



March 27, 2022

TO: **REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
FROM: AHRON HAKIMI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SUBJECT: APRIL 5, 2023, MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

**The meeting of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 2023, has been cancelled.**

The Cancellation Notice and an information item can be found on the Kern COG website:

<https://www.kerncog.org/rpac-meetings/>



March 27, 2023

TO: REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: Ahron Hakimi  
Executive Director

By: Linda Urata  
Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Kern Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Blueprint Final Draft

DESCRIPTION:

Kern COG was awarded a grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop a Kern Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Blueprint. A final draft document is posted to the Kern COG website. Kern COG invites comments to be submitted by 10am on April 10, 2023.

DISCUSSION:

Kern Council of Governments in partnership with Gladstein, Neandross & Associates (GNA) and key stakeholders are working to develop a Blueprint that will identify major gaps in infrastructure for zero emission trucks and buses, community needs, available technology solutions, and ultimately a set of high impact 'shovel ready' infrastructure projects necessary for progress toward zero emission goods movement transportation in and through Kern County.

The California Energy Commission's (CEC's) Clean Transportation Program awarded Kern Council of Governments \$199,929 in April 2021 through the CEC solicitation GFO-20-601. "The primary purpose of the grant is to fund planning "blueprints" that will identify actions and milestones needed for implementation of medium- and heavy-duty (MD|HD) zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and the related electric charging and/or hydrogen refueling infrastructure to accelerate the deployment of MD|HD ZEVs and ZEV infrastructure with a holistic and futuristic view of transportation planning."

The project approach is designed to accelerate the region's clean transportation goals. GNA identified five high priority, transformational projects throughout Kern County that can stimulate additional outside investment, whether privately sourced or through public grant funding. The sites are: The City of Arvin Public Works, Frito-Lay on SR 58, Tejon Ranch Commerce Center, WattEV, and Wonderful Industrial Park.

The Blueprint recommends specific actions that regional stakeholders should take to meet project goals as well as a proposed electric vehicle infrastructure implementation schedule. You will find the document on the Kern COG website, <https://www.kerncog.org/?s=blueprint>. Comments are due by 10:00am on April 10, 2023.

Kern COG staff will present a final version of the Kern EVCS Blueprint during the regularly scheduled Kern COG Transportation Planning and Policy Committee meeting on April 20, 2023.

ACTION: Information only.



## California Energy Commission Fuels and Transportation Division

### ARV-21-012-01 Kern MD|HD Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Blueprint

#### Kern Medium- and Heavy-Duty (MD/HD) Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Blueprint Fact Sheet

##### The Blueprint

The Kern region is challenged by poor air quality, with emissions from transportation contributing the majority of ozone and particulate matter emissions. Replacing diesel and gasoline fueled vehicles on the road with zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) will reduce pollution from transportation emissions. Many of the state and regional funding programs designed to reduce transportation emissions and improve air quality by incentivizing ZEVs are undersubscribed due to a lack of essential infrastructure buildout. To support the build-out of necessary infrastructure, Kern Council of Governments in partnership with Gladstein, Neandross & Associates (GNA), developing a Blueprint for medium and heavy duty zero emission truck infrastructure in Kern County.

##### Project Innovation and Advantages

The objectives of this project are to support the deployment of successful MD/HD ZEV infrastructure projects through regional ZEV infrastructure planning. This planning will identify high-impact projects for prioritization, show how resources can be focused on these initiatives, and identify other needed actions, such as workforce development to enable the deployment of zero-emission trucks. Through working with local stakeholder groups and industry interests the Blueprint will evaluate an equitable and actionable pathway toward zero-emission transportation technologies. The Blueprint plan will include analysis of the technologies being deployed, and an effective strategy for planning infrastructure to support the transition to zero-emission commercial vehicles in the county.

##### Anticipated Benefits to California

The Blueprint will engage community members, private, and public stakeholders to community needs, identify major gaps in infrastructure for zero-emission trucks and buses, available technology solutions, and ultimately a set of high-impact 'shovel-ready' infrastructure projects necessary for progress. The Blueprint will help maximize MD/HD ZEV deployment leading to the achievement of transportation related criteria emissions and greenhouse gas reduction goals in and through Kern County. Fostering zero-emission infrastructure in this critical transportation network will extend these benefits throughout California. The Blueprint will also serve as an example and template for other counties across the state to achieve similar energy and emission reduction goals.



Kern Council  
of Governments



CEC Amount: \$199,929  
Co-funded Amount: \$0

Project Location:  
Kern County



## Specific Benefits

- **Business Opportunities**  
New vehicle technologies will require additional support services, fuel and energy production, and zero-emission fueling infrastructure will be required in numerous and varied locations throughout the county.
- **Job Creation**  
Jobs will be created in the construction and development of the additional fueling and charging infrastructure, and support personnel hired to maintain the industry will comprise a large employment sector in addition to the local training and education that will need to be implemented in the region.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Pollutant Reduction**  
Zero-emission transportation in the commercial sector is the most direct strategy for reducing emission in Eastern Kern County and the San Joaquin Valley airsheds. Furthermore, the availability of zero-emission fueling infrastructure will allow long distance goods movement vehicles that traverse the region to be able to charge and fuel in Kern County, thereby bringing the benefits to surrounding regions.
- **Petroleum Displacement**  
Every vehicle mile traveled by zero emission MD/HD vehicles that use the infrastructure planned in this Blueprint will directly reduce the region's and the state's petroleum consumption.
- **Impact to Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities**  
Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities will benefit from the air quality improvements from displaced petroleum consumption. Lower-cost electric fuels will become more readily available for the county. Finally, the jobs created from the new a burgeoning industry will provide economic opportunity for Kern County.
- **Localized Health Impact**  
The existing poor air quality in Kern County will benefit directly from cleaner vehicles operating in, around, and through the region, and Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities that are most prone to poor air quality will benefit from the plans made through this zero emission MD/HD infrastructure Blueprint

## Contacts

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