#### **STATE OF NEVADA**

#### Department of Conservation & Natural Resources



Joe Lombardo, *Governor* James A. Settelmeyer, *Director* Jennifer Carr, *Administrator* 

July 31, 2024

VW Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust c/o Wilmington Trust, N.A., as Trustee 1100 North Market Street Wilmington, DE 19890 Attn: Michael Bochanski Jr, 5<sup>th</sup> floor Assistant Vice President

**RE:** Nevada Semiannual Report

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, as Lead Agency Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for State Beneficiaries Reporting Period: January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024

Dear Mr. Bochanski Jr.,

As required by paragraph 5.3 of the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for State Beneficiaries (VW State Trust) we provide this report on the status of each Eligible Mitigation Action approved for funding through Nevada's allotment of VW State Trust funds. Specifically, Nevada's Reporting Obligations include a description on the progress implementing each Eligible Mitigation Action during the period leading up to the reporting date (including a summary of all costs expended on the Eligible Mitigation Action through the reporting date); and a complete description of the status (including actual or projected termination date), development, implementation, and any modification of each approved Eligible Mitigation Actions into this single report.

Nevada's goals for the VW State Trust, as detailed in Nevada's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan are:

- 1. Reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from areas of Nevada that bear a disproportionate share of NOx pollution and potentially, other pollutants;
- 2. Reduce NOx emissions from areas of Nevada where the vehicles subject to the settlement were, are, or will be operated; and
- 3. Support long-term investments toward a zero-emission transportation sector within Nevada.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and if you should have any questions about this report or require additional clarification, please contact me at (775) 687-9373.

Under penalty of perjury, I attest that the information contained in this report is true and correct.

Sincerely,

Danil Dragoni, PhD Deputy Administrator

cc:

Jennifer Carr, P.E, CPM, CEM., Administrator, NDEP

#### Nevada's Semiannual Beneficiary Report

For the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for State Beneficiaries

July 31, 2024



#### **Table of Contents**

Overview	1
Background	1
Process Established to Distribute VW State Trust Funds	3
Nevada Electric Highway	3
Nevada Clean Diesel Program	3
Competitive Funding – Nevada Diesel Emission Mitigation Fund	4
Update on the Implementation of Approved Eligible Mitigation Actions	5
NVDEMF 18-11: DEMF – Southwest Airlines RNO AGSE Replacement	7
NVDEMF 22-01: DEMF - Clark County Dept of Aviation Shuttle Bus Replacements	8
NVDEMF 22-04: DERA – City of Reno Diesel Snowplow Replacement	9
NVDEMF 22-08: DERA - CCSD_EsCSD Second Electric School Bus Project	10
Appendix A: Description of Project Funding Processes for the Volkswagen Environmental	
Mitigation Trust Agreement for State Beneficiaries	11

#### **Overview**

In addition to the Beneficiary Reporting Obligations listed in paragraph 5.3 of the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for State Beneficiaries (VW State Trust), the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), acting as the Lead Agency on behalf of the State of Nevada, is first providing a brief background on the process NDEP completed prior to the submission of the first Appendix D-4: Beneficiary Eligible Mitigation Action Certification to Wilmington Trust (the "Trustee"). While these details should not be considered comprehensive, it is the Agency's hope that they will provide the public a base understanding of Nevada's process, intent, and progress on fully mitigating the environmental harm that was caused by VW in the State of Nevada. If either the Trustee or a member of the public would like a comprehensive review of all actions completed prior to this semiannual report, we recommend starting with Nevada's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Background**

On November 17, 2017, then Governor Sandoval signed the Certification for Beneficiary Status, and the Certification was subsequently filed with the Court on the same date. This agreement serves as the formal application to the Trustee requesting that the State of Nevada be deemed a beneficiary of the VW State Trust and identified NDEP as the lead agency to act on behalf of the State of Nevada in administering the VW State Trust funds. In designating NDEP as the lead agency, Governor Sandoval also directed NDEP to utilize 15 percent of VW State Trust funds (the maximum allowable) in support of the Nevada Electric Highway Initiative and for the Nevada Advisory Committee on the Control of Emissions from Motor Vehicles (I/M Committee) to serve in an advisory capacity to NDEP in the establishment of a program for the distribution of VW State Trust funds.

Created in Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 445B.830, the I/M Committee consists of 11 members with representatives from the Department of Motor Vehicles, NDEP, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Agriculture, air pollution control officials from Clark and Washoe counties, and a nonvoting representative from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region IX.

Through the development of Nevada's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, the I/M Committee identified three main goals for NDEP in managing the VW State Trust funds. They are to efficiently and cost effectively:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Nevada's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan is available online at: <a href="https://ndep.nv.gov/uploads/air-vw-bmp-docs/beneficiary\_mitigation\_plan.pdf">https://ndep.nv.gov/uploads/air-vw-bmp-docs/beneficiary\_mitigation\_plan.pdf</a>.

- 1. Reduce NOx emissions from areas of Nevada that bear a disproportionate share of NOx pollution and potentially, other pollutants;
- 2. Reduce NOx emissions from areas of Nevada where the vehicles subject to the settlement were, are, or will be operated; and
- 3. Support long-term investments toward a zero-emission transportation sector within Nevada.

Nevada's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan also identified six of the ten Eligible Mitigation Actions allowed by the VW State Trust that will be most appropriate to achieve the stated plan goals. Table 1 below shows the anticipated spending percentages in each of the allowable Eligible Mitigation Action categories.

Table 1: Anticipated funding percentages for Eligible Mitigation Action Categories

Funding		
Percentage	Eligible Mitigation Action	Category
0	Freight Switchers (Locomotives)	3
0	Ferries/Tugs	4
0	Ocean Going Vessels (OGV) Shorepower	5
0	Forklifts and Port Cargo Handling Equipment	8
5	Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Option	10
15	Light Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Supply Equipment	9
	Class 8 Local Freight Trucks and Port Drayage Trucks	1
90	Class 4-8 School Bus, Shuttle Bus, or Transit Bus	2
80	Class 4-7 Local Freight Trucks (Medium Trucks)	6
	Airport Ground Support Equipment	7

As of April 12, 2018, NDEP had completed all administrative obligations necessary to disburse VW State Trust funds. A summary of these obligations is included in Table 2.

Table 2: Status of administrative obligations necessary in order to disburse VW State Trust funds

<b>Date Submitted</b>	Submission/Status			
	Nevada was deemed a Beneficiary by the Trustee's submission of the Notice of			
January 29, 2018	Beneficiary Designation to the United States District Court for the Northern District			
	of California			
	NDEP provided the Notice of Availability of Mitigation Action Funds to			
February 23, 2018	representatives from the Department of the Interior and the Department of			
	Agriculture			
	NDEP submitted its Delegation of Authority and Incumbency Certificate and it's			
February 26, 2018	signed Exhibit A to the Trustee (Exhibit A was countersigned by the Trustee on			
	March 12, 2018)			
March 12, 2018	NDEP submitted Nevada's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan to the Trustee			
A mril 12 2019	NDEP became eligible to submit funding requests to the Trustee in order to access			
April 12, 2018	and disburse VW State Trust funds			

#### **Process Established to Distribute VW State Trust Funds**

There are three major categories of projects by which NDEP chooses to fund projects: (1) the Nevada Electric Highway; (2) the Nevada Clean Diesel Program; and (3) the Diesel Emission Mitigation Fund Competitive Application. Because the process of funding these three types of projects is different, NDEP has included a diagram with this report (Appendix A) to briefly explain how each type of project is managed and funded as it relates to VW State Trust funds.

#### **Nevada Electric Highway**

Category 9 funds were utilized to support the development of the Nevada Electric Highway. While NDEP finalized and submitted all VW State Trust Appendix D-4 Beneficiary Eligible Mitigation Action Certification requests to the Trustee, the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy (GOE) identified and awarded the 15 percent of VW State Trust funds allocated to Category 9: Light Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Supply Equipment.

Now completed, the Nevada Electric Highway provides a network of electric vehicle charging stations across the state to make it easier for Nevadans and our guests alike to travel all across the state. By investing in the electric vehicle charging stations identified in Nevada's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, VW State Trust funds support increased electric vehicle usage in Nevada's metropolitan areas, as well as significantly contribute to an increase in the number of electric vehicles driven across not only Nevada, but the entire western region.

With these Category 9 projects, NDEP (through the Trustee) advanced funding to the GOE who directly oversaw the completion of the project. The GOE's project partners were then reimbursed on actual expenditures incurred over the course of the charging infrastructure's installation. The GOE provided quarterly progress reports to NDEP detailing the work done and any expenses incurred to complete the project. As a project completed, any unspent VW State Trust funds were returned to the Trustee.

#### **Nevada Clean Diesel Program**

The VW State Trust allows the use of funds to match the annual USEPA Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) State Grant Program award. When this happens, USEPA provides an additional 50 percent incentive in addition to the awarded base grant. NDEP has been a recipient of DERA grants for more than 10 years and has administered these funds to municipalities and school districts across the State through the Nevada Clean Diesel Program. Nevada's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan directs NDEP to use approximately 5 percent of Nevada's VW State Trust funds to match the annual DERA grant. Due to high, consistent interest in the Clean Diesel Program, NDEP expects to use approximately 9% of Nevada's VW funds to continue

Nevada's Semiannual Beneficiary Report to Wilmington Trust July 31, 2024 Page 4

matching the annual DERA award until 2025. This allows Nevada to maximize project reimbursement potential which can optimize our NOx reduction efforts to meet the goals of both VW and DERA.

NDEP has used VW State Trust funds to match the federal fiscal years (FFY) 2017 through 2019 DERA grants to support the replacement of school buses in Clark County and service vehicles in Washoe County. For FFY 2020-2021, NDEP partnered with Carson City, Clark County, and Washoe County School Districts to replace 9 school buses with electric ones. For FFY 2022, NDEP is supporting Washoe County School District on the replacement of 23 school buses with low emission equivalents. NDEP has received DERA grant funding for FFY 2023 and 2024 and plans to use VW State Trust funds to match project funding to support the replacement of 15 refuse trucks with low- and zero-emission trucks. Appendix D-4 Beneficiary Eligible Mitigation Action Certifications will be submitted as program-eligible partners are finalized.

Project partners awarded funds through the Nevada Clean Diesel Program are required to provide quarterly progress reports to NDEP. These quarterly progress reports are used to prepare NDEP's subsequent quarterly reports to the USEPA and our semiannual reports to the Trustee.

#### Competitive Funding – Nevada Diesel Emission Mitigation Fund

NDEP solicits for projects and awards funding on a competitive basis through the Nevada Diesel Emission Mitigation Fund. There were solicitations for applications in 2018, 2019, and 2021. NDEP did not release a solicitation for applications in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Neither did NDEP solicit in 2022 due to staffing shortages and attempting to close out already approved projects that were delayed from various COVID impacts. Projects selected for funding through the DEMF have all been approved by the Trustee and project partners are required to submit quarterly progress reports that detail any accomplishments, updates on the implementation schedule, actual or anticipated problems, and planned activities for the next reporting period.

It is also important to note that funds awarded through the DEMF are made available to awardees on a reimbursement basis; that is, projects must be completed and verified by the NDEP before VW State Trust funds are disbursed. NDEP is continuing to work with existing project partners and does not plan to release further solicitations for applications at this time, as the remaining \$3 million in VW State Trust funds have been committed to the 2023 EPA Clean School Bus program. These funds will be used to cover funding gaps in electric school bus purchases in Nevada school districts. After this allocation, any remaining funds will be considered for future DERA grant funding and if available, to fund projects on a non-competitive basis.

#### **Update on the Implementation of Approved Eligible Mitigation Actions**

This section of the report provides a complete description of the status, development, implementation, and any modifications of each Eligible Mitigation Action that has been either approved, is in progress, or was completed during the reporting period. Once a project has been reported as completed in this report, it will no longer be reported on in detail in future semiannual reports. Table 3 provides information for all Eligible Mitigation Actions that were either approved, in progress, or completed during the reporting period. Note that the 'Anticipated Project Completion Date' in Table 3 has been updated based on the reports submitted by NDEP's project partners.

As Table 3 only lists projects that were either approved, in progress, or completed during the reporting period, and completed projects, once reported as such, are removed from the table, we are also providing the below data based on all Trustee approved projects.<sup>2</sup>

1. Total number of projects approved by Trustee:	57
2. Total number of completed projects:	55
3. Total value of VW State Trust funds for project costs:	\$18,873,532.16
4. Total value of EPA funds for Clean Diesel Program awards:	\$2,420,772.50
5. Total value of cost-share from project partners:	\$41,097,229.04
6. Total value of VW State Trust funds for admin costs:	\$2,101,092.78
7. Total value of all project costs (sum of lines 3 through 6):	\$64,492,626.48
8. Total value of VW State Trust funds awarded (sum of lines 3 and 6):	\$20,974,624.94
9. Total project NOx reductions (tons):	923.796
10. Cumulative Trustee payments made against awards:	\$15,390,878.53
11. Cumulative Trustee payments to be requested against awards:	\$5,583,746.41
12. Funds currently remaining in Wilmington Trust Account:	\$11,644,459.06
13. Estimate of remaining share of funds in Trust after all outstanding	\$6,060,712.65
payments are made (line 12 minus line 11):	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Note that all totals are accurate through December 31, 2024, the end of the current reporting period.

Table 3: Information on all Eligible Mitigation Actions that have been either approved, are in progress, or were completed during the reporting period

			Project Costs and Funding					Total Project	Estimated
Action Title	Beneficiary Project ID	Project Details Diesel and gasoline	VW State Trust Award	Clean Diesel Program Award	Cost Share Requirement	Project Admin Costs	Total Project Cost	NOx Reductions (tons)	Project Completion Date
DEMF – Southwest Airlines RNO AGSE Replacement	NVDEMF 18-11 (DEP-S19-015)	to Electric replacement of 20 pieces of airport ground support equipment	\$674,021.23	-	\$449,347.49	\$101,103.18	\$1,224,471.90	49.944	Completed
DEMF – Clark County Dept of Aviation Shuttle Bus Replacements	NVDEMF 22-01 (DEP-S22-047)	Diesel to Electric replacement of 11 shuttle buses	\$4,950,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,500,000.00	\$495,000.00	\$10,945,000.00	103.830	CY 2024, Q4
DERA - City of Reno Diesel Snowplow Replacement	NVDEMF 22-04 (DEP-S22-046)	Diesel to Diesel replacement of 1 service vehicle	\$27,329.24	\$17,501.76	\$234,117.25	\$0.00	\$278,948.25	0.031	Completed
DERA - CCSD_EsCSD Second Electric School Bus Project	NVDEMF 22-08 (DEP-S22-033)	Diesel to Electric replacement of 2 school buses	\$200,621.40	\$111,004.60	\$633,699.00	\$0.00	\$945,325.00	1.122	CY 2024, Q4

#### **NVDEMF 18-11: DEMF – Southwest Airlines RNO AGSE Replacement**

Eligible Mitigation Action Category: 7 – Airport Ground Support Equipment

**Date Approved by Trustee: 2/25/2019** 

Anticipated project completion date: Complete

**Funding request type:** Reimbursement (to partner) and Advancement (to NDEP)

Total funding approved for project: \$775,124.41

**Total funding approved for EMA expenses:** \$674,021.23 **Total funding approved for Admin expenses:** \$101,103.18

Total project payments made to date by year

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$20,739.12	\$15,554.34	\$5,184.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$733,646.17

Cumulative Trustee payments made to date against project: \$775,124.41

Project payments made for EMA expenditures by year

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$674,021.23

Cumulative Trustee payments made to date for EMA expenditures: \$674,021.23

Project payments made for Admin expenditures by year

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ſ	\$20,739.12	\$15,554.34	\$5,184.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59,624.94

Cumulative Trustee payments made to date for Admin expenditures: \$101,103.18

**Project status:** Construction of the necessary charging infrastructure at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport has been completed. All electric bag tugs and belt loaders have been delivered and old diesel equipment has been properly scrapped. Southwest Airlines has provided all final documentation necessary for reimbursement. NDEP has completed reimbursement to Southwest Airlines.

#### **NVDEMF 22-01: DEMF – Clark County Dept of Aviation Shuttle Bus Replacements**

Eligible Mitigation Action Category: 2 – Class 4-8 Eligible Buses

**Date Approved by Trustee:** 9/14/2022

Anticipated project completion date: CY 2024 Q4

**Funding request type:** Reimbursement (to partner) and Advancement (to NDEP)

**Total funding approved for project:** \$5,445,000.00

**Total funding approved for EMA expenses:** \$4,950,000.00 **Total funding approved for Admin expenses:** \$495,000.00

Total project payments made to date by year

2022	2023	2024	
\$61,875.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

Cumulative Trustee payments made to date against project: \$61,875.00

Project payments made for EMA expenditures by year

2022	2023	2024	
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

Cumulative Trustee payments made to date for EMA expenditures: \$0.00

Project payments made for Admin expenditures by year

0 1 0			
2022	2023	2024	
\$61,875.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

Cumulative Trustee payments made to date for Admin expenditures: \$61,875.00

**Project status:** The Clark County Department of Aviation (CCDoA) has ordered their electric shuttle buses which should be delivered around October and November 2024. Once they are received, they will scrap their diesel-powered buses. CCDoA is also designing several charging locations which should be completed around September 2024. NDEP will not seek to have CCDoA reimbursed until all work on this project has been completed.

#### **NVDEMF 22-04: DERA – City of Reno Diesel Snowplow Replacement**

Eligible Mitigation Action Category: 10 – Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Option

**Date Approved by Trustee:** 9/14/2022

Anticipated project completion date: Complete

Funding request type: Reimbursement

Total funding approved for project: \$27,329.24

Total funding approved for EMA expenses: \$27,329.24

**Total funding approved for Admin expenses:** \$0.00

Total project payments made to date by year

2022	2023	2024	
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,329.24	

Cumulative Trustee payments made to date against project: \$27,329.24

Project payments made for EMA expenditures by year

2022	2023	2024	
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,329.24	

Cumulative Trustee payments made to date for EMA expenditures: \$27,329.24

Project payments made for Admin expenditures by year

0 1 0		1 0 0			
2022	2023	2024			
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			

Cumulative Trustee payments made to date for Admin expenditures: \$0.00

**Project status:** The City of Reno received their new snowplow in the third quarter of 2023 and have scrapped their old snowplow. The City of Reno has submitted all required evidence of scrappage and associated documents and NDEP has fully reimbursed the City of Reno.

#### NVDEMF 22-08: DERA - CCSD EsCSD Second Electric School Bus Project

Eligible Mitigation Action Category: 10 – Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Option									
Date Approved by Trustee: 6/13/2023									
Anticipated project completion date: CY 2024 Q4									
Funding request type: Reimbursement									
Total funding approved for project: \$200,621.40									
Total funding approved for EMA expenses: \$200,621.40									
Total funding approved for Admin expenses: \$0.00									
Total project payments made to date by year									
2023	2024								
\$0.00	\$0.00								
Cumulative Trustee payments made to date against project: \$0.00									
Project payments made for EMA expenditures by year									
2023	2024								
\$0.00	\$0.00								
Cumulative Trustee payments made to date for EMA expenditures: \$0.00									
Project payments made for Admin expenditures by year									
2023	2024								
\$0.00	\$0.00	-							

Cumulative Trustee payments made to date for Admin expenditures: \$0.00

**Project status:** The Clark County School District has received one new electric school bus and donated their replaced diesel bus to Esmeralda County School District. Esmeralda completed scrapping of their older diesel bus in return. Now both parties are waiting on one more bus to be delivered and scrapped in Quarter 3 of 2024. NDEP will not seek to have Clark reimbursed until all work on this project has been completed.

Nevada's Semiannual Beneficiary Report to Wilmington Trust January 31, 2024 Page 11

### Appendix A: Description of Project Funding Processes for the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for State Beneficiaries

## **Electric Highway Initiative** GOE receives application for funding GOE submits funding request to NDEP NDEP reviews request, enters into Subgrant Agreement with GOE, and submits funding request to the Trustee Trustee provides funding directly to the GOE Project is completed and unspent funds are returned to the Trustee

#### State Clean Diesel Program

NDEP receives notice for Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) award from EPA

NDEP commits State Trust funds to match DERA base award and receive the 50% incentive

NDEP works with state and municipal fleets to develop DERA program eligible projects

NDEP submits Workplan to the EPA based on program eligible projects and receives award

NDEP enters into Subgrant Agreement with fleet partner and submits DERA program eligible funding requests to the Trustee

Fleet partner completes project

NDEP submits reimbursement request and the Trustee pays the fleet partner directly

# Diesel Emission Mitigation Fund Competitive Application

NDEP receives DEMF application

NDEP reviews and scores application and it is selected for funding

NDEP enters into Subgrant Agreement with awardee and submits funding request to the Trustee

Awardee submits quarterly progress reports to NDEP

Awardee completes project

NDEP submits reimbursement request and the Trustee pays the awardee directly