



Mesalands Community College

911 South 10th Street, Tucumcari, New Mexico 88401

Date: 2024-03-08

To: New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

From: Mesalands Community College
911 South 10th Street
Tucumcari, NM 88401

Re: Letter of Support for the Transportation Hub / increasing the share of Hydrogen and electric light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles, also to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure
Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07

Greetings New Mexico Environment Department (NMED),

Mesalands Community College stands committed to the transportation hub idea along I-40 and increasing the share of hydrogen, electric light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles, also to expand the electric vehicle charging infrastructure because the measure will. Prepare Tucumcari for the next generation of transportation that will greatly reduce the amount of internal combustion engine traffic and increase the number of electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles that will reduce air pollution. The hub will allow travelers a place to rest, recharge, refresh, repair, and possibly educate on the Mesalands Campus. This would benefit the local economy and create jobs. Tucumcari is listed as a disadvantaged community that does need a boost to help it grow and thrive. This will also help Mesalands become a renewable energy oasis that will help power the future and train future technicians in clean wind, solar, battery and hydrogen technologies.

Mesalands Community College's involvement with the project includes overall concept design in consultation with engineers and architects and OEM's. To put together a concept that meets the need of the overall vision and mission of the transport hubs. Mesalands could negotiate a PPA with our power production from our wind turbine. Any net metered power from future solar installations not directly used by the net metered building could be made available to charge batteries and power charging stations. Managing the construction and operation of the center would be left to the state or contracted out. Internships will be given to Mesalands students who will be future managers of transport hubs specializing in electric and hydrogen transportation, renewable energy, and commercial scale batteries. Designing for expansion and ever-changing technology will be key.

Year one: Design concept with major player input. Release RFP and choose best candidate. Break ground and do civil work.

Year two: Construction of a solar field battery storage and charging stations along with hydrogen station. Outreach and advertising for customers and future students to provide the workforce.

Interview and hiring of permanent staff / cadre to train safety considerations and new technology. Internship program put in place and candidates trained.

Year Three: Grand opening. Programs solidified. Standard operating procedures published.

Year Four: Fine tune, adjust and refit where needed.

Year Five: All construction complete, customers served, training programs completed and accredited.

Mesalands Community College commitment will allow NMED to implement the measure more effectively by training the next workforce that does not actually exist at this time. We have many parts or puzzle pieces that will fit but this will bring the renewable and sustainable program together to complete a transportation piece that is very much needed to bring prosperity to this region for years to come.

Tucumcari has been bypassed before when the interstate was built our downtown and route 66 died. When trucking companies no longer were held to the 55mph speed limit they did not need to stop in for an overnight stay, they could make it from Amarillo to Albuquerque in a day. Other transportation laws and initiatives have made it difficult to truck from Tucumcari and when the railroad no longer stopped in town we lost at least five major trucking companies. Our community has gone from 10-12,000 to under 5,000 people presently. Our tax base is not nearly sufficient to maintain the large infrastructure. Every development like this transportation hub brings great hope to a depressed town. When a community sees hope like this morale changes, we take more pride in our town, our streets, and our landscape. It is the hope of the Director of renewable and sustainable technology to help others develop a self-sustained training and actionable transportation hub.

In conclusion, Mesalands Community College urges NMED to apply for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant opportunity to support this measure and requests the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to award the funds to support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Allen Moss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Allen Moss, Interim President