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Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
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AGENDA ITEM 6b TAC Meeting October 1, 2026
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DATE: September 22, 2026
TO: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
FROM: Stephen Luther, Senior Regional Planner
SUBJECT: **Siting Analysis for North State Hydrogen Fuel Station Network**

PRESENTATION

HCAOG retained the consulting services of RebelGroup Americas and GTI Energy, funded through a Caltrans Rural Planning Assistance Discretionary Grant, to conduct this study. The project ran from September 2025 through September 2026. HCAOG staff led coordination, with input from HTA Transit Planner Jerome Qiriazzi, the North State Super Region (NSSR) Transit Working Group, and regional transit operators.

The consultant team analyzed where to site hydrogen fueling stations to serve transit and freight vehicles across the North State Super Region (NSSR). Using network modeling, they developed candidate station networks, validated them through stakeholder engagement, and applied a micro-siting case study to test site-level selection criteria.

The study covers the eight-county NSSR, including Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, Mendocino, Lake, Tehama, Butte, and Nevada Counties. Modeling repeatedly identified Redding, Butte County, Lake County, Tehama County, Mendocino County, Nevada County, and the Redwood Coast as leading candidate locations because of their combination of transit demand and freight corridor access.

Battery-electric buses can't meet all rural operational needs, making hydrogen essential for some NSSR fleets. Because no prior regional planning existed for a coordinated fueling network, the study recommends a phased, demand-aggregating approach across jurisdictions. It also outlines near-term steps around agency transition plans, freight demand, and shared-infrastructure business models, given the region's large geography, small transit agencies, and limited existing hydrogen supply.

The HCAOG Board heard a presentation on the study from RebelGroup at its September 17th meeting. The project findings were also shared at the North State Transit Symposium in Redding Sept 30 – Oct 1. The study analysis is complete, however any editorial comments can be integrated into the report before finalizing and submitting to Caltrans.