

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT OF
THE NETHERLANDS
AND
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ON
CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING AND ACTION**

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands (“Netherlands”) and the Environmental Protection Agency of the State of California (“California”), hereinafter referred to as “the Participants,” agree as follows;

WHEREAS the Netherlands and California are equally committed to significant climate change action and share the long-term goal of becoming climate neutral societies by 2050. California aims to achieve carbon neutrality no later than 2045, and the Netherlands has a target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. These targets have resulted in ambitious policies for zero-emission transportation on land and sea, long-term climate planning for mid-century carbon neutrality, energy innovation, clean power generation, nature based solutions, and circular economy initiatives.

WHEREAS in 2017, the Netherlands and California signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to strengthen cooperation in the areas of climate change, smart and low carbon mobility, and energy innovation, and whereas, in 2019, the Participants signed an LOI to work together towards transitioning to sustainable economies through the acceleration of zero emission transportation, energy innovation, and zero waste initiatives, and strengthening cooperation in the areas of sustainable mobility, circular economy, climate change, and resiliency.

WHEREAS the Netherlands and California have a strong history of international, multilateral leadership and collaboration on zero-emissions transportation, and have been instrumental in the creation of the International Zero-Emissions Vehicle Alliance and the leadership of the Transport Decarbonization Alliance.

WHEREAS the transport sector is the Netherlands’ and California’s largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

WHEREAS the Netherlands and California are global leaders in transportation electrification and electric vehicle (EV) adoption, and are establishing electric vehicle charging equipment test laboratories to promote standards conformance, standards development, interoperability, advanced charging features, and industry support.

WHEREAS the Netherlands and California are committed to the exchange of information and best practices on zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) policies, investments, promoting renewable and low-carbon fuels, EV battery recycling, and infrastructure.

WHEREAS the Netherlands and California share the view that the transition to a circular economy - one that uses economic activities that are restorative or regenerative by design, enables resources used in such activities to maintain their highest value for as long as possible, and aims for the elimination of waste and security of supply of scarce resources through the superior design - boosts economic growth and generates family-supporting jobs, and recognizes that innovation in both the public and private sectors are of great importance in this transition.

WHEREAS the Netherlands and California are committed to activities to strengthen performance standards within various economic sectors to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases.

WHEREAS the Netherlands and California seek to develop and promote nature based solutions and are committed to deliver on our climate mitigation and adaptation goals through aggressive action in the lands sector.

WHEREAS the Netherlands and California acknowledge the successful collaboration between their two governments, including multiple visits, events and workshops, to support their strong commitment to addressing global climate change.

WHEREAS the Netherlands and California are committed to advancing circular agriculture as it is an integral part of the existing cooperation on Climate Smart Agriculture stipulated in the 2019 LOI between California's Department of Food and Agriculture and the Netherlands' Ministry of Agriculture.

Therefore, the Participants have reached the following understanding:

SECTION I Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a flexible framework between the Participants in order to permit them to enhance cooperation on environmental protection, climate change, and natural resources. In doing so, the Participants share the following common objectives:

- a) To plan for long-term carbon neutral, circular, resilient, and equitable societies;
- b) To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors;
- c) To build resilience to climate impacts;
- d) To ensure efforts to address the climate crisis, prioritize and support equity, and support environmental and economic goals;
- e) To accelerate climate action and environmental stewardship through enhanced nature based solutions;

- f) To reduce GHG emissions in the transportation sector, including across ports and the freight sector, support action on ZEVs, advance EV charging infrastructure capabilities, decrease carbon intensity of transportation fuels, and increase the range of low-carbon and renewable fuel alternatives, while also ensuring the affordability of zero emission transportation;
- g) To encourage the participation of the public, private, and other sectors in the transition towards a circular economy, specifically in relation to plastics packaging, textiles, the built environment, and the automotive sector. Also, to develop collaborative projects, including trade missions, to facilitate business exchanges, and to further commercial activity, joint ventures, investment, and trade; and
- h) To take bold action on super pollutants such as methane and nitrogen (nitrous oxide).

SECTION II

Areas of Cooperation

The Participants intend to further the objectives set forth in Section I through initiatives focused particularly on, but not limited to, the following areas of cooperation:

a) Climate Planning and Action

- Creating dialogue to share lessons learned on planning for long-term climate strategies for carbon neutrality and deep decarbonization, including through nature based solutions;

b) Zero Emission Mobility, Freight and Electric Vehicle Charging

- Sharing technical information and promoting best practices to transition transportation and freight to zero emission, including through renewable energy, low-carbon fuels, and ZEVs, which includes both electric battery and hydrogen-powered vehicles, active mobility, and vehicle automation. In particular, both Parties will engage in dialogue related to EV batteries, EV charging, interoperability, vehicle-grid integration, charging cybersecurity, and workforce training infrastructure;¹
- Sharing information and best practices on actions to reduce emissions at ports including from ocean-going vessels, harbor craft, trucks, and

¹ An already-agreed action plan between the Parties on EV batteries charging is attached as an addendum to this Memorandum of Understanding.

port equipment, as well as the renewable energy, infrastructure, and clean fuels to support them.

c) Climate Resilience

- Sharing best practices to promote nature based solutions, including restoration and enhancement of river ecosystems, wetland restoration and living shorelines, particularly in areas dealing with land subsidence, sea level rise, and/or enhanced flood risk;
- Exchanging information to build resilience in cities and climate-vulnerable communities; and
- Sharing lessons learned to improve community resilience to extreme heat risks.

d) Circular Economy

- Cooperating and exchanging information on the transition to a circular economy, especially regarding the sectors of (plastic) packaging, textiles, the built environment, and vehicles, recognizing the importance of the role of the private sector in steering this transition in their supply chains; and
- Sharing best practices on public-private partnerships, as well as market incentives and other economic development tools, that advance the transition towards a circular economy.

e) Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

- Working toward taking bold action on super pollutants such as methane and nitrogen (nitrous oxide).

**SECTION III
Coordination**

On behalf of the Parties, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management will coordinate the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, as appropriate, with other commitments between entities in the Netherlands and California, and will meet, in person or by video or telephone conference, at mutually acceptable times.

**SECTION IV
Specific Activities**

Specific activities to achieve the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding for the key sectors and initiatives identified in Section II may include:

- a) Implement a joint action workplan on clean transportation and EV battery infrastructure and EV charging;
- b) Share best practices, approaches and potential solutions in the field of zero-emission transportation market development;
- c) Exchange ideas and knowledge on how to stimulate innovation and facilitate entrepreneurship in the renewable energy and clean tech sectors;
- d) Exchange ideas on working with the private sector to overcome supply chain constraints, trade barriers, and/or increase the production volumes of zero emission technology;
- e) Share information and experiences regarding policies and programs, as well as policy design and capacity building support;
- f) Engage jointly in cooperative research, development, information sharing, and deployment projects that support decarbonization and resilience-building, including coastal resilience;
- g) Organize jointly symposia, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, and training;
- h) Share best practices on charging cybersecurity, public key infrastructure, vehicle-grid integration, advanced charging use cases, vehicle automation or other charging-related topics;
- i) Organize joint webinars focused on electric vehicle standards conformance, standards testing, and other learnings from each signatory's respective electric vehicle charging laboratories;
- j) Participate in other commitments and/or initiatives, including multilateral consortiums, and innovation hubs;
- k) Engage in any other form of cooperation that the Participants consider may contribute to the goals of this Memorandum of Understanding, such as on active mobility;
- l) Participate jointly in conferences, trade missions, public-private partnerships, facilitated business exchanges, and other events that would promote the collaborative efforts between California and the Netherlands and increase information sharing, investment, and two-way trade;
- m) Share best practices on (micro)plastics and textiles waste reduction, circular economy approaches, monitoring, environmental and public health impact assessment; and
- n) Share best practices on biodiversity conservation of both land and sea including marine protected areas, biodiversity protection at the wildlands-urban interface,

and community engagement efforts to set and achieve biodiversity conservation goals.

SECTION V Points of Contact

Unless the Participants agree otherwise, the primary points of contact for the Participants, for communication and information exchange, as well as any notice required to be submitted under this Memorandum of Understanding, will be:

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands:
Jan Top, Attaché for Infrastructure and Water Management

Government of California:
Shereen D'Souza, Deputy Secretary, Environmental Protection Agency

SECTION VI No Legal Obligations, Rights, or Remedies

This Memorandum of Understanding is a voluntary initiative. It does not create any legally binding rights or obligations and creates no legally cognizable or enforceable rights or remedies, legal or equitable, in any forum whatsoever. In addition, the actions in this Memorandum of Understanding are not conditioned upon reciprocal actions by other Participants; each Participant retains full discretion over implementation of its actions in light of the Participant's individual circumstances, laws, and policies; and each Participant is free to withdraw from the Memorandum of Understanding at any time.

SECTION VII Availability of Personnel and Resources

This Memorandum of Understanding does not involve the exchange of funds, nor does it represent any obligation of funds by either Participant. All costs that may arise from activities covered by, mentioned in, or pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding will be assumed by the Participant who incurs them, unless otherwise expressly agreed in a future written arrangement in accordance with applicable laws. All activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of funds, personnel and other resources of each Participant.

The personnel designated by a Participant for the execution of this Memorandum of Understanding will work under the orders and responsibility of that Participant and any other organization or institution to which the personnel already belongs, at all times maintaining any preexisting employment relationship only with that Participant and organization or institution, and not with any other Participant.

SECTION VIII

Compliance with Applicable Laws

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed consistent with all applicable laws, and activities undertaken in connection with this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to, and shall be undertaken in a manner consistent with, all otherwise-applicable laws.

SECTION IX

Interpretation and Application

Any difference that may arise in relation to the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved through consultations between the Participants, who will endeavor in good faith to resolve such differences.

SECTION X

Final Provisions

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the date of its signature, for a five-year period, unless renewed or extended by the Participants in the same manner that the Participants may otherwise modify this Memorandum of Understanding.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified at any time by mutual consent of the Participants. Any modification shall be made in writing and specify the date on which such modification is to become effective.

Any of the Participants may, at any time, withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding by providing a written notice to the other Participant. A Participant who intends to withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding shall endeavor to provide notice of such withdrawal to other Participants 60 days in advance.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the conclusion of the cooperation activities that may have been initiated during the time this Memorandum of Understanding is in effect, unless the Participants decide otherwise.

Signed in San Francisco on September 6th, 2022.

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF
INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER
MANAGEMENT OF THE
NETHERLANDS**

**FOR THE CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Vivianne Heijnen
Minister for the Environment**

**Yana Garcia
Agency Secretary**

ADDENDUM A

Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan

The purpose of this Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan addendum is to establish a flexible framework between the Participants in order to permit them to achieve the EV charging objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding identified in Section II-b. The Participants share the following common objectives:

- a) To promote interoperability among electric vehicles, charging equipment, and charging networks to support customer choice, customer convenience, innovation, and scalability.
- b) To promote vehicle-grid integration, including but not limited to managed charging, vehicle-to-grid, vehicle-to-home, and vehicle-to-building to support power system reliability, grid decarbonization, resiliency, and cost control.
- c) To promote a common understanding of charging cybersecurity to support secure charging authentication, payment, and grid interaction.
- d) To promote the exchange of best practices relating to workforce training and safety to support deployment of smart and bidirectional charging technologies.

The Participants intend to advance charging interoperability, vehicle-grid integration, and charging cybersecurity through initiatives focused particularly on, but not limited to, the following areas of cooperation:

- a) Exchange of knowledge and best practices regarding interoperability, testing, and standards conformance derived from each signatory's respective electric vehicle charging test laboratories.
- b) Exchange of knowledge and best practices regarding the application of open standards to improve the charging experience and to realize advanced charging use cases such as bidirectional charging.
- c) Exchange of knowledge and best practices regarding public key infrastructure to support cybersecure charging, authentication, and payment.
- d) Exchange of knowledge and best practices regarding charging cybersecurity, including product testing, product design, and possible minimum requirements for use in public tenders.

Specific activities to achieve the objectives of this Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan may include:

- a) Explore hosting two to four joint webinars per year focused on standards conformance, standards testing, and other learnings from each signatory's respective electric vehicle charging laboratories;
- b) Explore holding six meetings per year among Participants and their respective teams to discuss charging cybersecurity, public key infrastructure, vehicle-grid integration, advanced charging use cases, or other charging-related topics;
- c) Explore hosting one or more joint in-person testing events located in California or the Netherlands. Subject to further discussion and planning, test events may focus on end-to-end communication for advanced charging use cases, charging cybersecurity, or other subjects agreed upon by the signatories;

The representatives from ELaadNL and the California Energy Commission will also serve as the respective contact points for communication and information exchange, as well as any notice required to be submitted under this Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan.

ElaadNL: Baerte de Brey

California Energy Commission: Ben De Alba and Jeffrey Lu