



State Officials Dedicate Valley's First Hydrogen Station at Harris Ranch

The San Joaquin Valley's first hydrogen fueling station was dedicated April 20 at Harris Ranch as part of the "Mary's Valley Rally" event led by California Air Resources Board (ARB) Chair Mary Nichols. Janea A. Scott from the California Energy Commission (CEC) and Tyson Eckerle from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GoBiz) also were among officials taking a caravan of hydrogen fuel cell (FCEV) cars from Los Angeles to Sacramento – a trip now possible by being able to refuel at Harris Ranch.

Using the True Zero brand for its stations, FirstElement Fuel, Inc., has completed a network of 15 hydrogen fueling stations in California. Company executives at the Harris Ranch station demonstrated just how easy it is to refuel, with the process similar to pumping gasoline and taking just three to five minutes to fill up.

The CEC's Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Technology Program is providing cost-sharing for a network of at least 100 stations through 2023 by investing up to \$20 million each year for stations, according to information from the California Fuel Cell Partnership, which was formed in 1999 as a public/private partnership to advance this new technology and played a key role in the event.

"This rally puts the network to the test and gives us a fun opportunity to highlight that hydrogen-powered cars are essential to meeting our climate goals and a crucial tool in the state's effort to clean up our air – especially in the Central Valley," said Nichols, who herself drives a Toyota Mirai that was among the caravan, which also included Hyundai Tucson and Mercedes-Benz FCEV vehicles.

"The key takeaway for us today is that hydrogen stations are here and more are coming," said CEC Commissioner Scott.

"A year ago, the ability to refuel a ZEV in three minutes on a trip across California was only a plan," said Eckerle, Deputy Director of ZEV Infrastructure for GoBiz. "Now, after three minutes at the pump and a pit stop, we're able to go another 300 miles. The possibilities are endless."

To read the California Fuel Cell Partnership article, view video clips and see other links, go to <http://cafcp.org/blog/marys-valley-rally-fcevs-drive-socal-norcal>.

ARB Chair Mary Nichols cuts the ribbon dedicating the True Zero hydrogen fueling station at Harris Ranch. She is joined by (left to right) FirstElement Chair and CEO Joel Ewanick, CEC Commissioner Janea Scott, Harris Ranch founder Jim Harris and GoBiz ZEV Infrastructure Deputy Director Tyson Eckerle. Refueling the Toyota Mirai FCEV shown at Harris Ranch takes just a few minutes and is similar to pumping gasoline. (Bottom Photo: True Zero)

