



***California Hydrogen Car Owners Association
Proton Monthly - December 2024***

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December 14, 2024

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**Transportation Hydrogen
as a Gift to the World**



Good News - CEC Clean Transportation Funding

The California Energy Commission (CEC) had their final business meeting of the year on December 11. At the meeting, they approved the Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan for FY 2024-2025. We are pleased with the result, as summarized by Table ES-2 of the Lead Commissioner Report:

Table ES-2: Proposed Clean Transportation Program Base Fund Allocations for Fiscal Year 2024–2025 (in Millions)

Category	Eligible Fuel Types	Funding Source	2024–2025
Light-Duty Charging Infrastructure	Electric	Clean Transportation Program (Base)	\$40.0
Medium- and Heavy-Duty ZEV Infrastructure	Electric, Hydrogen	Base	\$38.2
Hydrogen Refueling*	Hydrogen	Base	\$15.0
Workforce Training and Development	Electric, Hydrogen	Base	\$2.0
		Total Base	\$95.2

*** Open to light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicle infrastructure projects, including mixed-use hydrogen stations. AB 126 requires the CEC to spend at least 15 percent of Clean Transportation Program base funds per year on hydrogen infrastructure through 2030.**

Source: California Energy Commission

To learn more, see the CEC [webpage](#). Also worth a look is the recording of the Business Meeting (Our agenda item time segment: 1:15 – 1:51). For background information, see Proton Monthly report of [last October](#) (page 6).

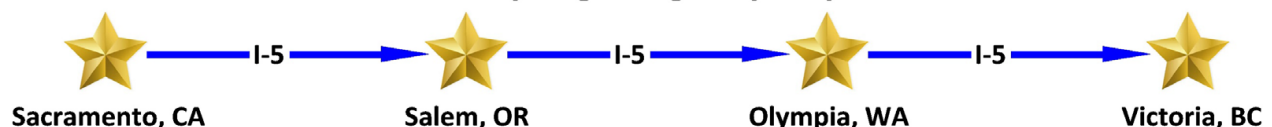
I asked CTP staff about how long it takes from the Commission's approval of the CTP to the publication of GFOs that implement the Plan. They indicated that the CEC typically releases them steadily as they are developed over a number of months.

[GFO-24-601](#) - Light-Duty Hydrogen Infrastructure Build-Out

This CEC Clean Transportation Program solicitation has 2 funding lanes: Funding Lane 1, for \$10M, is available for hydrogen refueling stations in San Francisco and Sacramento Counties. Funding Lane 2, for \$5M, is available for capital expenditures and/or O&M for planned or temporarily non-operational light-duty hydrogen refueling stations anywhere in the State.

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Join us on the Hydrogen Highway - September 2025





(GFO-24-601 Cont.)

- Completed Question/Answer Phase on 12/4/24.
- Submission Deadline: 1/15/25
- Notice of Proposed Awards: 3/2025
- CEC Business Meeting to Consider Awards: 6/2025
- Project Start: Q3/2025

GFO-24-602 - Charging and Refueling Infrastructure for Transport in California Provided Along Targeted Highway Segments

This CEC Clean Transportation Program solicitation for \$30 M will support MD & HD ZEV hydrogen refueling or charging stations along designated clean freight corridors and will also support a coordinated strategy with other agencies for the MD & HD ZEV infrastructure build-out statewide.

- Completed Question/Answer Phase on 12/6/24.
- Submission Deadline: 1/15/25
- Notice of Proposed Awards: 3/2025
- CEC Business Meeting to Consider Awards: 6/2025
- Project Start: Q3/2025

The CEC expects to recommend an award for at least one hydrogen project and one charging project. The rest of the awards will be ranked in order regardless of technology type.

Assembly Bill 35

This bill, introduced by author Assemblymember David Alvarez on Dec. 2, would provide for limited CEQA review of an application for a discretionary permit or authorization for a clean hydrogen transportation project. See more [here](#).

Division of Petroleum Market Oversight (DPMO)

In October, CHCOA sent a [letter](#) to the DPMO asking that the division include a review of the price of hydrogen in their end-of-year report. In accordance with Senate Bill 2 (2023), a review of alternative transportation fuels (including hydrogen) is required in the report. We look

forward to reading their analysis on, or before, the end of the month.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS)

CARB approved the amendments to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard on Nov. 8, 2024. One purpose of the proposed revisions was to strengthen the LCFS program for light, medium, and heavy-duty transportation, since the tanking of the LCFS credits is partially to blame for the high cost of hydrogen at the stations. The amendments should drive the credit prices back up, which in turn helps to offset costs and result in a lower price of fuel. There is reason for optimism, as the credit prices are climbing from an [average monthly](#) low of \$51 per metric ton (MT) last June to \$62/MT in October and \$70/MT in November.

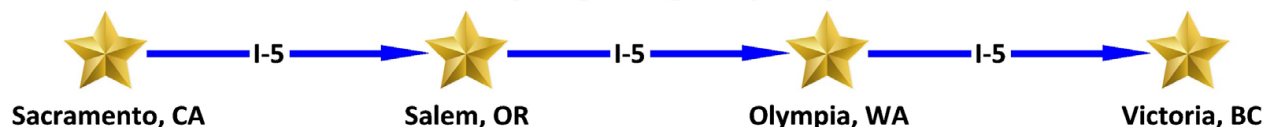
Hydrogen Snippet



The front-page graphic for each issue of the Proton Monthly takes (too) many hours to prepare. This month, I used iStock AI to create the gift box with the right color of blue to match the hydrogen molecule. Altogether, the front page took about 6 hours to create. At dinner last night, my son-in-law, who is much more fluent in the world of AI, politely introduced me to the real power of artificial intelligence. He used ChatGPT with the prompt, "Make a picture of a globe with a blue present package and gold ribbon with the hydrogen molecule". Here is the result. Very excellent and very humbling! We could call it, "*The Gift of Hydrogen Supports the World*". Altogether, it took a few minutes.



Join us on the Hydrogen Highway - September 2025



As many of you know, Senator Newman was not successful in his re-election bid. Prior to his conceding the race, CHCOA prepared this letter to thank him for his tireless efforts in support of transportation - hydrogen.



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November 29, 2024

Honorable Josh Newman
Senator – State of California
District Office:
203 North Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, CA 92832

By Email and USPS

Re: Our Most Sincere Thanks

Dear Senator Newman:

During this season of thanks, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your unwavering support of transportation-hydrogen and the role that it will play in a greener tomorrow for our children and grandchildren.

It does not go unrecognized that you were the essential catalyst in the growth of our Association. Without your help, it is doubtful that we would now be the dedicated alliance of 204 hydrogen car drivers that we have become. Our all-volunteer Association includes current and former lawmakers, hydrogen industry and agency representatives, an ARCHES Executive team member, research scientists and many folks who have driven these cars for as long as they have been around.

In particular, we would like to acknowledge the following:

- The formation of the California Senate Select Committee on Transitioning to a Zero-Emission Energy Future, along with the August 23, 2023, hearing, “Are We There Yet? How Much Longer? California’s Progress on Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure”.
- The December 2023 Town Hall and subsequent formative assistance with the CHCOA Working Groups.
- Your position as the “Self-appointed Chair of the Hydrogen Car Caucus at the State Senate”. 🙏
- The Legislative Keynote Address at the 2024 Hydrogen Leadership Summit with the compelling message:

“The canary in the coal mine on this, as it were, is light-duty hydrogen. As some of you may recall, fully two decades ago, in 2004 then-Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-07-04, the State’s first policy directive promoting the use of hydrogen and fuel cell technology, which he enthusiastically promoted, in his inimitable style, as the “Hydrogen Highway.”

- Your authoring and co-authoring of multiple bills in support of transportation-hydrogen in the California Senate.
- Your many comments to the California agency dockets promoting the value of light-duty hydrogen FCEVs.
- Our choice as the first recipient of the Platinum Proton Award.

Above all, we are grateful for your commitment to the ideal that “public service is a truly noble, worthwhile calling”, and the essential good that can be accomplished through a sincere dedication to that cause.

Our very best to you and your family this holiday season!

Sincerely,
The California Hydrogen Car Owners Association