



SF Environment

Our home. Our city. Our planet.

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

EDWIN M. LEE
MAYOR

DAVID ASSMANN
ACTING DIRECTOR

JOSHUA ARCE
PRESIDENT

ANGELO KING
VICE-PRESIDENT

RUTH GRAVANIS
COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS JOSEFOWITZ
COMMISSIONER

SARAH CHING TING WAN
COMMISSIONER

HEATHER STEPHENSON
COMMISSIONER

JOHANNA WALD
COMMISSIONER

MONICA FISH
COMMISSION SECRETARY

February 24, 2014

Honorable Mayor Edwin M. Lee
City Hall, Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Lee,

The Commission on the Environment would like to request \$285,000 in General Fund support for the Department of the Environment's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure work for fiscal 2014-2015. We are grateful for your support of the City's efforts in this field – efforts that have put San Francisco in the forefront of this emerging new technology. As you may know, this effort has been made possible by \$1 million in federal funding that will expire on June 30, 2014.

Current Status of EV Program

SFE has led and coordinated the City's cross-department work in taking the first steps to become EV ready. The City is widely recognized in the region, and nationally, as an EV leader. Metrics include:

- The Bay Area is the Number 1 market in the nation for EV sales. While this is partly explained by the Bay Area's "green" and tech-oriented consumer base, another part of the explanation is that San Francisco enabled the quick market growth by taking early steps to become EV-ready, including the installation of public charging infrastructure.
- With 200+ public charging stations (85 of which the City has installed through SFE's lead), San Francisco currently has one of the most extensive public EV infrastructures anywhere, and almost certainly the most public chargers per-capita of any major U.S. city.
- SFE has worked with DBI to make sure permits can be obtained easily and quickly for installing chargers in single-family homes, thus preventing a potential barrier to EV purchases.
- SFE has attacked the hurdle of getting EV chargers installed in multifamily buildings with a demonstration program that put 77 chargers in 36 San Francisco apartment buildings and condominiums.

Department of the Environment, City and County of San Francisco
1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94103
Telephone: (415) 355-3700 • Fax: (415) 554-6393
Email: environment@sfgov.org • www.sfenvironment.org

100% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper

- SFE is working with GSA/Fleet to transition City fleet vehicles to EVs and install fleet chargers (23 EVs currently, and 20+ anticipated in the coming year)
- SFE has led the interdepartmental efforts in this arena, working with multiple City departments, and taking the lead on the development of an electric vehicle infrastructure in San Francisco.
- Working with the Mayor, SFE has been a leader in building regional EV programs, including the Bay Area EV Strategic Council, which have spawned regional planning efforts that are poised to help guide accelerated EV transition in the Bay Area.

How EV Staff Has Been Funded Until Now

No General Fund money has been available for SFE's work. SFE's EV staffing has been funded entirely by a one-time federal grant (Congressional earmark for SF EV Initiative) which will expire at the end of this fiscal year. This has been a unique grant structure providing funds (with a 50/50 match requirement) for both salary and program expenditures, and is not replicable.

Why a General Fund Allocation Is Now Needed

Without support from the General Fund, SFE's work on EV programs will end at the end of this fiscal year. While other grants for EV projects are coming up, those grants do not pay for staff time other than, if anything, very minimal administrative costs. Our structural problem is that federal, state and regional grants for this type of work assume the recipient agency has staff in place and will use the grant funds for added program expenditures. Without base salary support, we will not have staff in place to even apply for the grants.

Why This Cannot Be Paid For From Other Departmental Funds

All the Department of the Environment's funding is tied to specific deliverables and projects. The Department has no discretionary funding. The Impound Account, for example, can only be used for projects in areas that are directly linked to Solid Waste. The City Attorney has determined that Impound Funds cannot be used for Clean Transportation work.

What Will Happen With General Fund Support

- Bring grant funding to the City for purchasing EVs and charging stations for the City fleet, possible expansion of public charging infrastructure, and other EV projects. Project grants will be available for EV work from Cap and Trade and other federal, state and regional sources, but staff needs to be in place to obtain them.
- Coordinate and lead City-wide EV strategic planning. With the initial steps now completed to enable the EV market to get started, more information is becoming available about EV use, experience, needs and potential growth, and now is the time for the City to develop its longer-term strategic plan for electric transportation as part of our climate and air pollution strategies, in coordination with Transit First strategies.
- Work to add EV-ready requirements for new construction to the City's green building code.
- Continue working to remove major barriers of EV charging in multifamily buildings.
- Coordinate and assist transitioning the City's fleet to EVs.
- Continue to accelerate use of EVs by carsharing companies.
- Coordinate City actions to be in the forefront of attracting new fast-charging technologies and cutting edge systems to integrate EVs, smart-grid and solar.

- Maintain the City's visible, leadership role in the State's and the Bay Area's regional EV planning. The governor's Zero Emission Vehicle plan calls for 1.5 million EVs by 2020, and BAAQMD will soon release the regional EV blueprint. SFE has been involved with development of these strategy documents and, and needs staff funding to be engaged on behalf of the City with their implementation.

However, without general fund support, our efforts in this area will end, and the staff working on this project will no longer have employment with the City.

HACTO Administration

The Commission is also requesting, on behalf of the Department, that the administration of the Healthy Air and Clean Transportation Ordinance be transferred from the Department of the Environment to the City Administrator's Office, and that the 5642 position responsible for the administration of the Ordinance be transferred as well. Since the City Administrator's Office is responsible for fleet management, and since the administration of this ordinance is an extension of fleet management, it is more appropriate for the City Administrator's Office to have this responsibility. This potential transfer has been discussed with your budget office and the City Administrator's office.

I appreciate your consideration of these requests, and am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Joshua Arce, President
Commission on the Environment

Cc: Kate Howard, Budget Director
Antonio Guerra, Budget Analyst
Roger Kim, Mayor's Office
Joseph Salem, Department of the Environment Finance Manager
Commissioners, Commission on the Environment
David Assmann, Department of the Environment Acting Director