

For Immediate Release: June 29, 2014

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East Los Angeles Charged Up about Electric Vehicles Rebate/Loan/Financing Options Proposed for Low-income Californians

EAST LOS ANGELES – Community members joined Senate President pro Tempore-elect Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) today to learn about how electric vehicles can reduce air pollution, improve health and save working families money in communities throughout California that are disproportionately impacted by air pollution.

The Electric Vehicle Fair, held in conjunction with a Senior Health Fair hosted by White Memorial Medical Center, provided many community members with a first-time opportunity to check out electric cars and learn about rebate, loan and financing options, as well as to learn about electric trucks and buses, and to envision a clean air future for East Los Angeles.

"To clean up our dirty air, we need to make electric cars more accessible for our middle- and low-income families, not just the wealthy," said Senator De León. "By increasing targeted rebate, loan and carpooling/van sharing programs, California can lead the way for a cleaner and healthier environment."



Senator De León test drives a Chevy Spark EV from Camino Real Chevrolet in Monterey Park

Sunday's Fair introduced East Los Angeles to the [Charge Ahead California](#) campaign to put 1 million electric vehicles on California roads in the next decade and ensure that low-income households benefit from zero tailpipe emissions. The Charge Ahead California campaign is leading the effort which inspired Senate Bill 1275 (De León), which is supported by the Coalition for Clean Air, Communities for a Better Environment, Environment California, The Greenlining Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Most recently, on June 23, 2014, SB 1275

was approved by the Assembly Natural Resources committee, after passing through the full Senate in late May with strong bipartisan support.

"Pollution from the production and burning of fossil fuels impacts the health and well being of Californians—especially low income communities of color," said Roberto Cabrales, community organizer with Communities for a Better Environment. "We want to ensure all Californians, regardless of income, can access to clean transportation."



Senator De León and volunteers from Communities for a Better Environment pose in front of a Nissan Leaf from Glendale Nissan.

Everyone—from children to senior citizens—is impacted by air pollution. Sunday's event offered activities for all age groups, with children coloring pictures of clean electric cars to adults competing for prizes in lively games of "Charge Ahead Lotería," an electric vehicle themed version of the popular game of chance.

"It's great to see Angelenos embracing electric vehicles as our future because we cannot leave the health of our planet or our communities to chance," said Michelle Kinman, clean energy advocate with Environment California. "It's time to charge ahead, break our dependence on oil, clean up our air, improve our health and protect our climate."

The Electric Vehicle Fair came just two days after the Los Angeles City Council voted to endorse SB 1275, the Charge Ahead California sponsored legislation.

The electric cars for the event were provided by Camino Real Chevrolet in Monterey Park, Central Ford in South Gate, and Glendale Nissan.