Silicon Valley Transportation Electrification Clearinghouse (SVTEC)
Meeting Notes
3/26/20

Don Bray, Director of Account Services and Community Relations at Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) led off the meeting with an overview of the agenda and introductions of the staff and participants. He recapped SVCE's mission and recapped the goal of, and progress towards, reducing emissions for all its member communities; with half of emissions in the area from transportation, electrification of that sector is an obvious next step. The EV Joint Action Plan developed late last year guides the work.

Zoe Elizabeth, Senior Energy Consultant, reviewed the mission of SVTEC, "A collaboration of public, private, and nonprofit sector leaders working to advance EV adoption in Silicon Valley by overcoming policy, regulatory, financial, and knowledge-based barriers", and encouraged members to stay in touch between quarterly meetings. She emphasized the strategies we will pursue to help expedite EV infrastructure adoption, including accessing EV funding opportunities (new online tool to be previewed today), identifying and overcoming key barriers to EV adoption (more on that from RMI ahead), providing high-impact education, recognizing and publicizing best practices from our region (regional recognition program to be discussed later), and cultivating relationships and collaboration (as we are doing now).

Zoe then introduced Chris Nelder & Emily Rogers from the Rocky Mountain Institute to provide an overview of their report, *"[The Hidden Costs of EV Infrastructure](#)"*. The slides outline the report's major finding that 'soft costs' are the largest and yet most variable component of EV infrastructure development and remain poorly understood. They categorize the major soft costs buckets as:

- Communication Between Utilities and EVSPs
- Future-Proofing
- Easement Processes
- Complex Codes
- Complex and Inconsistent Permitting Processes

Chris and Emily walked through their slides highlighting and detailing those costs and some solutions and best practices they encountered in the process.

Questions and Answers

When you say install conduit, is that just PVC pipe? I'm thinking about how much guessing is needed to make a decision about upsizing.
Yes, just PVC usually; your site engineer can make that assessment.

How might soft costs vary for DCFC installations vs. L1/L2 installations?
Did not look at L1; some info is relevant to L2; it's mostly about DCFC and larger installations.

Thank you Chris. Regarding the federal ADA recommendations, can you touch on timelines for that adoption at the federal level?
Sorry, there is not federal standardization process underway, but there could/should be.
… wishful thinking. ;) thank you

Thanks Chris and Emily. The City of Fresno was an example of streamlining permitting. In your research did you come across any examples of utilities that have made progress in communicating interconnection/capacity clearly?
Southern California Edison, maybe; communications & site selection assistance.
Not a lot of recognition of the problems, so not a lot of best practices!

You mentioned Fresno as a leader in simplifying permitting. How can cities find the details of what they've done?
- SVCE will be sharing more info about Fresno.
- Will also send the final GO-Biz handbook.

Questions that came in later:

Did your research yield why cities have cumbersome processes that would highlight how we as implementers can prepare/assist/suggest changes and best practices.

Re: permitting / streamlining, would be great to have an expert review of our current permitting process (residential + commercial) to see if there are improvements we could make.

Zoe and Don then conducted a poll of the participants:

Which of the following challenges are most important for advancing EV adoption in our region?
Top Challenges:
1. Codes (building, electric, etc.)
   Communications with utility
2. Permitting
   Conflicting tenant/landlord priorities
   Insufficient funding

Which of the following challenges should SVTEC prioritize to support?
Top Challenges:
1. Insufficient funding
2. Future proofing challenges/costs
3. Codes (building, electric, etc.)
   Permitting
   Communications with utility

Don answered a question about how to future-proof, which is a somewhat nebulous concept but requires looking ahead on demand and technology issues to be versatile when planning is underway.

Zoe then introduced a new webpage for SVTEC, http://www.svcleanenergy.org/svtec, which houses an EV funding resources spreadsheet that is viewable online and available for download. Don emphasized that the funding opportunities marked as In Development in the Status column may be the most important to track on so you can be prepared to file for those programs when they open. Please note that meeting materials will also be posted to this page.

Zoe provided an update on Regional Recognition, launching in mid-May, that will culminate in an awards ceremony. It will look similar to the Electric Showcase Awards, with case studies (in the first year), and the call for projects will encompass projects of all types and sizes.

The DCFC project has launched, with an emphasis on increasing charging opportunities at multi-family residences. The application is online at https://www.svcleanenergy.org/dcfastchargers/ - contact Zoe or Justin Zagunis, justin.zagunis@svcleanenergy.org, for more information.

In closing, Zoe and Don announced that the next meeting (virtual or in-person) will be held in June.