

State of California

Air Resources Board

Board Item Summary

Item # 21-12-1: Public Meeting to Consider Proposed Research Contract with the University of California, Davis, Titled "Understanding Travel Demand and Built Environment Factors to Optimize Increased Zero Emission Vehicle Access in Underserved Communities"

Staff Recommendation:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed contract with the University of California, Davis titled "Understanding Travel Demand and Built Environment Factors to Optimize Increased Zero Emission Vehicle Access in Underserved Communities."

Discussion:

To date, new light-duty zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) have largely been bought by higher-income, single-family home-owning households. Growing the ZEV market to meet the Governor's Executive Order N-79-20 goal of 100 percent electric vehicle sales by 2035 and achieving the State's long-term air quality and climate goals will require expanding ZEV access and usage to all California drivers. Accelerating this access to historically underserved communities is especially important to ensure that those communities can enjoy the air quality benefits of these vehicles and have access to economic opportunities that may become available with improved transportation options.

Summary and Impacts:

The information that will be gained through this contract will support both the Board's decisions on a variety of ZEV programs and effective program implementation by staff. Approval by the Board will authorize staff to put this contract in place to undertake the activities described in this proposal.

This research contract will examine mobility needs of underserved communities and how zero-emission vehicles can cost-effectively meet this need. Specifically, this research project will help address three core research questions: 1) are mobility needs being met in underserved communities, 2) how can ZEVs meet the mobility needs of underserved communities, and 3) what barriers exist in ZEV purchase and use in underserved communities? This project will result in policy recommendations to inform how ZEVs may best be integrated into underserved communities through related regulations and incentive programs.

This project will: 1) hold community listening sessions to inform research questions and topics, 2) collect primary data from residents of underserved communities in California using a survey administered via mail and online, and 3) analyze data using descriptive statistics and statistical models, including investigating variation between and within regions to test various hypotheses.