3/1/2023

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: FY 2024 Congressional Spending for Santa Barbara County EV Charging Infrastructure Project

Dear Senator Padilla,

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses across Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria, would like to express our support for fiscal year 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending for the Santa Barbara County Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Installation Project.

This project request by the County of Santa Barbara would install 150 to 175 Level-2 and DC Fast Charging Stations countywide. Many of these electric vehicle chargers will be shared by County fleet vehicles and the public. This project will not only help electrify the County fleet, but it will also encourage further adoption of electric vehicles throughout the region. This electric vehicle charging infrastructure project will be a big step forward in supporting the transition to zero-emission vehicles throughout our County.

The business community on the South Coast recognizes that an ever-evolving transportation infrastructure is a key part of a successful growing local economy. Increasing EV charging infrastructure is a key piece of that greater plan. Additionally, this project will support the decarbonization of vehicle transportation in our County, which is an important piece of meeting our County's GHG emission goals, as opposed to other more controversial policies and programs that may not have as much community buy-in. Increasing our regional EV infrastructure is a win-win that our communities can rally behind and contribute to positive impacts throughout our County.

Please support this request for federal funding to install an important regional electric vehicle charging resource.

Sincerely,

Kristen Miller
President & CEO
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce