Waterford USD Secures $1.08 Million CALVIP ZESBI Award to Fund Electric Bus Transition

In a significant win for environmental sustainability and student transportation, Waterford Unified School District (USD) has been awarded $1,080,000 through the California Clean Air Vehicle Incentive Program's (CALVIP) Zero Emission School Bus Incentive (ZESBI) initiative. The grant will enable the district to replace three aging diesel buses with new electric vehicles, as well as install three electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. This transition is set to reduce emissions and improve air quality for students and the broader community.

The successful grant application was a result of the collaborative efforts between Waterford USD's administrative team and Cal Consulting's Senior Project Manager, Dr. Julie High. Together, they crafted a compelling proposal that aligned with California's ambitious clean air goals, demonstrating Waterford USD's commitment to environmental stewardship and forward-thinking transportation solutions.

A Step Toward Sustainability and Leading by Example

The $1.08 million grant will enable Waterford USD to replace three diesel buses with zero-emission electric vehicles, addressing both environmental concerns and operational

efficiency. Diesel buses, though essential for school transportation, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and pose health risks. By transitioning to electric buses, the district will significantly reduce its carbon footprint while providing safer and quieter transportation for students.

The grant also funds three EV charging stations at key district hubs, ensuring the new fleet remains operational and supporting future expansion. This infrastructure lays the foundation for a long-term shift to clean energy.

Waterford USD's success with the CALVIP ZESBI award positions it as a leader in sustainable school transportation, aligning with California's efforts to cut transportation emissions. The district's electric bus initiative could serve as a model for other schools, contributing to both environmental and state climate goals. With a commitment to sustainability, Waterford USD plans to expand its electric fleet, ensuring long-term benefits for students and the community.

Collaboration and Innovation

Waterford USD's administrative team played a key role in securing this competitive grant, partnering closely with Dr. Julie High of Cal Consulting. The district's leadership demonstrated a strong commitment to reducing emissions and modernizing its school transportation system in line with state and federal goals.

"Waterford USD has shown exemplary leadership in prioritizing sustainable student transportation," said Dr. High. "This grant reflects the district's dedication to a healthier, environmentally friendly future for its students and community."

This collaboration highlights the power of strategic partnerships in achieving ambitious goals, with Waterford USD's administration driving the project from concept to reality, ensuring both operational improvements and environmental benefits.

The shift to electric buses is expected to improve the health and well-being of Waterford students by reducing exposure to diesel exhaust, which can harm respiratory health, particularly for children with asthma. By cutting harmful emissions, Waterford USD is prioritizing student health while advancing environmental goals.

The new buses will also offer a smoother, quieter ride, making them a model of sustainable transportation. As Waterford USD rolls out its electric fleet, it's laying the foundation for a future powered by clean energy. The CALVIP ZESBI award is a key step in this transformation, showcasing how leadership and strategic partnerships can drive real change. Waterford USD's commitment to reducing emissions and improving air quality will have a lasting impact on both the district and its community, serving as a model for sustainability in education.