

## Notice of Preparation

**To:** California Office of Planning and Research, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Other Interested Parties

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Substitute Environmental Document

**Project Title:** Advanced Clean Cars II Program

**Lead Agency:** California Air Resources Board

**Date:** July 21, 2021

**Review Period:** July 21, 2021 – August 20, 2021

As the Lead Agency, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will prepare a substitute environmental document (referred to as an “Environmental Analysis” or “EA”) as part of the Staff Report prepared for the proposed project identified above. CARB would like to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. If the proposed project has no relevance to you or your organization, no action on your part is necessary.

Information on the project description, location, and potential environmental effects, as currently known, are contained in the attached materials, including the notice for public workshop to be held remotely on August 11, 2021. In addition to soliciting input on the proposed project, this workshop will also serve as a CEQA scoping meeting to solicit input on scope and content of the EA to be prepared for the proposed project. Additional information on this proposed project is available for review on the Program webpage at the following link: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/advanced-clean-cars-program>

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) is available for review and comment for 30 days, per CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15082(b)). The comment period for this NOP begins July 21, 2021 and ends on August 20, 2021. Due to the limits mandated by State law, responses should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 5:00 PM on August 20, 2021.

Please submit your written comments to [ceqa.unit@arb.ca.gov](mailto:ceqa.unit@arb.ca.gov) or via mail to Gabe Nevin, Air Resources Board Legal Office/CEQA Unit, P.O. Box 2815 Sacramento, CA

95812-2815. In your response, please indicate the public agency or other entity you represent, and the name and phone number of a contact person.

Date: July 21, 2021

Signature: *Rebecca Maddox*

Rebecca Maddox  
Attorney III  
California Air Resources Board  
Legal Office/CEQA Unit

### List of Agencies to Review

Distributed to agencies marked with an "X" below:

<b>STATE AGENCIES</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CalRecycle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of -- Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission <input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Wildlife, Department of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Waste Management Board <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Environmental Protection Agency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of General Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategic Growth Council <input type="checkbox"/> California High Speed Rail Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Conservation – Division of Land Resource Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OEHHA <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Emergency Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Water Quality Control Board #____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency <input type="checkbox"/> SF Bay Conservation & Development Commission <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Water Resources Control Board <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University of California <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Standards Commission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Public Health <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Nature Conservancy <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Nevada Nature Conservancy <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Conservancy <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>AIR DISTRICTS</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amador County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antelope Valley AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bay Area AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Butte County AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calaveras County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colusa County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County of El Dorado AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kern APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feather River AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glenn County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Great Basin Unified APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Imperial County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lake County AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lassen County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mariposa County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mendocino County AQMD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monterey Bay Unified APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North Coast Unified AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Sierra AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Sonoma County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placer County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Diego County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin Valley APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Luis Obispo County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Santa Barbara County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shasta County AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Siskiyou County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Coast AQMD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tehama County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuolumne County APCD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ventura County APCD

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modoc County APCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yolo-Solano AQMD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mojave Desert AQMD	
<b>OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES</b>	

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

A copy of an Initial Study is not attached because CARB complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) through its regulatory program certified by the California Secretary for Natural Resources under Public Resources Code section 21080.5 (14 CCR 15251(d)). Public agencies with certified regulatory programs are exempt from certain CEQA requirements, including but not limited to, preparing environmental impact reports, negative declarations, and initial studies (14 CCR 15250).

The Environmental Analysis (EA) will evaluate the potential for impacts to the environment as a result of the proposed project: Advanced Clean Cars II Program. The project and the nature of potential impacts that could result from the project are described below.

- **PROJECT TITLE:**

Advanced Clean Cars II Program

- **PROJECT LOCATION:**

The project has statewide applicability.

- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Advanced Clean Cars I Program was first adopted by CARB in 2012, including the Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) III Criteria Regulation, the LEV III Greenhouse Gas Regulation, and the Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Regulation. Following the Board's direction to begin development of standards for model years after 2025, the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) rulemaking is currently in process to establish the next set of low-emission vehicle and zero-emission vehicle requirements to further reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants and precursors and greenhouse gases from light- and medium-duty vehicles in California. Accordingly, the proposed ACC II Program would include more stringent emission standards and requirements for passenger vehicle manufacturers to increase the proportion of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) offered for sale in California (e.g., hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles, battery electric vehicles, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles).

The main objective of the ACC II Program is to maximize criteria emission benefits from internal combustion engine vehicles, while accelerating the transition to ZEVs through both increased stringency of requirements and associated actions to support wide-scale ZEV adoption and use. The targets of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-79-20 calling for all new in-state sales of passenger cars and trucks to be zero-emission by 2035 is a key consideration of the ACC II Program. Under the ACC II Program, LEV IV will aim to reduce emissions by tightening standards where necessary

and pursuing additional requirements that will translate to real-world emission benefits, such as ensuring that cold-start emissions are well-controlled, revising medium-duty vehicle standards to cover a broader range of in-use driving conditions, and strengthening emission standards for aggressive driving. The ZEV Regulation will increase the new vehicle sales requirements to 100% plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and ZEVs by 2035 in California. Additionally, the ACC II Program will aim to ensure that ZEVs are full replacement vehicles for all drivers, for both new and used markets, by adding ZEV assurance measures, such as requiring a consumer-facing battery state of health indicator, adding ZEVs into existing service information requirements, and adding useful life and minimum warranty requirements for ZEVs.

The project is the collective set of proposed regulatory amendments to the Low-Emission Vehicle and Zero-Emission Vehicle Regulations that would affect manufacturer production and design of vehicles. The amendments to these regulations are analyzed as one project because the regulations are related and compliance responses by vehicle manufacturers would have a combined effect on the statewide vehicle fleet, the ways light- and medium-duty vehicles are sold and leased, and the use of alternative fuels. The project collective is necessary to provide a comprehensive review of the combined, or cumulative, effect of these regulatory amendments.

- **PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

The EA will evaluate the potential for impacts on the environmental resource areas found in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Potential adverse impacts would be associated with the reasonably foreseeable compliance responses related to the regulation, which may include but are not limited to: the introduction of new zero-emission and partially zero-emission vehicles; new electric charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure; battery and fuel cell disposal, recycling, exchange, and second life management; and increased battery production and mineral demand (e.g., platinum, lithium, nickel, etc.).

The reasonably foreseeable compliance responses associated with the Advanced Clean Cars II Program could potentially adversely or beneficially affect the following resource areas, which will be further evaluated in the EA:

- o Aesthetics
- o Agricultural and Forest Resources
- o Air Quality and Odors
- o Biological Resources
- o Cultural Resources
- o Geology, Seismicity, and Soils

- o Greenhouse Gases
- o Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- o Hydrology and Water Quality
- o Land Use and Planning
- o Noise
- o Transportation and Traffic
- o Utilities and Service Systems

Potential cumulative impacts and potential for growth inducement will be evaluated in the EA, as well as alternatives, including the No Project Alternative.



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## Public Workshop on Advanced Clean Cars II

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The California Air Resources Board (CARB or the Board) staff invite you to participate remotely in a public workshop to provide input on the development of the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) regulations. The ACC II regulations will seek to reduce criteria and greenhouse gas emissions from new light- and medium-duty vehicles beyond the 2025 model year, and increase the number of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) for sale. During the workshop, staff will present an overview of the ACC II regulatory proposals on the Low-Emission Vehicle (or LEV IV) Regulation and the Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Regulation. Staff will also present updates on minimum technology requirements for ZEVs and proposed measures to increase access to ZEVs for our priority communities. This workshop will also serve as a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to obtain feedback for the environmental impact analysis.

The virtual public workshop will be held on the following date and time.

Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Webinar/Teleconference

The workshop is open to the public and we encourage your participation. Please use the link below to register for the Zoom webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about how to join the webinar by computer or by telephone.

[Register](#)

Staff request stakeholder comments following the workshop be submitted using the [informal comment submittal form](#) by September 1, 2021. Comments submitted can be viewed on the [workshop comments log webpage](#).

## Background

In 2012, CARB adopted a set of regulations to control emissions from passenger vehicles, collectively called Advanced Clean Cars (ACC). Advanced Clean Cars combined the control of smog-causing (criteria) pollutants and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into a single coordinated package of regulations through 2025 model year vehicles: the Low-Emission Vehicle III regulation for criteria (LEV III Criteria) and GHG (LEV III GHG) emissions, and a technology forcing Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Regulation.

A California midterm review of the standards was presented to the Board in March 2017. At that time, the Board also directed staff to begin working on post-2025 model year vehicle regulations. Since the midterm review, staff have continued to research additional measures to reduce air pollution from light-duty and medium-duty vehicles. Additionally, in September 2020, Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-79-20](#) which established a goal that 100 percent of California sales of new passenger car and trucks be zero-emission by 2035 and directed CARB to develop and propose regulations toward this goal. Furthermore, CARB's 2020 Mobile Source Strategy illustrates that an aggressive deployment of ZEVs will be needed for the State to meet federal air quality requirements and the State's climate change targets.

[More Information](#)

## Environmental Analysis

At the workshop staff will provide an overview of CARB's process for preparing the Environmental Analysis (EA) and its content required under the California Environmental Quality Act. Staff welcome public input at the workshop on the appropriate scope and content of the EA at the beginning of our process, including the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance with the proposal, the potential significant adverse impacts associated with the methods of compliance, potential feasible mitigation measures, and feasible alternatives to the proposal that could reduce or eliminate any significant adverse impacts. A draft of the EA will be released for public review and comment in 2022.

## Contacts

If you have any questions regarding the workshop, please contact [cleancars@arb.ca.gov](mailto:cleancars@arb.ca.gov). If you wish to receive information regarding the Advanced Clean Cars II regulations, please subscribe at the Advanced Clean Cars [website](#).

If you require a special accommodation or need this document in an alternate format (i.e., Braille, large print) or another language, please contact [Marissa Williams](#), as soon

as possible. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.