

Fernando Gaytan Earthjustice
Laura Cortez East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
Jennifer Ganata Communities for a Better Environment
Ambar Rivera Communities for a Better Environment
Silvia Betancourt Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma
Natalia Ospina Natural Resource Defense Council

February 19, 2024

Re: Metro's Approach to Hydrogen as an Alternative Fuel to achieve Zero Emissions (ZE)

Thank you for meeting with us on February 5, 2024, to discuss your comprehensive letter expressing concern that Metro, through the Long Beach-East Los Angeles (LB-ELA) Corridor Mobility Investment Plan (Plan), might provide a blanket endorsement of hydrogen projects to be funded through the Plan. I understand, acknowledge, and appreciate your concerns raised in the letter about potential impacts on public health, emissions generated during the production of hydrogen, safety concerns during the transportation of hydrogen fuel, and potential leakage during the transportation and dispensing of the fuel.

We recognize that California's Advanced Clean Fleets Rule 2035 ZE drayage truck mandate is focused on tailpipe emissions and not the entire generation, transmission, and end use of the energy used by a ZE heavy-duty truck. We also recognize the differing maturity levels of the leading ZE technologies – battery-electric and hydrogen fuel cell – that are the focus of state and federal agencies in achieving ZE heavy-duty truck outcomes. These efforts have led to investment in both types of technologies by the state and federal governments in recent years, notably the recent Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (H2Hubs) award of up to \$1.2 billion for a California application submitted by the Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems (ARCHES) that will likely focus investment at the San Pedro Bay Ports.

I appreciated our mutual understanding that with these types of investments being made with full support of the state and federal governments to meet ZE regulatory mandates, we need to focus on ways to minimize impacts on and provide education for local communities, consider the potential externalities associated with planning for and implementing hydrogen fuel (and battery electric) technology deployed in the LB-ELA Corridor, and ensure that the ZE technology investments made through the LB-ELA CMIP are aligned with the Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles of the plan.

Given the Board's direction to advance ZE truck technology adoption in the LB-ELA Corridor, the looming regulatory ZET deadlines, and the understanding that heavy-duty trucks that would use Metro-funded infrastructure are owned and operated by people and businesses other than Metro, we cannot prematurely eliminate any viable ZET technology options at this stage. However, we do understand that Metro can play a valuable role as a community advocate in the ZET policy discussion to ensure that we are informing our communities and policymakers about these technologies, supporting research, and identifying ways to support ZET adoption in ways that maximize benefits and reduce impacts for our LB-ELA Corridor communities.

Metro supports and honors your collective steadfast support for LB-ELA communities and your request to provide educational opportunities for community members and the ZET Working Group to identify and address areas of community concern (as presented in your letter), share facts, and research findings on the current state of hydrogen. As a starting point, I will work with my team to assemble an expert panel discussion, followed by a symposium and community education events, to elevate our ZET Working Group's understanding of the state of hydrogen. My team and I will seek your input and guidance in shaping the content for the discussions and development of community education events.

I thank Ambar for sharing her examples of educational outreach. We are reviewing those for possible use in our program. We are also reviewing your recommendations for other ZE investments to be made in the LB-ELA CMIP. I look forward to our continued collaboration as we strive to reach a ZE future that works for and benefits LB-ELA communities and stakeholders.

With great appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Cano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Cano
LA Metro
Executive Officer
Countywide Planning & Development
213.418.3010 W
213.305.0423 C