



"Citrus Capital of the World"

City of Santa Paula

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March 30, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Letter of Support for Valle Express' Low or No Emission Vehicle Program Discretionary Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

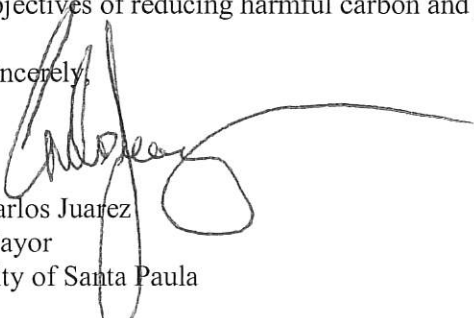
On behalf of the City of Santa Paula, I write to express our support for the Valley Express' discretionary grant application to the Low or No Emission Vehicle program for funding to advance their transition to zero emission bus operations. Valley Express is requesting funding for the purchase and installation of electric bus charging infrastructure and two electric vehicles to support clean transit operations.

Valley Express offers reliable and affordable transportation services to the residents of Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru and the Santa Clara River Valley, providing nearly ninety thousand trips annually through their fixed-route and general purpose and paratransit dial-a-ride services. The Valley Express service area represents a semi-rural, and disadvantaged population who are highly dependent on public transit.

Valley Express is advancing a phased transition to fleet-wide operations of zero emission buses. This funding request directly supports regional and statewide plans to reduce harmful emissions in the transportation sector, increase transit ridership, and improve community health. The requested federal funding would leverage planned private sector funding from Southern California Edison and the HVIP program.

For this and other reasons, we support the funding of Valley Express' project for zero emission bus charging infrastructure and electric vehicles. This project aligns well with Low or No Emission Vehicle Program objectives of reducing harmful carbon and particulate emissions and overall energy consumption.

Sincerely,



Carlos Juarez
Mayor
City of Santa Paula

Cc: City Council
Dan Singer, City Manager
Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC)