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California Hydrogen Car Owners Association (CHCOA) Proton Monthly – January 2024

January 16, 2024

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From Water to Water...

We aren't the first ones to envision a Hydrogen Highway. In 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger initiated the "Hydrogen Highway Network" in California. In 2007, British Columbia and California signed an MOU proposing to cooperatively build, with all the west coast states, a Hydrogen Highway, so that "a hydrogen-powered vehicle may be able to travel and refuel from Baja California to British Columbia ('B.C. to B.C.').". And, in a 2008 trip on a hydrogen highway (actually several highways), the US Dept. of Transportation and its partners made an [historic trip](#) in LD-FCEVs across the US, from Portland, Maine to Santa Monica.

We believe that the time is right to put a trip on our west coast Hydrogen Highway (as envisioned in the 2007 MOU) into action. Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and, of course, California are making great strides toward preparing for the hydrogen future, including support for LD-FCEVs. By the time we take the trip in September 2025, we'll be able to access a number of hydrogen refueling stations as we make our way from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Lions Gate Bridge in Vancouver, BC. The trip will include stops at each of the Capitols along the way – Sacramento, Salem, Olympia and Victoria. Clearly, to complete the trip, we'll have to pre-position mobile H₂ fuelers along the route. Securing access to these fuelers will be the first of many tasks that we will need to complete as we prepare for the trip.

Why "Water to Water"? It is to remind the public that a very green, and increasingly more common method of the hydrogen fuel cell cycle starts with water - makes energy - and returns to water.

Each month, we will include a short column in the Proton Monthly to track the status of our trip preparation.

September 2025 is still a long way off, but you might start thinking of joining us. Stay tuned!

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We've got an informative newsletter for you this month including an enlightening article about the Toyota Fuel Ambassadors, an update on H₂ station permit streamlining and a bit about the upcoming Zoom meeting with Senator Newman.

- Greg and Bobbie Cane

... a Trip on the Hydrogen Highway





Christopher Rideau and Bobbie at the West Sac. Iwatani station.

An Ambassador to the Hydrogen World

We met Christopher Rideau, Toyota Fuel Ambassador, on December 5, 2023, when we were filling up with H₂ at the West Sacramento Iwatani station.

This was the third time that we had met Chris, the two previous times were at the (now closed) H₂ Shell stations. But this was the first time that we really had the chance to ask him some questions. Toyota is continuing to support the Ambassador program to assist hydrogen car customers in California. Currently, there are Toyota Ambassadors at the following fueling stations: Irvine, Gardena, Torrance, West Sacramento, and Riverside. At the West Sacramento station, there is an Ambassador on duty from noon – 8:00 p.m. every weekday.

As every FCEV driver in the Sacramento area knows, after the two Shell stations shut down early in 2023, that left only the Iwatani station in West Sacramento. This station also happens to be one of the oldest stations in the state - a "legacy station". Often there are very long lines waiting to fuel, and in order to keep the station operable, Iwatani instituted a 10-minute waiting period in between fueling. When temperatures are cold, they have to extend the wait between fill times. (Lately, when temps in Sacramento have been getting down into the upper 30's, the wait time is extended to 15-20 minutes between fills. In addition, the dispenser doesn't give a complete fill, so people have to wait again to start fueling in order to fill up.)

Chris had some interesting stories about things that have happened at the station, including one time when there were 42 cars in line, wrapped around inside the station! There was an 8 hour wait from the first person in line until the last person was fueled.



Rideau helping a grateful H₂ customer (who otherwise would have been unable to fill).

Needless to say, Ambassadors have to have a lot of patience and be willing to work with frustrated FCEV owners!

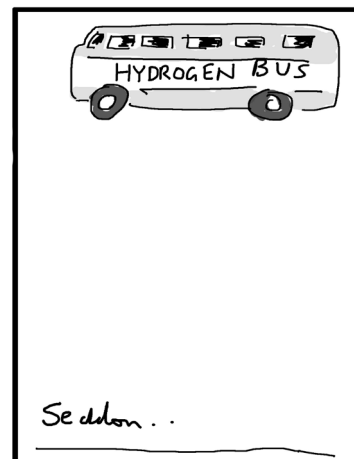
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As seen on a BEV in Sacramento...

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Fuel Cell Funnies



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An Update on H₂ Station Permit Streamlining

By Elsa Wright, ZEV Infrastructure Permitting and Development Specialist, GO-Biz

GO-Biz has officially initiated SB 1291 Hydrogen Station Streamlined Permitting outreach, marking a pivotal moment in advancing hydrogen infrastructure development. GO-Biz has kicked off their outreach efforts by contacting over 50 cities/counties that have

permitted hydrogen stations in the past. Moving forward, GO-Biz continues to engage authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) currently in the permitting phase, and plans to extend their support to all 540 AHJs by the end of the year.

GO-Biz is equipping AHJs with invaluable tools to navigate the complexities of SB 1291 and is ensuring that stakeholders have access to the latest information and guidelines for streamlining hydrogen station permitting. A [dedicated website](#), complete with an interactive map, has been established to comprehensively document the adoption of SB 1291 across cities/counties in California. This *Hydrogen Readiness* website has a wealth of resources to assist AHJs with SB 1291, such as a Hydrogen Permitting Guidebook (update will take place in 2024 to include SB 1291), fact sheets, best practices and resources and the hydrogen permitting scorecard.

CALIFORNIA

HYDROGEN

FUEL CELL DRIVERS

YOU ARE INVITED:

WHO: STATE SENATOR JOSH NEWMAN, AND CALIFORNIA HYDROGEN CAR OWNERS ASSN.

WHAT: ZOOM MEETING

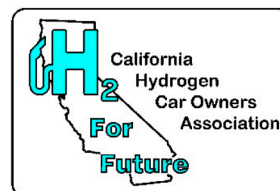
WHEN: JANUARY 24, 2024 - 9:30 am to 10:30 am (PST)

NOTE NEW TIME

ABOUT: TOWN HALL FOLLOW-UP AND PLANNING FOR 2024



2024 LOOKS TO BE A GREAT YEAR FOR LD-FCEVs IN CA, JOIN US!



See <https://h2tonps.org/whats-new-1> to download link, agenda and chart.

