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## FACT SHEET

### Clean Air Vehicle Decal (HOV Sticker)

#### What is the Clean Air Vehicle Decal program?

The Clean Air Vehicle Decal program authorizes a vehicle that meets specified emissions standards to be issued a decal (High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) sticker) to allow single occupancy use of HOV or carpool lanes. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), in partnership with the California Air Resources Board, administers the program.

#### What type of vehicles qualify for a HOV sticker?

Certain battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric and fuel cell (hydrogen fueled) vehicles qualify for a HOV sticker. Examples include but are not limited to the BMW i3, Chevy Bolt, Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid, Hyundai Nexo, Kia Optima, Tesla Model 3 and X, and the Toyota Prius Prime. CARB's complete list of qualifying vehicles can be found [here](#).

#### Where can I get a HOV sticker?

DMV issues HOV stickers to owners of qualified vehicles. Owners must submit an original HOV sticker application and pay a fee of \$22 to the DMV. An original application applies to a vehicle that has never been issued a HOV sticker. Starting January 1, 2020, DMV may reissue stickers to vehicles with expired HOV stickers if the owner of the vehicle meets certain income qualifications.

#### Background on the HOV Sticker program:

HOV lane access for single-occupant clean vehicles was first authorized in 1999. From 2000-2017, DMV issued an unlimited number of white decals to owners of qualifying vehicles. Cars that were issued white HOV stickers were typically 100% battery electric or fuel cell vehicles. The program also included certain alternative-fueled vehicles, such as those operating on compressed natural gas and certified to California's most stringent emission standards that also meet the California ultra-low emission vehicle standard for exhaust emissions and the federal inherently low-emission vehicle standard. The validity of white stickers expired on January 1, 2019.

From 2004-2011, the HOV sticker program was expanded to include hybrid vehicles such as, the Toyota Prius. Yellow decals were issued for these vehicles and were limited to the first 85,000 applicants. The validity of yellow stickers expired in 2011.

In 2012, the HOV sticker program was expanded to include plug-in hybrid vehicles. The validity of green stickers expired on January 1, 2019.

Cognizant of the potential impacts of the HOV sticker program on congested HOV lanes and with the sunset date of the white and green stickers soon approaching, the Legislature passed and Governor Brown signed AB 544 (Bloom), Chapter 630, Statutes of 2017. AB 544 retained the January 1, 2019, sunset date for stickers that were issued prior to January 1, 2017, and only allowed holders of stickers issued in 2017 and 2018 to apply for a new sticker that is valid until January 1, 2022. AB 544 also established a new HOV sticker program, the Clean Air Vehicle Decal Program, until the expiration of federal authorization on September 30, 2025, under which stickers issued in 2019 and later will have staggered expiration dates on January 1 of the fourth year after the year of issuance. See the table below for a breakdown of sticker validity.

| <b>HOV Sticker Issuance Date</b>     | <b>HOV sticker Expiration Date</b>         |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Prior to January 1, 2017             | January 1, 2019 (green and white stickers) |
| January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018  | January 1, 2022 (red stickers)             |
| January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019  | January 1, 2023 (purple stickers)          |
| January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020  | January 1, 2024                            |
| January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021  | January 1, 2025                            |
| January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022  | September 30, 2025                         |
| January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023  | September 30, 2025                         |
| January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024  | September 30, 2025                         |
| January 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025 | September 30, 2025                         |

### **Clean Vehicle Rebate Project (CVRP) and HOV Sticker**

Under the Clean Vehicle Rebate Project, owners of qualifying battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric and fuel cell vehicles can receive a rebate for their vehicle purchase. For a vehicle purchased on or after January 1, 2018, an applicant's participation in both the HOV sticker program and the CVRP is based upon both the applicant's gross annual income and the vehicle type:

| <b>Gross Annual Income</b>  | <b>Vehicle Type</b>  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <b>Battery or Plug-in Hybrid</b>                                     | <b>Fuel Cell</b>  |
| <p><b><i>AT or ABOVE</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$150,000 for single filers</li> <li>• \$204,000 for head-of-household</li> <li>• \$300,000 for joint filers</li> </ul> | Clean Air Vehicle Program <b>ONLY</b>                                | Clean Air Vehicle Program <b>OR</b><br>Clean Vehicle Rebate Project<br><b>(New owner has 60 days from date of purchase to choose between the two programs.)</b> |
| <p><b><i>UNDER:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$150,000 for single filers,</li> <li>• \$204,000 for head-of-household</li> <li>• \$300,000 for joint filers</li> </ul>     | Clean Air Vehicle Program <b>AND</b><br>Clean Vehicle Rebate Project | Clean Air Vehicle Program <b>AND</b><br>Clean Vehicle Rebate Project  |