

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	October 10, 2017
SUBJECT:	Approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Redwood Coast Energy Authority for Reimbursement of SRTA's Participation in the North Coast and Upstate Fuel-Cell Electric Vehicle Readiness Project
AGENDA ITEM:	5-7
STAFF CONTACT:	Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority received grant funding from the California Energy Commission for development of a hydrogen fuel-cell electric vehicle (FCEV) readiness plan for several North State counties, including Shasta. Partial reimbursement for participation in the study is available to several regional partners, including SRTA. The California Energy Commission requires a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SRTA and Redwood Coast Energy Authority to receive funds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors authorize the executive director to sign, and amend as needed, a Memorandum of Understanding (attached) with the Redwood Coast Energy Authority for reimbursed activities related to the North Coast and Upstate Fuel-Cell Electric Vehicle Readiness Project.

DISCUSSION:

Hydrogen fuel-cell electric vehicles (FCEV) produce zero emissions just like electric vehicles, but can travel farther and refuel faster. Public use of FCEVs is expected to increase in response to state incentives and expanding fueling infrastructure. An increased share of FCEVs on the road would help the region meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in a way that is supported by state funding. More specifically, Assembly Bill 8 (AB 8; Perea, Chapter 401, Statutes of 2013) dedicates up to \$20 million annually to support an initial statewide network of 100 publically accessible hydrogen fuel stations. Currently, in California, there are 33 hydrogen fueling stations that are open to the public, with 29 more that are planned or proposed. The closest hydrogen fueling stations to the Shasta Region (existing or planned) are located in Truckee, CA and Sacramento, CA.

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority received funds from the California Energy Commission to plan hydrogen fueling infrastructure for the counties of Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Colusa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Trinity. The project scope of work includes: 1) an evaluation of current and forecast FCEV ownership; 2) a regional infrastructure plan; 3) guidance for fleet managers; and 4) public education and outreach.

SRTA staff will participate as technical advisors, providing regional data and coordinating with local stakeholders. Participating in the study will give SRTA and local government agencies greater ownership over the plan (versus outsiders making uninformed assumptions about our region). Having an adopted plan also opens the door for private businesses and local agencies to apply for state funding for public fueling stations.

The grant received by the Redwood Coast Energy Authority provides limited reimbursement to SRTA for participation in the study. The California Energy Commission requires an MOU between SRTA and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority for SRTA to receive up to \$2,000 in reimbursement funds. Project completion is anticipated by November 2018. Results of the study will be shared with the SRTA Board of Directors.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may request modifications to the MOU or may decline to sign an MOU.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is the lead agency for this project. Input and technical assistance is being provided by SRTA and other members of the North Coast and Upstate PEV Coordinating Councils. For efficiency, SRTA will coordinate and communicate project activities in the Shasta Region with local agencies and other stakeholders on behalf of the Redwood Coast Energy Authority. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation.

FINANCING:

A total of \$8,891 is budgeted for staff time toward this project in SRTA's FY 2017-2019 Overall Work Program (WE 707.07). Revenue comes from FHWA Planning Carryover funds (\$6,981) and Redwood Coast Energy Authority grant funds (\$2,000) being made available through this MOU.



Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachment:

North Coast and Upstate Fuel Cell Vehicle Readiness Project Memorandum of Understanding (attachment to MOU is available online at: <http://www.srta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3806>)



October 20, 2017

North Coast and Upstate Fuel Cell Vehicle Readiness Project Memorandum of Understanding

Between Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) and Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) for the period October 20, 2017, through November 7, 2018.

The intent of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to define roles and responsibilities of RCEA and SRTA for planning and development activities within Shasta County and the greater North Coast and Upstate regions. The MOU between RCEA and SRTA confirms intentions to work together toward the mutual goal of supporting and catalyzing the adoption of fuel cell vehicles within the region. To this end, RCEA and SRTA agree to the following:

SRTA will:

1. Assist with the development of a regional plan for hydrogen fueling infrastructure.
2. Represent the specific needs and characteristics of their region.
3. Engage with a broad team to identify and promote consistent program goals, designs, and plans across the North Coast and Upstate regions.
4. Complete stakeholder engagement activities and maintain fiscal records and documentation to support CEC invoicing and reporting requirements.
5. Submit a signed MOU to RCEA.
6. Provide two week notice to RCEA of changes in staff and/or ability to proceed.
7. Submit final program-end activity and budget reports along with supporting documentation to RCEA by October 1, 2018.
8. Follow all CEC flow-down provisions as applicable; see attached.

RCEA will:

1. Authorize payment to SRTA up to \$2,000 to support SRTA's planning assistance.
2. At the discretion of SRTA, reimburse SRTA with a single payment at completion of work, or with quarterly invoicing when outstanding receipts reach a minimum of \$500.
3. Coordinate all team meetings and project communication.
4. Assist with stakeholder selection, outreach materials, and messaging.
5. Provide ongoing technical assistance to support SRTA's regional outreach activities.
6. Process SRTA's reports and budget documents.

The undersigned agree to the conditions of this Memorandum of Understanding:

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director
Shasta Regional Transportation Agency

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director
Redwood Coast Energy Authority