

**Date:** September 10, 2009

**Subject:** 511 Contra Costa Electric Plug-In Program

**Summary:** Staff is recommending allocation of up to \$10,000 per jurisdiction of TRANSPAC/TRANSPLAN Measure C Commute Alternative funds to go towards the purchases of electric plug-in vehicles for city/county use.

**Recommendation:** Concur with the use of TRANSPAC/TRANSPLAN Measure C Commute Alternative funds of up to \$10,000 per jurisdiction to be used towards to purchase of plug-in electric vehicles to be used by local jurisdictions.

**Background:** Until 2004, there was a Countywide Clean Fuel Vehicle Program, administered by the SWAT office of 511 Contra Costa, which allocated funds towards to installation of clean fuel infrastructure and vehicles. As technology changed, the program ended and SWAT allocated funds to other programs.

With the passage of AB 32 and SB 375, the TRANSPAC/TRANSPLAN 511 Contra Costa staff began to research ways in which the 511 CC Program could assist local agencies in meeting GHG emissions goals. As such, 511 CC staff began a pilot program in spring 2009 which provides up to three electric charging stations to TRANSPAC and TRANSPLAN jurisdictions to encourage Zero Emission Vehicle use in support of city/county climate action plans. To date five jurisdictions have requested assistance in the funding and installation of plug-in charging stations to be used by fleet vehicles as well as by the public.

[Reprint](#) [Bookmarks](#) [Print](#) [Email](#) [Font Resize](#)

## Pleasant Hill to install electric car charging stations

By Lisa P. White

Contra Costa Times

Posted: 07/14/2009 01:38:24 PM PDT

Updated: 07/14/2009 01:38:25 PM PDT

PLEASANT HILL — Drivers whose cars run on volts will be able to "fill up" soon in Pleasant Hill.

The city is installing electric car charging stations in three locations — the City Hall parking lot, the parking garage near the movie theater in the downtown shopping center and the city vehicle parking lot.

"We want to roll this out in our city and have this available to the public as well," said Bob Costa, maintenance superintendent.

Costa said Pleasant Hill doesn't have any electric vehicles yet, but city leaders hope to buy a few with grant money or to get a free one through a partnership with a car company.

511 Contra Costa, a group which advocates "green commutes" such as carpooling, walking, cycling and taking public transportation, paid about \$10,000 for the charging units, according to Corinne Dutra-Roberts, senior transportation analyst. The chargers will accommodate 110-volt and 220-volt plug-in electric and hybrid vehicles.

When the charging stations are installed in the next 30 to 60 days, Pleasant Hill will join Walnut Creek, San Francisco and San Jose on the network run by Campbell-based Coulomb Technologies. To use the charging stations, motorists must subscribe to the firm's ChargePoint Network and pay \$3 per session.

511 Contra Costa is paying for the charging stations with funds generated by a half-cent sales tax in Contra Costa County. The cities are responsible for the maintenance.

Dutra-Roberts said city leaders initially express interest in electric vehicle charging stations when they are either drafting climate action plans or seeking ways to reduce the city's carbon footprint. But eventually, she says, they realize the potential to generate greenbacks by going

"It's usually through discussion that they come to realize it can be a marketing tool for economic development," Dutra-Roberts said.

511 Contra Costa has purchased electric vehicle charging stations for Walnut Creek. Martinez, which recently adopted a climate action plan, could be next on the list.

Walnut Creek installed the stations in three city-owned parking garages in the downtown shopping district last month. The city is offering free charges for the rest of the year. So far, the system has not experienced any glitches, according to Matt Huffaker, public services business manager.

"It's going well. We've received a lot of interest from the community in terms of coming in and picking up the (free) access cards for the charging stations," he said. "Initial reports have shown that they are being used from time to time, mostly on the weekends."

As more automakers build electric and hybrid vehicles — and the cars become more popular with consumers — cities and businesses have a greater incentive to install the infrastructure to support them. For example, a McDonald's restaurant in North Carolina has installed electric car charging stations, the first in the nation to do so.

---

Lisa P. White covers Pleasant Hill and Martinez. Reach her at 925-943-8011 or [lwhite@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:lwhite@bayareanewsgroup.com).

## Report: Honda to sell electric cars in US

By TOMOKO A. HOSAKA Associated Press Writer

Posted: 08/22/2009 02:22:15 AM PDT

Updated: 08/22/2009 02:22:15 AM PDT

TOKYO—Honda Motor Co. plans to introduce electric vehicles in the U.S. early next decade, joining a growing number of automakers vying for the lead in clean technology development, local media reported Saturday.

Japan's second-biggest car maker, which has focused on gas-electric hybrids so far, is building an all-electric prototype to be unveiled at the Tokyo Motor Show in October, according to the Nikkei financial newspaper. It said Honda would begin sales of electric vehicles in the United States in the first half of the decade.

A Honda spokesman said the Tokyo-based company has begun to develop electric vehicles, but has not decided on a release date. He declined to be named, citing company policy.

Honda released its new Insight earlier this year, billing it as the cheapest gas-electric hybrid on the market, to compete with Toyota Motor Corp.'s top-selling Prius.

But with U.S. environmental regulations expected to toughen, automakers are stepping up efforts to release zero-emission cars.

Honda has leased a small number of its FCX Clarity hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to customers in Southern California since last year. Their high development cost, however, prompted Honda to consider adding electric cars to its lineup, the Nikkei said.

Among its rivals, Nissan Motor Co. is set to begin selling its Leaf electric hatchback in the U.S., Europe and Japan next year. Toyota Motor Corp. has said it plans to launch electric models by 2012.

Advertisement



In June, Mitsubishi Motors Corp. launched its own electric vehicle, the 4.59 million yen (\$48,300) i-MiEV. Ford's first battery electric vehicle, the Transit Connect commercial van, is to be available next year, while General Motors Corp. is set to release its Chevrolet Volt next year, a rechargeable electric car with a small internal combustion engine that the company says will get

up to 230 miles per gallon (98 kilometers per liter) in city driving.

The Obama administration in June said Ford, Nissan and Tesla Motors Inc. would be the first three beneficiaries of a \$25 billion fund to develop fuel-efficient vehicles.