

1201 Berry Street
Calistoga, CA 94515

October 25, 2022

Dear City Council member,

In support of their ongoing interest in advancing “clean” energy practices, individual members of the Green Committee have taken it upon themselves to attend relevant meetings and hearings throughout the county. It was in this manner that we learned of Napa Valley Transportation Authority’s plan to acquire electric buses for Napa County communities. We were surprised to learn that these buses could be operational within a month and that Calistoga will not be part of the rollout.

Given that the Committee was not brought into the discussion on this important project, we realize that our research may be dated or incomplete. That said, our understanding is that Calistoga’s exclusion from the electric bus program is based on NVTA’s conclusion that the bus being offered is too large to navigate our local mobile home parks. Our research further suggests that while smaller, more appropriately sized, FTA tested and approved vehicles may not be available at this time, they are in the approval process and likely to be available soon, with FTA funding and other incentives available.

NVTA’s Transit Manager has indicated that the current plan is to replace Calistoga’s gas bus with a new gas-powered shuttle in the near future, and that the new vehicle’s “useful life” is projected at seven years.

The Green Committee urges the Council to consider instead continuing to operate the current shuttle until an appropriate battery-powered vehicle becomes available. Even if the acquisition were to take as long as two years, this option would reduce our use of a polluting vehicle by five years.

As GC vice chair I have volunteered to monitor the timing, approval and availability of appropriate vehicles and to share pertinent updates with the Green Committee, City Council and City staff. It is our hope that our local NVTA board members will then advocate for this acquisition.

Thank you for your consideration on this important question.

Sincerely,

John Gleazer
Calistoga Green Committee Vice Chair