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Senator Padilla Announces \$1 Million Grant to Build Better Electric Vehicle Batteries in Sylmar

Los Angeles – Senator Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima) today announced that Quallion LLC, a battery manufacturer based in Sylmar, CA, will receive a grant of over \$1 million from the California Energy Commission to help them mass-produce standardized, lower-cost Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries for electric vehicles.

“Electric vehicles present a major opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The transportation sector accounts for over half of the energy consumed in California and generates 38% of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions,” said Senator Padilla. “This grant will help Quallion mass produce electric vehicle batteries and make them more affordable, making electric vehicles more accessible to Californians while creating much needed jobs in the San Fernando Valley,” he added.

For cell phones, laptops and other electronics, simple single cell or small lithium-ion batteries have been a mainstay for years. Electric vehicles, however, require much larger battery systems with thousands of cells. That’s why the batteries are the single most expensive component in an electric vehicle, accounting for up to 50 percent of the purchase price. By automating the manufacturing process, Quallion will reduce the cost to produce Li-ion battery modules.

Using this award from the Energy Commission’s Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Transportation program, Quallion will standardize both the size and design of batteries and battery modules. The company will provide \$1,026,072 in matching funds to create a pilot scale manufacturing line capable of producing 10,000 one-kilowatt/hour Li-ion modules. Once deployed, each battery module can reduce carbon emissions by 68 percent per vehicle. The project will generate 50 to 100 temporary and 100 to 200 permanent jobs in the next three years.

The Energy Commission grant is one of nine recently approved awards that leverage nearly \$12.6 million in state funding with more than \$16.1 million in private funds for projects that will reduce petroleum use, cut pollution and provide California jobs by showing the possibilities of advanced electric vehicles and biofuels.

Assembly Bill 118 (Núñez, 2007) created the California Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program. The statute, amended by Assembly Bill 109 (Núñez, 2008), authorizes the Energy Commission to develop and deploy alternative and renewable fuels and advanced transportation technologies to help achieve the state's climate change policies.

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