



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Uriel Rivas  
(209) 761-6621

[Uriel.rivas@valleycan.org](mailto:Uriel.rivas@valleycan.org)

## **Toyota and Chevron support Valley CAN on fuel cell electric vehicle pilot program in San Joaquin Valley**

*First-of-its-kind program will replace old, conventional vehicles with certified pre-owned, zero-emission hydrogen-fueled cars to local Valley residents*

COALINGA, CA – Toyota Motor North America (Toyota) and Chevron are supporting Valley Clean Air Now (Valley CAN) to establish a first-of-its-kind pilot program to provide hydrogen-powered certified pre-owned, zero-emission Toyota Mirai Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV) at no cost to 27 San Joaquin Valley residents to replace their older gasoline-powered cars. The program, offering a way to provide access to zero-emission vehicles to more people to quantifiably reduce air emissions in the San Joaquin Valley, also provides participants with \$15,000 prepaid fuel cards intended to cover the cost of three years' worth of hydrogen fuel.

“This pilot is a great example of how partners can come together with creative solutions for the communities with the greatest transportation challenges,” said Tom Knox, executive director of Valley CAN. “With the skyrocketing cost of both used cars and fuel, this pilot provides needed relief to more than two dozen hardworking families.”

Working with local community groups, Valley CAN conducted an extensive outreach campaign in Coalinga and adjacent communities in the San Joaquin Valley region to identify program participants, prioritizing the local residents most in need of more affordable and reliable transportation options, while also supporting zero-emission goals. As part of the program, the recipients would provide quantitative and qualitative data such as the number of miles traveled, how much fuel is used, their personal user experience, etc. over the period.

“Decarbonizing transportation requires expanding electrified vehicles in both urban and rural communities and to drivers of all income levels,” said Tom Stricker, group vice president, Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs of Toyota. “Our hope is that this program will help create awareness of the benefits of fuel cell technology in areas where people travel longer distances for work, school, and recreation and may not have access to charging.”

The three-year pilot program will generate significant cost savings for participating San Joaquin Valley residents, many of whom face higher-than-average transportation costs due to longer commutes with their older, less-efficient vehicles.

Using their Mirai, participants are expected to save an average of \$5,700 in annual fuel and maintenance costs compared with their former vehicles, totaling more than \$17,000 in savings per household over the course of the program.

“Thanks to Toyota and Chevron’s partnership with Valley CAN, our West Valley residents can soon replace their older, dirty cars with zero-emission vehicles,” said Mayor Alvaro Preciado of Avenal. “The savings in fuel come at a critical time in the community. Hydrogen vehicles will play a critical role in our fight to reduce emissions in the Valley.”

The program will directly reduce criteria pollutant emissions by replacing older traditional vehicles with newer zero-emission FCEVs. The annual vehicle emissions reductions resulting from these 27 vehicle replacements include 520 pounds of hydrocarbons (HC), 460 pounds of carbon monoxide (CO), and 60 pounds of oxides of nitrogen (NOx)

The program will also produce a study that will provide much-needed data on the benefits that fuel cell electric vehicles can provide to residents of underserved communities – especially long-range commuters and farmworkers – that can help inform equitable zero-emission vehicle policy as well as future efforts to deploy FCEVs in local communities. The study will also examine the economic benefits of eliminating most transportation costs for low-income commuters, which are a known inhibitor of upward mobility for working families.

“As we work to identify solutions to accelerate equitable access to zero-emission vehicles in communities throughout California, we need to look at ways to creatively solve these issues with the tools available to us,” said Tyson Eckerle, Deputy Director, Zero Emission Vehicle Market Development at GO-Biz. “This innovative and collaborative program presents a great opportunity to explore what’s possible with our existing tools that can help expand clean, reliable and affordable transportation options in the communities that need them most.”

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### **About Valley Clean Air Now**

*Valley Clean Air Now (Valley CAN), is a 501(c)(3) public charity committed to quantifiably reducing air emissions in California’s San Joaquin Valley, the region with the worst air quality in the United States. We seek to improve public health and quality of life in disadvantaged communities by qualifying low-income residents for multiple incentive-based programs. We primarily focus on vehicle repair and replacement programs, which aim to reduce air pollution, address climate issues, and reduce transportation costs.*

### **About Toyota**

*Toyota (NYSE:TM) has been a part of the cultural fabric in the U.S. for more than 60 years, and is*

*committed to advancing sustainable, next-generation mobility through our Toyota and Lexus brands, plus our nearly 1,500 dealerships.*

*Toyota directly employs more than 39,000 people in the U.S. who have contributed to the design, engineering, and assembly of nearly 32 million cars and trucks at our nine manufacturing plants. By 2025, Toyota's 10th plant in North Carolina will begin to manufacture automotive batteries for electrified vehicles. With more electrified vehicles on the road than any other automaker, a quarter of the company's 2021 U.S. sales were electrified.*

*To help inspire the next generation for a career in STEM-based fields, including mobility, Toyota launched its virtual education hub at [www.TourToyota.com](http://www.TourToyota.com) with an immersive experience and chance to virtually visit many of our U.S. manufacturing facilities. The hub also includes a series of free STEM-based lessons and curriculum through Toyota USA Foundation partners, virtual field trips and more. For more information about Toyota, visit [www.ToyotaNewsroom.com](http://www.ToyotaNewsroom.com).*

## **About Chevron**

*Chevron is one of the world's leading integrated energy companies. We believe affordable, reliable and ever-cleaner energy is essential to achieving a more prosperous and sustainable world. Chevron produces crude oil and natural gas; manufactures transportation fuels, lubricants, petrochemicals and additives; and develops technologies that enhance our business and the industry. We are focused on lowering the carbon intensity in our operations and seeking to grow lower carbon businesses along with our traditional business lines. More information about Chevron is available at [www.chevron.com](http://www.chevron.com).*