

## ABSTRACT

State Perspective on Implementing Fuel Cell Technology

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The primary mission of the California Air Resources Board (ARB) is to ensure the continued improvement of the air quality in California for the citizens of our State and to promote clean air technologies that can advance the State's economy. ARB focuses on technologies that hold the promise to provide California with clean, zero-emission power. Fuel cells are possibly the most viable and promising clean technology for stationary and transportation power applications. ARB is involved in projects that provide state support, both financial and non-financial, to the commercialization of fuel cells in stationary and transportation applications. Support for the stationary and distributed power generation applications are growing rapidly while support for the transportation sector is well established within the Agency. The most visible and well supported is the California Fuel Cell Partnership (CaFCP). ARB is involved in the light-duty and heavy-duty projects within the CaFCP. Other fuel cell transportation projects that the Agency is supporting include a hydrogen/air fuel cell powered Water Taxi and an auxiliary power unit (APU) for heavy-duty, diesel powered trucks.

ARB recognizes the value of joint ventures characterized as partnerships. The best recognized public-private project to commercialize fuel cells is the CaFCP. The role of ARB within the CaFCP is to facilitate the private members' (auto manufacturers, fuel suppliers and technology suppliers) efforts to commercialize fuel cell vehicles (FCVs). In addition to the close private-public organizational ties that have formed, the CaFCP has provided a venue to promote organization between the Local, State and Federal Government members. The implementation of fuel cells in the future of California's energy structure remains a revolutionary idea that will require the cooperation and dedication of participants in multiple public-private projects. The vision is revolutionary and the risks cannot be ignored but the potential payoff is incalculable when we consider the health and well-being of our citizens.