

Grant Summary: [GFO-25-607 - Hydrogen Infrastructure Project Opportunity \(HIPO\)](#)

Issuing Agency: California Energy Commission (CEC) – Clean Transportation Program

Submission Deadline: June 19, 2026;

Written Question Deadline: May 7, 2026

Overview: This is a competitive grant solicitation offering up to \$45 million to fund the deployment of hydrogen refueling infrastructure for light-, medium-, and/or heavy-duty fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) in California.

The \$45M is split:

- Up to \$21.2M dedicated to light-duty (LD) hydrogen refueling infrastructure
- Up to \$23.8M dedicated to light-, medium-, and/or heavy-duty infrastructure

Eligible Project Types: Applicants may propose one or more of the following:

1. **New hydrogen refueling stations** – emphasis on Santa Monica/West LA, San Francisco, Sacramento, and San Diego for LD vehicles, plus MD/HD uses (drayage, transit, port operations)
2. **Reopening temporarily non-operational (TNO) stations** that would not otherwise return to retail status
3. **Supplemental funding** for stations previously awarded under GFO-19-602 that are fully permitted but lack capital to finish construction
4. **Operations & Maintenance (O&M) funding** – only available as an add-on to one of the three project types above, therefore cannot be applied for independently and must be tied to an eligible project" in one of the three capital project categories

Funding Parameters

Project Type	Max Award Per Station
New infrastructure	\$15M (minimum 2 fueling positions; +\$1M per additional position)
Reopening TNO stations	\$2M
Supplement GFO-19-602 stations	\$500K
O&M (add-on only)	\$500K

- Only one application per applicant
- Minimum application: \$2M total
- Maximum application: \$15M total
- CEC covers up to 75% of total allowable project costs; applicants must provide at least 25% match funding; Reimbursable CapEx items include compressors, cryogenic pumps, dispensers, liquid hydrogen/cryogenic storage tanks, shipping, installation, point-of-sale systems, and commissioning. OpEx items are reimbursable only under O&M funding and include equipment maintenance, hydrogen supply, and cost of electricity/power.

Who Can Apply

- Public and private entities, California Native American Tribes and Tribal Organizations
- Ineligible: Investor-owned utilities, California state agencies, and U.S. federal agencies
- Applicants must have 50 or fewer active CEC-funded ZEV infrastructure projects at time of agreement execution
- At least 50% of proposed station locations must directly benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities

Key Project Requirements

- All LD stations must be publicly accessible
- New stations require a minimum of two fueling positions
- Stations must operate for a minimum of six years
- Private Access MDHD projects must commit to at least 5 FCEVs per fueling position
- Projects must deploy infrastructure within California for vehicles operating in-state at least 51% of the time
- Equipment must meet California hydrogen fuel quality standards (SAE J2719) and withstand extreme weather conditions

Evaluation & Award Process: Applications are evaluated in three stages:

1. Administrative & Technical Screening – pass/fail
2. Technical Evaluation – minimum score of 70% overall, and at least 70% on both Project Readiness and Project Budget criteria
3. Cost Evaluation – ranked by lowest cost per refueling position and lowest cost per kg of capacity (lower cost = higher score)

Key Dates

Activity	Date
Solicitation Released	April 6, 2026
Pre-Application Workshop (Zoom)	April 23, 2026
Written Questions Deadline	May 7, 2026
Q&A Distribution	Week of May 18, 2026
Application Deadline	June 19, 2026
Notice of Proposed Awards	Week of July 20, 2026
CEC Business Meeting	October 2026

Contact: Carissa Peri, Commission Agreement Officer, Carissa.Peri@energy.ca.gov, California Energy Commission, 715 P Street, MS-1, Sacramento, CA 95814