



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 3b

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: March 1, 2013

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: AB 266 (Blumenfield) — High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes: Extending Clean Vehicle Program

Background

AB 266 would extend the sunset date for the state's Clean Air Vehicle Sticker program from 2015 to 2025. This program grants certain types of vehicles access to the state's high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes without a passenger. The program has two components:

1. **White Sticker Program:** Available to zero emission vehicles, such as electric, hydrogen fuel cell or compressed natural gas. There is no limit on the number of stickers available.
2. **Green Sticker Program:** Available to vehicles meeting California's Enhanced Advanced Technology Partial Zero Emission Vehicle (AT PZEV) requirement — currently limited to certain plug-in hybrid vehicles.¹ Limited to 40,000 stickers.

Recommendation: Oppose Unless Amended

Discussion

According to the California Air Resources Board (ARB), approximately 9,000 vehicles have been issued the green stickers as of January 2013, and another 10,000 have been issued the white stickers. ARB staff we spoke with indicated that it is very plausible that the remaining 31,000 green stickers will be issued within the next 12 months. While we agree extending the timeframe of the Clean Air Vehicle Sticker Program by a couple of years could make sense to increase the incentive for such vehicle purchases, we take issue with a 10-year extension given the fast pace of change in the vehicle industry today. We believe the Legislature should regularly update the rules that apply to which clean vehicles are allowed access to the state's carpool lanes rather than grant access to a specified class of vehicles for an entire decade. For this reason, staff recommends an "oppose unless amended" position on AB 266. The amendment we seek would limit the program extension to 2018.

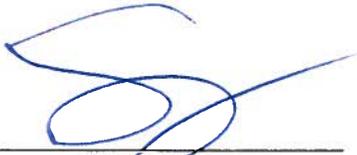
Known Positions

Support

None on file

Oppose

None on file



Steve Heminger

SH:RL:ll

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¹ Vehicles currently eligible for the green stickers include the 2012 and 2013 models of the plug-in Toyota Prius and certain models of the Chevy Volt, the 2013 models of the plug-in Ford C-Max Energi and plug-in Ford Fusion, and the 2014 plug-in Honda Accord.