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Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

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Gray Davis
Governor

September 19, 2000

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TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS TO
THE ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE REGULATIONS

At its September 7 and 8 meeting, the Air Resources Board considered the status of the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program. After hearing extensive testimony and public comment, the Board by unanimous vote adopted a resolution affirming that the ZEV program is an essential component of the State's long-term air quality strategy. The Board further resolved that the basic ZEV requirements be retained and implemented in California. Finally, the Board directed staff to develop and propose regulatory modifications and other steps that address the challenges associated with the successful long-term implementation of the ZEV program, and that result in a sustainable market for ZEVs. In particular the Board identified the need for near-term product availability and market stability, the need to greatly enhance public education regarding the attributes and benefits of ZEV technologies, and the need to reduce or mitigate the high initial costs of vehicles and batteries in low-volume production.

In response to the Board's directive, staff will be developing recommendations to be brought before the Board at a January 25, 2001 public hearing. As a first step in developing possible regulatory changes, staff will hold a workshop to present possible approaches and receive public comment. The workshop agenda and related materials will be made available prior to the workshop on the ARB web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/zevprog/2000review/2000review.htm> or by contacting staff listed below. Details of the workshop are as follows:

Date: October 25, 2000
Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Location: Air Resources Board
Annex IV
9530 Telstar Avenue
El Monte, California
Staff Contact: Chuck Shulock, (916) 322-6964, cshulock@arb.ca.gov

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Staff anticipates that there will be considerable public interest in this workshop, and that many speakers may wish to provide comment. Because the time available for each presentation at the workshop may be limited, those interested in providing comment at the workshop are encouraged to provide written statements as well.

For your information, the Air Resources Board maintains a list serve area for the 2000 ZEV Review. If you sign up for this list serve, you will receive an e-mail notice when new information has been posted to the 2000 ZEV Review web site. To subscribe to the 2000 ZEV review list serve, please send an e-mail to:

Majordomo@listserv.arb.ca.gov

In the message type:

subscribe zev-2000-review jpublic@anywhere.com
where "jpublic@anywhere.com" is your e-mail address.

After authenticating this request, you will receive an automatic message confirming that you have successfully subscribed. If you have questions concerning the list serve, please contact Ms. Lisa Kasper at (916) 327-2932 or lkasper@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division