

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE THE USE OF ZERO-EMISSION
VEHICLES PER SENATE BILL 498**

Resolution 20-3

January 23, 2020

Agenda Item No.: 20-2-6

WHEREAS, sections 39600 and 39601 of the Health and Safety Code authorize the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) to adopt standards, rules and regulations and to do such acts as may be necessary for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to and imposed upon the Board by law;

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 498 (Skinner, Chapter 628, Statutes of 2017) directs CARB to report on its programs that affect the adoption of light-, medium-, and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles (ZEV), including reviewing the program goals and status in meeting those goals, conducting cost-benefit analyses, comparing CARB's ZEV programs with ZEV programs in other states and countries, identifying policy recommendations for increasing the adoption of ZEVs in the State, and identifying actions fleets can take to increase the use of ZEVs within their operations;

WHEREAS, SB 498 also directs CARB to consider public comments on the policy recommendations at a Board hearing at least 30 days prior to submitting the report to the Legislature;

WHEREAS, CARB staff has publicly released the draft report on December 19, 2019, entitled "Assessment of CARB's Zero-Emission Vehicle Programs per Senate Bill 498" that includes the policy recommendations, along with the review of ZEV programs and comparison with programs from other jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, the draft report includes policy recommendations aimed to continue accelerating the light-, medium-, and heavy-duty ZEV market through:

- 1) Incentives and pricing strategies,
- 2) Lower fuel costs,
- 3) ZEV refueling infrastructure,
- 4) Local policies,
- 5) Fleet adoption,
- 6) Outreach and education,
- 7) Technology incubation and workforce development, and
- 8) Program flexibility.

WHEREAS, CARB staff developed the policy recommendations to improve ZEV uptake through a bottom-up approach based on the review of CARB's ZEV programs and comparison with ZEV programs from other jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, CARB staff consulted with the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California in developing the draft policy recommendations and revising the methodologies to quantify the benefits of CARB's ZEV programs;

WHEREAS, CARB staff conducted a public workshop where staff presented the draft policy recommendations and received stakeholder feedback;

WHEREAS, CARB staff provided an informational update on the status of transitioning to zero-emission vehicles and presented policy concepts at the July 2019 Board hearing;

WHEREAS, California's zero-emission vehicle and infrastructure industry supports economic development, generates job, and creates a skilled workforce;

WHEREAS public investments in zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure and local and regional initiatives also support the ZEV industry, attract companies, and create jobs;

WHEREAS, partnerships between industry, academia, and the public sector have played and will continue to play an important role in accelerating the ZEV market through pilots, technology incubation, and sharing best practices;

WHEREAS, CARB's regulatory program that involves the adoption, approval, amendment, or repeal of standards, rules, regulations, or plans has been certified by the Secretary for Natural Resources under Public Resources Code section 21080.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15251(d)), and CARB conducts its CEQA review according to this certified program (California Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 60000-60007);

WHEREAS, staff has determined that its report and policy recommendations per SB 498 on CARB's ZEV programs are not subject to CEQA because they do not constitute an "approval" of a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines sections 15352 and 15378 and will not have a direct or reasonably foreseeable impact on the environment (California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15060(c), 15352, 15378);

WHEREAS, the Board finds that:

CARB staff has recommended policies to further ZEV adoption and use in fulfillment of the statutory direction of SB 498;

The policy recommendations in the draft SB 498 report were developed in an open, public process, in consultation with affected parties, through a public workshop, individual meetings, and other outreach efforts;

The policy recommendations are consistent with CARB's environmental justice policies and does not disproportionately impact people of any race, culture, or income;

No substantial evidence exists in the record to support a fair argument that the draft SB 498 report and policy recommendations will result in any physical change to the environment, nor that the draft report and policy recommendations are "approval" of a "project" under the CEQA Guidelines;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board supports the policy recommendations in the draft report "Assessment of CARB's Zero-Emission Vehicle Programs per Senate Bill 498" as released on CARB's website on December 19, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs staff to explore actions to incorporate these recommendations into CARB's ZEV programs where feasible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby directs staff to evaluate all comments received during the public comment period, make any necessary modifications to the report as appropriate, and submit the revised report to the Legislature.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 20-3 as adopted by the California Air Resources Board.



Ryan Sakazaki, Board Clerk