# ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE STATION SIGN INSTALLATION GUIDE

## Background

California is the largest market in the United States for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and approximately half of all ZEVs in the nation are sold in the state. Executive Order B-48-18 highlights the importance of ZEVs in reducing greenhouse gas and other harmful vehicle emissions, and calls for State entities to work with the private sector and all appropriate levels of government to put at least 5 million zero-emission vehicles on California roads by 2030, and to spur the construction and installation of 200 hydrogen fueling stations and 250,000 zero-emission vehicle chargers, including 10,000 direct current fast chargers, by 2025. Installation of signage directing consumers to charging and fueling stations supports these goals and improves public confidence that charging and fueling are available.

## Signage Installation Steps

The sign installation process is the same for plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) charging stations and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) fueling stations. The sign approval and installation process typically takes four to six months so it is recommended that the applicant contact state and local agencies when planning to install a station.

**Step 1 -** ***Identify Location and Number of Follow-up Signs on Local Roads.*** Follow-up signs direct consumers to the charging or fueling station once they exit the State Highway System. Follow-up signing, if necessary, shall be placed by local agencies (city or county) before signs are placed on the State highway. The applicant works with the city or county to locate and install adequate follow-up signs on local roads.

City or County agencies follow their own guidance, codes, and time frames when placing follow-up signs. Early engagement with the local agencies is recommended to ensure clear understanding of specific city and county processes and requirements.

**Step 2 -** ***Initiate Request for Signs on the State Highway System.*** Before the charging or fueling station is open, applicants may request sign installation along the State Highway System by contacting the **Caltrans District Sign Coordinator**. Caltrans may begin its sign approval process in advance of, or parallel with, the follow-up signs being installed on local roads. Upon receiving a request, the Caltrans District Sign Coordinator determines the sign and location based on the requirements set forth in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD):

- The station is within 3 miles of a State highway interchange
- The station is available to the public at least 16 hours a day

Once the signs are approved for installation, Caltrans orders the signs and installs them on the State Highway System. Figures 1-4 show standard signs. Remember, follow-up signs on local roads must be installed prior to sign installation on the State Highway System.

**Step 3 -** ***Caltrans Installs Signs on the State Highway System.*** Caltrans will pay for PEV charging station or FCEV hydrogen fueling station standard signs on the State Highway System.

The FAST header plaque or HYDROGEN supplemental plaque may be used to supplement the PEV or FCEV station signs. A FAST Vehicle Charging Station is where the rate of battery electric charging is at least 20 kWh in a 30-minute period. Fast charging stations include direct current (DC) fast charging and battery switching.

For more information, see Chapter 2I - General Service Signs in the **CA MUTCD**.

**Figures 1-5 show standard signage.**


Figure 1


Figure 2


Figure 3


Figure 4


Figure 5