

Statement to the Board of Supervisors

Good morning, honorable members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. My name is Don Hess. I would like to bring to your attention today a federal grant funding opportunity recently announced that has real potential to help our County fill some obvious gaps we have in our Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure network.

First, a bit of background. In 2019 MCOG released its Zero Emission Vehicle Readiness Plan. In this well-documented report, which makes a strong case for EV charging infrastructure based on the anticipated rate of adoption of EVs and State of California climate goals, a number of locations were listed as targets for infrastructure. However, among the recommended sites that still lack any public charging capability are: Gualala, Boonville, Mendocino, Westport and Covelo. That same year I became a member of GMAC and among my primary interests was securing public EV charging for our coastal community. In 2020 GMAC passed a resolution urging, you, the Board of Supervisors, to support the expansion of EV charging to Gualala. A few opportunities came and went in the interim, leaving me and others on GMAC feeling frustrated that, as an unincorporated area, we could not succeed in this effort that we felt was important both for our local economy and as a way to mitigate climate change.

Then, in 2022 President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act within which was \$7.5 billion to expand the EV charging network nationwide. As a result, on March 14th the U.S. Dept. of Transportation announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity that specifically targets communities in rural and underserved areas. Deadline for submitting an application is May 30th.

Mendocino County, if it chooses to act in a timely manner, now has the chance to significantly expand its EV charging network by extending it to locations that have missed out in the past. I stand ready to assist in this effort if needed, by working with county staff and MCOG to ensure that our County is successful and will be better prepared for the needed and inevitable transition to an electrified transportation system.

I would like to finish with a quote from the IPCC's AR6 Mitigation Report from 2022:
"Electric vehicles powered by low green house gas emissions electricity have large potential to reduce land-based transport green house gas emissions, on a life cycle basis ... but they require continued investments in supporting infrastructure to increase scale of deployment."

Thank you for your time and thank you, Supervisors, for all the work you do to keep Mendocino County running.