



CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

Ms. Kirsten Wiard-Bauer
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County's application to FY 2025 Low or No Emission Grant Program for the Transit Facility Zero-Emission Transition Infrastructure Project

Dear Ms. Wiard-Bauer,

On behalf of The City of Merced, I am writing to support the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County's (The Bus) application to the Federal Transit Administration's FY 2025 Low or No Emission Grant Program for \$9,550,000 for The Bus' Transit Facility Zero-Emission Transition Infrastructure Project.

This project is the critical next step to transitioning The Bus' fleet to one that best serves the families of Merced County into the future. With this funding, the agency will begin retrofitting its Operations and Maintenance Facility in Merced with the necessary infrastructure for zero-emission charging and hydrogen fueling. While The Bus has several zero-emission vehicles in service already, their utilization is limited by the use of temporary chargers. Given this constraint, the agency cannot continue to invest in zero-emission vehicles without the necessary on-site infrastructure to charge and maintain the vehicles at a frequency that would meet the needs of local families. In addition, the agency will also be pursuing hydrogen infrastructure to allow for the deployment of dual zero-emission vehicle types in Merced County so as not to be completely reliant on battery-electric vehicles.

This initiative holds immense promise for delivering significant environmental benefits, particularly in the underserved San Joaquin Valley of California, where Merced County is located in an air quality non-attainment region for ozone and particulate matter. By implementing this project, The Bus' efforts will support decreasing vehicle congestion and improving the overall health and wellness of the communities within its service area.

We sincerely hope that the Federal Transit Administration will favorably consider The Bus' project application for funding to upgrade its facility in order to advance the deployment of a modern, zero-emission fleet throughout Merced County.

Sincerely,

Matthew Serratto
Mayor
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