



December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Councilmember Mike Bonin, Chair  
Transportation Committee  
Los Angeles City Council

Dear Chairman Bonin:

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), would like to thank the Transportation Committee for considering the low-income electric vehicle car share pilot item on its December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 agenda. The pilot is a breakthrough project that embodies the principles codified by the Charge Ahead California Initiative (SB 1275, De León). It prioritizes bringing quality mobility options and cleaner air to communities most in need. New vehicle purchases are beyond the reach of many Californians, especially for our low-income and undocumented communities. This shared mobility model is exactly the type of approach we need to expand mobility and equitably bring the benefits of climate revenues and clean air to all types of communities.

NRDC, a member of the Charge Ahead California Campaign, has served on the Steering Committee for the electric vehicle car share pilot and has intimately followed the work of the Steering Committee's community-based organizations. They have worked tirelessly to make this project a just, workable pilot project with city staff, spending dozens of hours representing the needs of their members. We would like to explicitly recognize the work of Trust South LA, the Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance, and the Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund. We write today to uplift their message of how their communities' mobility and health outcomes would improve with the advent of this pilot project. The explicit focus on making this pilot reflect community-identified needs will be the spring board that catapults this pilot to success.

NRDC applauds the city for boldly taking on the infrastructure investment needed to operate an admittedly new type of partnership. This pilot is not simply a run-of-the-mill on-street utility project or any type of standard transportation project, so we appreciate the leadership role the city is taking to deal with the intricacies of operationalizing a multi-million dollar infrastructure project. This scale of investment is justified and necessary because the pilot takes aim at the status quo by investing overburdened communities as identified by the state's CalEnviroScreen tool. This level of commitment to electric vehicle charging infrastructure is a key step towards furthering the city's Sustainability pLAN goals.

This shared mobility model rewards residents who in many cases already rely on transit, walking, and bicycling for their everyday mobility needs. This scale of investment in a clean first/last mile solution visibly demonstrates that the city of LA is committed to

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1314 2ND STREET | SANTA MONICA, CA | 90401 | T 310.434.2300 | F 310.434.2399 | NRDC.ORG

bringing electric vehicle charging infrastructure to communities struggling with limited mobility options and we thank the city for directly tackling that issue.

We urge approval of the contract and look forward to council action for a final approval. We hope this pilot program will soon be expanded to create even more opportunities for communities throughout Los Angeles.

Thank you,

Kristen Pawling  
LA Urban Solutions Coordinator

Maxwell Baumhefner  
Clean Vehicles & Fuels Attorney

CC: Councilmember Paul Koretz, Councilmember Jose Huizar, Councilmember Nury Martinez, Councilmember David E. Ryu, Legislative Assistant Adam R. Lid