

Labor & Workforce Development Agency (LWDA)

LWDA and the departments within, including the California Workforce Development Board, and the Employment Training Panel, is positioned to support industry growth through job training and supportive services for workers, with an emphasis on quality jobs.

Equity: Continue to focus programmatic and policy work directly on building economic opportunity and mobility for those who have been marginalized, disadvantaged, and/or denied opportunity.

The Labor & Workforce Development Agency, and the departments within, commits to the following three objectives in order to help further the development of a robust and equitable zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) industry in California. The italicized text is directly from the ZEV Market Development Strategy, whereas the underlined text is intended to provide a clearer and more ZEV-specific statement of the CWDB's purpose.

(1) Program Development and Administration – Support Workforce Training and Development Infrastructure for the ZEV Industry in California.

(2) Policy and Program Alignment – Maximize Economic Equity Benefits of Public Investments in ZEVs.

(3) Local Guidance – Inform the Local Workforce System about Supporting ZEV Market Development.

1) Program Development and Administration – Support Workforce Training and Development Infrastructure for the ZEV Industry in California.

Key Actions, Dates, and Collaborators:

Background: *Across all our programs, LWDA supports workforce training and development that is intended to address income inequality and mobility, economic competitiveness, and climate change through regional, industry specific skills-building designed to advance economically and environmentally resilient communities across the state.*

LWDA expects the 2024 work plan to include similar actions carried out in this section in 2023, namely: providing grant funding, technical assistance, and peer-to-peer support to industry-based training partnerships that help the State meet its ZEV and ZEV-related targets.

2) Policy and Program Alignment – Maximize Economic Equity Benefits of Public Investments in ZEVs and ZEV-related industries.

Key Actions, Dates, and Collaborators:

Background: LWDA provides technical assistance to state agencies committed to supporting workforce training and development in occupations within the zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure sector. LWDA promotes measures that address job access for priority communities directly (e.g., targeted hire goals and recruitment planning requirements), as well as measures to improve the quality of jobs created or supported by public investment (e.g., wage and benefit standards and worker safety training requirements) so that more high-quality jobs are available in the first place.

2a) Assist the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in ensuring transportation electrification (TE) programs and policies deliver equitable labor market outcomes (e.g., high-quality job creation and greater access to high-quality jobs and/or training for priority populations).

- Key collaborators: LWDA, CWDB, ETP, and CPUC (Energy Division, other divisions/units as appropriate). May also engage electric utilities, labor unions, CWDB's grantees, the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, or others as appropriate.

2b) Assist the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in aligning Low Carbon Transportation Program investments with a focus on high-quality job and ensuring programs deliver equitable labor market outcomes (e.g., high-quality job creation and greater access to high-quality jobs and/or training for priority populations).

- Key collaborators: LWDA, CWDB, ETP, and CARB (Mobile Source Control Division and other MSCD branches/units as appropriate). May also engage CARB's Clean Transportation Program and related work group participants, CWDB's grantees, the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, or others as appropriate.

2c) Assist the California Energy Commission (CEC) and Lithium Valley Commission (LVC) in promoting and executing on economic and workforce development associated with the development of geothermal power and co-located lithium recovery efforts in the Salton Sea region, to ensure high-quality job creation, employment and associated workforce development of local area residents, and sustainable community development.

- Key collaborators: LWDA, CWDB, ETP, CEC, Lithium Valley Commission, local Building Trades Councils (BTCs covering Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego counties), and local workforce investment boards (WIBs covering Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego Counties). May also engage the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, or others as appropriate.

3) Local Guidance – Inform the Local Workforce System about Supporting ZEV Market Development.

Key Actions, Dates, and Collaborators:

Background: LWDA, and the departments within, are responsible for the oversight and continuous improvement of the workforce system in California, of which 45 Local Areas – each with its own Local Workforce Development Board (Local Board) – are a part. CWDB develops a state strategic plan every four years (modifications are made every 2 years) that serves as the framework for the development of public policy, fiscal investment, and operation of the state workforce and education system. In addition, the CWDB and the Employment Development Department issue directives, information notices, and policy briefs as needed to help guide or inform the activities and objectives of Local Boards.

3a) Review Local Board and Regional Plan modifications to identify workforce boards with existing or future plans to focus on meeting the needs of ZEV-related industries.

- Key collaborators: CWDB, Employment Development Department, LWDA

3b) Share funding opportunities with Local Boards and other local agencies to ensure they maximize state investments in the ZEV industry.

- Key collaborators: CWDB, various state agencies with state investments in the ZEV industry.