable regulations of the Fair Employment and Housing Commission implementing Government Code section 12990 (a)-(f), set forth in Chapter 5 of Division 4.1 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, are incorporated into the Grant Agreement and into this solicitation by this reference, and made a part hereof as if set forth in full. The selected Grantee, its contractors, subcontractors, subgrantees, affiliates, employees, agents, and assigns, is required to give written notice of their, its, his, her obligations under this clause to all labor organizations with which they exist collective bargaining or other agreement. The selected Grantee will include the nondiscrimination and compliance provisions of this clause in all contracts, agreements, and subcontracts to perform work under the Grant Agreement.

18. Environmental Justice - In the performance of the Grant Agreement, the applicant acknowledges, agrees, and understands that the selected Grantee is required to conduct its programs, policies, and activities that substantially affect human health or the environment in a manner that ensures the fair treatment of people of all races, genders, cultures, and income levels, including minority populations and low-income populations of the State of California. Equal access includes, but is not limited to, ensuring language barriers are fully addressed to the satisfaction of CARB and as otherwise required by local, state, or federal law.

19. Funding Prohibitions for Sectarian Purposes and Non-Public Schools - Grant recipients may use or authorize the use of CARB funds only in any manner that is consistent with applicable laws, including California Constitution Article XVI Section 5, Article IX Section 8, and federal law. CARB reserves the right to obtain additional

information from applicants and selected Grantees to determine compliance with California Constitution Article XVI Section 5 and Article IX Section 8. Failure to provide any requested information may result in denial of grant funding or termination of an existing grant agreement.

20. Russia Sanctions - On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 (EO) regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. "Economic Sanctions" refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law. The EO directs state agencies to terminate contracts and grants with, and to refrain from entering any new contracts and grants with, individuals or entities that are determined to be a target of Economic Sanctions. Accordingly, should the State determine Contractor or Grantee is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for termination of this agreement. The State shall provide Contractor or Grantee advance written notice of such termination, allowing Contractor or Grantee at least 30 calendar days to provide a written response. Termination shall be at the sole discretion of the State.
21. Non-Conforming Submissions - A submission may be construed (at CARB's sole discretion) as a non-conforming proposal, ineligible for consideration or incomplete if it does not comply with all of the requirements of this solicitation. Such submissions shall be treated as non-qualifying (non-responsive) applications.
22. Conflict of interest - Government Code Section 87104 prohibits public officials of CARB, which includes any member, officer, employee, or consultant of a CARB advisory body, from making a formal or informal appearance before, or oral or written communication to CARB for the purpose of influencing a decision by CARB on a grant or other entitlement for use, such as a contract, loan, license, or permit. Prohibited communications include grant applications, letters, emails, phone calls, meetings, or any other form of oral or written communication within or outside of a public committee meeting with CARB, or CARB staff, for the purpose of influencing a CARB decision on an application for funding submitted to CARB. A knowing or willful violation of this section may result in a member being guilty of a misdemeanor and fined up to the greater of \$10,000 or three times the amount unlawfully received. If a court determines a violation occurred and that the official action might not otherwise have been taken or approved if not for the prohibited communication, the grant may be voided. (see California Code §§ 91000 and 91003.)

For this reason, CARB officials, including but not limited to advisory body members, also may not be a signatory, or administrator on a grant application, or on any resulting grant agreement. Such individuals should not be listed on the grant application except as necessary to show their role in the organization.

Note that an advisory body member's organization may continue to be eligible for a grant. However, the grant must not follow any communications for purposes of

influence by the advisory body member on CARB's decision on that grant agreement. Additionally, that organization would need to identify a different member of the organization to sign or be the administrator for any applications and awarded grants.

Please also note that applications from organizations affiliated with CARB Board members may require additional review and Board approval. Although CARB will make every effort to obtain required review and approval in a timely manner, this may delay grant execution and/or distribution of funds.

Each applicant certifies that it is in compliance with applicable state and federal conflict of interest laws at the time it submits its application to this solicitation and shall remain in compliance with all such laws during the solicitation process, and, if selected, during the Term of the fully executed Grant Agreement, and during all extensions. An applicant will have no interest, and will not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which will conflict with its ability to impartially perform under, or complete the tasks described in, the Sample Grant Agreement (Appendix B). An applicant must disclose any direct or indirect financial interest or situation which may pose an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest with its duties with its application package. CARB may consider the nature and extent of any actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest in an applicant's ability to perform and carry out all obligations under the Grant Agreement. Each applicant must immediately advise CARB in writing of any potential new conflicts of interest.

23. No Right to Protest - Applicant acknowledges, understands and agrees that consideration for and award of a grant is fully discretionary and at no time shall applicant be entitled to protest, appeal, or challenge a decision to reject or accept an application, disqualify an applicant or an application, or withdraw or amend this solicitation in whole or in part.