

AGENDA ITEM 3 B
Information Item

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 3, 2025
TO: El Dorado County Transit Authority
FROM: Erik Bergren, Planning and Marketing Manager
SUBJECT: Status of Zero Emission Bus Transition

REQUESTED ACTION:
BY MOTION,

Information only.

BACKGROUND

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has mandated that all transit agencies transition to a Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) fleet by 2040. El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit), serving a population of 147,200 with a fleet of 28 commuter and motor coach buses for fixed-route services, is classified as a small transit agency under the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation. As part of this regulation, small transit agencies were required to submit a transition plan to CARB by July 1, 2023, and begin purchasing ZEBs by 2026. By 2028, at least 25% of all new heavy-duty bus purchases must be ZEBs, and by 2029, all new purchases must be 100% ZEBs.

DISCUSSION

During the March 2025 Board meeting, concerns were raised regarding the CARB-required ZEB transition for El Dorado Transit. Staff has determined it is appropriate to provide an update on the current efforts and long-term goals related to ZEB compliance.

To meet the ICT regulation, El Dorado Transit worked with Stantec Consulting to submit the ZEB Strategy and Final Report, which is available on the El Dorado Transit website in the Document Library. The Board approved the report on November 4, 2021, to outline the ZEB transition strategy for El Dorado Transit.

As part of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Project 22-03, El Dorado Transit secured \$2,251,157 in grant funding for the purchase of two (2) Battery Electric Buses (BEBs) to replace two (2) 2006 Bluebird buses that are beyond their useful life. These funds include Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5339 grants. Staff is currently in the early stages of purchasing the BEBs, which have an estimated two-year build time.

Additionally, through CIP Project 23-20, which involves the rehabilitation of the bus parking lot at the El Dorado Transit facility in Diamond Springs, underground conduit for electric bus wiring will be installed alongside resurfacing the lot. This project is fully funded and includes a \$355,500 contribution from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to assist with equipment and utility upgrades. This proactive measure ensures that the necessary infrastructure is in place without requiring disruption to the newly resurfaced asphalt in the future.

Currently, there are no additional planned ZEB purchases or infrastructure projects. Staff would like to assure the Board that El Dorado Transit is making steady progress toward meeting the CARB ZEB mandate, proceeding with caution and methodical planning while ensuring long-term compliance.