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## **Valley Air District helps fund the largest rural deployment of solar powered electric vehicle charging stations in the country**

*State and local officials gather for ribbon cutting ceremony to showcase the EV ARC*

Together with the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), the California Energy Commission, CALSTART and CalTrans, Valley Air District officials celebrated the completion of the Valley's first solar electric vehicle (EV) charging station project. With locations in all of Fresno County's rural cities, this project marks the largest deployment in the Valley and highlights the regions progressive efforts to establish a footprint for clean technology.

"The Valley continues to be a national leader in innovative projects designed to improve our air quality, stated Seyed Sadredin, Valley Air District Air Pollution Control Officer / Executive Director. "These types of innovative partnerships will be instrumental as the Valley works hard to meeting increasingly stricter federal air quality goals."

The Valley Air District understands the unique barriers and challenges that the Valley faces with respect to EV adoption and encourages public agencies and businesses to establish EV charging infrastructure by offering incentive funding through its Charge Up! Program.

In total, 13 transportable solar EV Level 2 Dual Port charging stations are now actively in use throughout Fresno County. They are known as Electric Vehicle Autonomous Renewable Chargers (EV ARC). The EV ARC is a product of Envision Solar and features a unique patented sun tracking system that allows for optimal electricity generation by following the natural course of the sun throughout the day. Each unit also contains an integrated off-grid battery storage which delivers up to 200 "e" miles daily and allows use during the day, night, and during power outages. The ARCs do not require any permits, foundations, or electrical connections and can be easily moved to a new location within minutes.

FCRTA spearheaded the project with support from CALSTART's Clean Transportation Center and worked to establish access in all 13 of Fresno County's rural, and often disadvantaged, communities. Each dual port ARC will not only provide much needed public charging access but also have a dedicated charging port for City transit systems and utility vehicles. These units are located in Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg, Reedley, San Joaquin, Kerman, Coalinga, Huron, Parlier, Orange Cove, Mendota, Firebaugh and Sanger.

"The Energy Commission is proud to be a partner in this and ongoing efforts to help the San Joaquin Valley attain its air quality goals by accelerating the use of zero emission vehicles and clean fuels," said Janea A. Scott, Commissioner at the California Energy Commission. "This inventive project expands public access around Fresno to charging infrastructure, supporting adoption of zero emission vehicles and helping to meet federal, state, and local goals to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

The total cost of this project was \$800,000 with the Valley Air District providing \$78,000 through the Charge Up! Program which is funded through locally generated DMV fees. The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency incurred the remaining balance through a Caltrans grant.

To learn more about the Charge Up! Program, please visit [www.valleyair.org/ChargeUp](http://www.valleyair.org/ChargeUp) or call program staff at 559-230-5800. The FCRTA can be reached at 559-233-6789 ext. 244.