To the Mayor and Members of the Carlsbad City Council

Carlsbad has ambitious goals to improve our local environment as set forth in the City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP). A significant part of the CAP is dedicated to improving our air quality. Historically the Transportation sector was deemed responsible for contributing 39% of all Green House Gas Emissions (GHG) in Carlsbad. However we are aware there was an error in the calculation of this amount, and that Staff will be submitting a report to the Council that puts GHG emissions from the Transportation sector at or near 50%. We would like the Council to consider a proposal to reduce the GHG emissions from the Transportation sector and at the same time help in some small way with the widespread economic disruption that has occurred in light of the Coronavirus.

Proposal: Provide incentives to Carlsbad residents purchasing or leasing Electric Vehicles (EV) or Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) from Carlsbad Businesses

Currently the Federal Government provides tax credits to purchasers of EV and certain PHEV. However these expire as automakers sell 200,000 units. These rebates have expired for General Motors and Tesla. As EV adoption continues, this credit will expire for other manufacturers. The state rebate has been reduced. Historical data suggests these rebates promote alternate fuel vehicles.

We propose the City provide Carlsbad residents only, with a rebate of $500 for the purchase or lease on an EV or PHEV, for the first 1000 residents to sign up for the program, provided that the vehicle is acquired from a Carlsbad Business. The City may want to consider making the amount larger if people qualify as low income.

Most dealerships in Carlsbad Car Country offer at least a PHEV if not a BEV. In addition Tesla has a showroom in Carlsbad.

Removing cars powered by fossil fuels will dramatically reduce GHG emissions from the Transportation sector. Adding additional EVs will assist the City to meet one of the benchmarks of its CAP, to increase Zero Emission Vehicle miles driven in Carlsbad to 35% by 2035. In addition our proposal will benefit Carlsbad residents and businesses in these difficult times.

The Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE), located here in San Diego, administers the State’s rebate program for EV and PHEV. Assuming Council wants to explore this further, this may be a ready made in place
administrative service to implement the program, without unnecessarily burdening City Staff.

We believe this program could be funded by the City’s Economic Uncertainty Reserve Fund, which we understand has a balance of $11 Million. Alternatively if there are funds allocated to meeting the CAP, they could also be utilized.

This funding would be an excellent use of a relatively nominal amount to promote clean air in Carlsbad, and provide assistance to a number of Carlsbad businesses. Thank you for considering our proposal.

Respectfully Submitted

My Generation Carlsbad Team

Simon Freedman