

Electric cars aren't just a big-city thing. That's what put a charge into this rural project

By Marc Benjamin

The Fresno Bee, Thursday, May 25, 2017

Thirteen free-to-use charging stations for electric vehicles have opened in Fresno County's rural cities.

Every incorporated city in the county now has a place to charge a car. The latest launch didn't happen in Fresno or Clovis, both of which already have charging sites.

The new chargers are fueled by photovoltaic solar cells, which are designed to make the devices emissions-free. And, to repeat, there is no charge to use them.

The communities that received charging access: Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg, Reedley, San Joaquin, Kerman, Coalinga, Huron, Parlier, Orange Cove, Mendota, Firebaugh and Sanger. All the stations are at city halls except Fowler's, which is outside the library, Kerman's at the city's Community Center, and Kingsburg's, which is at the library.

The cost of the project was \$800,000. Valley Air District provided \$78,000 through the Charge Up! Program, which is funded through local DMV fees. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency paid the remaining balance with a Caltrans grant.

The Valley is one of the fastest growing regions of the state for sales of electric vehicles, said John Boesel, chief executive officer for CALSTART, a clean transportation technology industry organization.

"It's the first rural county in the nation to develop a network of solar-powered electric-vehicle chargers," he said.

Boesel said demand for the chargers in rural communities already exists: "Before today's event, people were pulling up to power their cars."

The project is a cooperative effort of CALSTART, Valley Air District, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, the California Energy Commission, Caltrans and Envision Solar.

Fresno County solar electric vehicle charging network established

The Business Journal, Wednesday, May 24, 2017

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is celebrating the completion of a major solar electric vehicle charging network consisting of 13 stations in all of Fresno County's rural cities.

The units — made possible through a partnership with the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, the California Energy Commission, the California Department of Transportation and clean energy service provider CALSTART — are located in Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg, Reedley, San Joaquin, Kerman, Coalinga, Huron, Parlier, Orange Cove, Mendota, Firebaugh and Sanger.

The total project cost was \$800,000, with the Valley Air District providing \$78,000 through a program funded through DMV fees, with Fresno County Rural Transit Agency handling the balance through a Caltrans grant.

"The Valley continues to be a national leader in innovative projects designed to improve our air quality, stated Seyed Sadredin, Valley Air District Air Pollution Control District / Executive Director. "These types of innovative partnerships will be instrumental as the Valley works hard to meeting increasingly stricter federal air quality goals."