

March 25, 2024

Ms. Kirsten Wiard-Bauer
FTA Office of Program Management
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Santa Barbara MTD Submission to FTA's FY 2024 Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program

Dear Ms. Wiard-Bauer:

I am writing to express the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce's support for Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District's (SBMTD) Electrifying California's Central Coast Project submitted in response to the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) FY 2024 Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.

This grant is submitted in partnership with the City of San Luis Obispo, Monterey-Salinas Transit District, and San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority. The requested funds will support a multi-agency fleetwide transition to zero emission buses (ZEB's) and install charging infrastructure in strategic locations across the California's central coast to provide equitable access to zero emission transit service across a region that spans four counties and serves more than a quarter of California's coastline.

Once completed, the Electrifying California's Central Coast Project will bring SBMTD's ZEB fleet to 39 vehicles from the existing fleet of 23 (with 14 additional already funded and to be ordered in 2024). These vehicles will serve communities all over Santa Barbara's South Coast. SBMTD is dedicated to providing equitable access for all riders systemwide. The new ZEBs will help to continue to provide equitable access to zero emission transit services to riders throughout the South Coast.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project. I fully support the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District, City of San Luis Obispo, Monterey-Salinas Transit District, and San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority in their efforts and look forward to the implementation of this project and the benefits it will bring across California's scenic Central Coast.

Sincerely,



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