



Trends and Developments in U.S. Electric Vehicle Markets in 2021

By Suzette Welch, Yahi Group Chair

Alternative energy vehicles are just a part of the solution for human-influenced climate change. Electric Vehicles (EVs) will not only benefit the environment, they also provide benefits to the owner:

- Greatly reduced fueling cost
- Minimal parts and maintenance
- Lower carbon emissions
- Exhilarating acceleration and power

Best of all, rebates and incentives save you money when you purchase or lease a new EV, helping make your transaction more affordable.

Unfortunately, all CA rebates have been expended. You can put your name on a list in case more money becomes available.

As an incentive the Federal government offers tax credits. The 2021 proposal increases the maximum tax credit for an electric car to \$12,500. There are several tiers to this. All EVs receive a \$7,500 credit, with an additional \$2,500 if final vehicle assembly occurs in the U.S. and another \$2,500 if the car is built by union workers. There is another limitation on the Federal tax credit - once a car company sells 200,000 electric cars, the credit is phased out for that manufacturer's brand. Both Tesla and General Motors have exhausted their credits, which means buyers of any of those makers models — including the Chevrolet Bolt EV and the Tesla Model 3 — do not get any federal credits.

In order to increase the use of electric vehicles, a robust charging infrastructure needs to be in place. This must include easily available rapid chargers (full charge in a half hour) which can be utilized by all makes of electric vehicles. At this time Tesla has made its own chargers readily available but they cannot be utilized by other vehicles, which is unfortunate. There needs to be a standardized universal quick charger.

New analysis from the California Energy Commission (CEC) shows California will need nearly 1.2 million public and shared chargers by 2030 to meet the fueling demands of the 7.5 million passenger plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) anticipated to be on California roads. In addition to the 1.2 million chargers for passenger vehicles, the CEC expects 157,000 chargers will be required by 2030 to support 180,000 medium and heavy-duty electric trucks and buses that are also anticipated.

More than 73,000 public and shared chargers have been installed as of June 2021 in California with an additional 123,000 planned by 2025. The Governor's proposed 2021–22 budget includes \$500 million to help fill the gap and ensure essential infrastructure is in place as more Californians go electric.

On the Federal level, in March 2021 the United States passed the milestone of 100,000 public chargers (as



California's Zero-Emission Vehicle Market

AS OF JUNE 2021



862K SOLD

INCLUDING BATTERY ELECTRIC,
PLUG-IN HYBRID & FUEL-CELL
ELECTRIC

9%

OF ALL NEW CARS SOLD

#1

STATE EXPORT IN 2020
VALUED AT \$5.6 BILLION

64

MODELS AVAILABLE



73,000

CHARGERS INSTALLED



47 OPEN

HYDROGEN REFUELING
STATIONS



34

MANUFACTURERS OF
ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND
RELATED EQUIPMENT



UP TO \$9,500

IN GRANTS & REBATES
AVAILABLE FOR LOW-INCOME
CALIFORNIANS

recorded by the Department of Energy's Alternative Fuel Data Center). President Biden's American Jobs Plan includes a transformational \$15 billion investment to build a national network of 500,000 charging stations.

Gavin Newsom's executive order requires sales of all new passenger vehicles to be zero-emission by 2035 including battery electric and fuel-cell technologies. The battery electric cars available today at either end of the price range are: at the more expensive end Tesla at \$90,000 which has a range of 370 miles on a charge, and one of the lowest-priced cars Chevrolet's Bolt costing \$38,000 with a range of 260 miles on a charge.

What about other types of electric vehicles? Today (2021), there are 44 medium-duty electrified models, 24 heavy-duty truck models, and over 40 bus models offered for sale. Amazon has ordered 100,000 electric delivery vans from Rivian; FedEx ordered 500 electric trucks from BrightDrop as part of its 2040 goal to have a fully ZEV parcel delivery fleet globally; UPS and DHL ordered 950 electric trucks and 63 delivery vans, respectively, from Workhorse; and Walmart and PepsiCo – both companies that have pledged to strive for zero and net-zero emissions, respectively, by 2040. They are looking to Tesla for their electric semi-truck plans.

More government support would aide in speeding up the use of alternative energy vehicles to the point where they would significantly decrease carbon emissions and slow climate change.

Call for Volunteers

Yahi ExCom needs 2 people to volunteer to sign up to be on the Board. New people in these positions will hopefully bring new energy and ideas to the group. If you are a board member you can vote on club activities and help direct how the club will be shaped in the coming years. If you are a person who hates meetings, you will be happy to know that there are only 10 board meetings to attend per year.

If you are interested in being on the Yahi Board, please send your intent to run along with your biography to Suzette Welch booksontape@rocketmail.com.

Yahi Group News

Leaving Pandemia

by Ed Schilling, Yahi Group ExCom

Isn't it about time we put the Covid-19 virus in the rearview mirror? It's been almost a year and a half since the mandatory lockdowns and face masks and social distancing first went into effect here in California. Still, the pandemic isn't exactly fading in the distance. Is it gaining on us? And as we look back and try to leave "Pandemia", the greatest challenge of human history is still right out in front of us: the climate crisis.

The Sierra Club Yahi group is having a potluck/picnic this September 11th at 5 mile in Bidwell park. Let's share a meal and put the pandemic behind us, or most of it. Bring a dish to share, and your own plate and utensils (see events calendar).

When the Sierra Club was founded, back in 1892 right here in California, it sponsored wilderness outings. Soon after it became involved in conservation and political action. Just to think of what the Sierra Club has been involved with and accomplished over the years in an effort to "preserve and protect" our environment gives hope. According to the history, there were "conservation successes" like the Grand Canyon, Great Lakes, and Florida Everglades. The Sierra Club played a role in the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency, (1970) the Clean Air Act, (1977) and the Wilderness Act. (1964) Today, of course, it's all about climate change and telling Congress: "No climate, no deal!" There are so many issues directly influenced by, or integrally a part of, the climate crisis. For example, current Sierra Club campaigns include "a bold infrastructure plan rooted in climate, jobs, and justice".

We are all a part of a great Sierra Club legacy. Let's celebrate that, and maybe talk about ways to fight the most formidable battle yet—saving the planet from the worst effects of climate change. The megafires this summer have affected us all, for example, yet there is no silver bullet, no magic vaccine to cure climate change. Turns out we need to attack climate change in many ways. Let's talk about it. See you at the potluck.



Yahi Group's New Treasurer: John Hollister

By Suzette Welch, Yahi Group Chair

John Hollister has volunteered to be the Yahi Treasurer to replace Alan Mendoza who had accepted the position on a temporary basis until we could get a permanent treasurer. John has historically spent many years on the Ex Com and many years as a trip leader. He has a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in business administration. He was an auditor for ten years and the treasurer for the Forest Ranch Community Association.

Contact information for John is hubhollister@yahoo.com. On behalf of Yahi Group, I thank you so much, John, for taking on this project.

Yahi Has a New Chair

by Suzette Welch Outgoing Yahi Group Chair

I plan to step down from the position of Yahi Chair as of Jan. 1, 2022. In the interim Wendy LeMaster lemasterwendy@live.com will move into the Chair position as of Sept. 1, 2021 to see how much work it will involve and if she likes the activity. Wendy has been a member of the Yahi ExCom since 2018, Outreach Chair since 2017 and an outings leader.

I plan to continue on the ExCom in 2022, work on Newsletter distribution and mailing and continue to be administrator of Facebook page working along with Louise Casey.

SC CCC Adopts Two Resolutions Concerning Smart Growth, Air, and Water

These important resolutions were passed by the **California Conservation Committee (CCC)** of the Sierra Club, CA, in May 2021.

1) Resolution: The California Conservation Committee recommends that Sierra Club California make it a priority to seek and support California housing bills that promote quality transit-oriented infill development, that promote affordable housing, or that equitably phase out exclusionary single-family zoning.

Such legislation must be consistent with Club policies on VMT reduction, parking reform, and equity considerations, including support for prevailing-wage labor provisions and initiatives that promote affordability. Supported legislation should not allow new housing in greenfield, fire-prone areas of the wildland-urban interface or flood-prone areas, and should ensure that any changes to CEQA strengthen, not weaken, environmental protection including climate mitigation. Sierra Club supports legislation that inhibits sprawl and allows for a wider variety of housing types and densities in single family neighborhoods, such as duplexes, tri-plexes, and four-plexes, coupled with controls that prevent the gentrification of communities, including controls on demolition of existing housing and displacement of sitting tenants.

- and -

2) Resolution: The Sierra Club California Conservation Committee hereby adds a fifth “critical water policy objective” to the Sierra Club California statement of “critical water policy objectives” as follows;

We have five critical water policy objectives:

- Protect wetlands
- Cut pollution
- Enhance water conservation
- Restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin River/San Francisco Bay Delta
- Restore the ecosystems of California’s salmonid streams so long as habitats for other endangered species and species of special concern are not significantly harmed in the process

The California Conservation Committee (the CCC), is chartered and originally known as the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (or CNRCC). It establishes general conservation policy and specific conservation positions for the 13 California Sierra Club chapters and Sierra Club California.

Having one California policy maintains consistency between chapters and provides direction to Sierra Club California advocacy staff and California Legislative Committee, who decide Sierra Club California’s position on legislation.

More information: <https://www.sierraclub.org/california/cnrcc>

Learning About the Mechoopda and Conservation

By Grace M. Marvin, Conservation Chair (g-marvin@comcast.net)

In July, I was struck by a radio program about Ali Meders-Knight, her Mechoopda tribe, and their work in local forests. (*Ali Meders-Knight, Mechoopda Maidu - NPR Podcast - July 1, 2021 on "Cultivating Place" with Jennifer Jewell.*) Many of our country's citizens seem to be growing ever more aware of the extent of systemic racism and our ignorance about many different ethnic groups. Thus, it is important to learn about the Mechoopda who live on land in our Sierra Club Group's region - once also shared by the Yahi tribe of which Ishi was a famous member. I hope her insights about the local Mechoopda tribe (based in Chico) will become more widespread.

Ali graciously agreed about an interview, so we met for nearly three hours. My questions are in italics. I have summarized Ali Meders-Knight's answers below.

What are some ways the Mechoopda tribe traditionally protected the land, air, water, trees, and other elements of nature? They used biomimicry, *i.e.*, copying the actions of other stewards of the land, for example, beavers who know how to protect the watershed. In other words, tribal people protected nature, allowing it to provide what the tribe and nature needed for centuries ahead.

Are there tribal members who currently promote traditional conservation practices among themselves? Do they also try to educate the larger society? She and other tribal members, including several CSUC students, are working in crews at Verbena Fields in Chico. Ali teach them traditional ecological knowledge. Thus, people cutting down trees should know about and respect the importance of biodiversity – unlike most logging companies' workers. Cutting down trees should involve a careful regime to allow for long-range protection rather than just cutting trees down en masse.

She added: The Collins Pine Company is more inclined to show respect for nature than many other companies, such that several Mechoopda tribal members even work for Collins Pine - while Ali herself has a contract with them. One example of that respect involves workers acknowledging the need of keeping trees in the ground that represent different ages, *e.g.*, younger, middle-aged, and old trees.

Where and how does education of Mechoopda about their history and traditions take place? There are several different programs, such as the Cultural Camps for youth. Ali and others have contracts utilizing TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) to further such knowledge. There is a Tribal Library office at the Mechoopda Center in Chico containing books about Mechoopda traditions. Another source is the Dorothy Hill collection at Chico State Library, containing materials about the tribe.

Unfortunately, because now less than 1% of Chico's population are Mechoopda members, Chico Unified School District is not attending to teaching about their history. As a matter of fact, in prior decades there was much racism toward brown people. About half of Mechoopda parents train their children about traditions.

She added: It is worth recalling that until the 1960s, the federal government assumed the right to take children away from parents by sending them to boarding schools where they were strictly trained to adopt the white culture. If the schools were religious, the children were trained to be Christian. Moreover, a huge number of Indian children were not only trained to be Christians, but also to adopt other white cultural practices; many whites even adopted Indian children. These children often had to be caretakers of the children of white families. At last, the Indian Child Welfare Act was developed by our country in order to protect Indian children. It was not passed until 1978. (My recommendation: Google the act to learn more about why it had to be passed.)

Would you please explain the sustainable forest ideas you have, how they can be implemented, and how non-natives could be supportive? The goal is to allow large plots of land to be taken over-- not for

harvesting trees-- but to enhance a diversity of vegetation, which also takes the four seasons into account. The related contract awarded by the USDA would be for 20 years and would involve some production of products for the market while keeping the whole plot sustainable in the long run.

Has the long struggle to gain U.S. recognition of the tribe (achieved only in 1992) helped members and the tribe as a whole? Financially, socially, etc.? Yes! Without federal recognition, the tribe cannot be represented in or protected by the federal government. Now that they are recognized, tribal monies and lands can be protected by tribal trust laws.

Are there efforts the Mechoopda are making to obtain reparations? Now is not the time in Chico, but there is a worldwide movement that seeks reparations for tribes across the globe.

I saw that there are a variety of organizations that help low-income Mechoopda. Are there some that promote tribal unity and traditional values? There are also organizations that are not geared just to low income persons. For example, the California Indian Manpower Consortium trains young people how to work at different jobs and actually gives them solid work experience. For example, they learn how to create a business plan that incorporates a number of variables that can affect such a plan, including climate change.

What lands, buildings, organizations and businesses in and around Chico are now recognized as belonging to the Mechoopda tribe? There are about 40-50 houses owned by the Mechoopda. Moreover, the Mechoopda have the 2nd largest low-income housing program in Chico, thus paying much in taxes. They own the Mechoopda Center and other buildings. They also own orchards, a cemetery, and an apartment building. The Mechoopda have over 632 acres, now in a trust, near the intersection of Routes 149 and 99. Of that land only 32 acres will be a casino, and the rest they will protect.

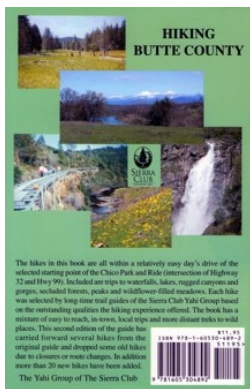
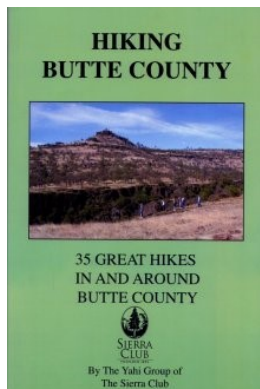
Are there any books, videos, or interviews you would recommend for people to learn more about the past and the present of the Mechoopda people?

- Don Hankins, pyrogeographer. (Google his discussions about Native Americans.)
- Many videos on U tube about the Mechoopda, including one by Jacob Meders: *Momento*
- Jesse Dizzard: *Life and Times in the City of Fortune*, parts 1 & 2 (Dizzard is a professor at CSUC)
- Dorothy Hill Collection at Chico State contains a vast amount of material about the Mechoopda

Finally, you may want to Google the Verbena Fields in Chico to find out how much work native and other Chicoans have done and continue to do to restore this lovely area. Ali Meders-Knight is a leader in that effort. Thank you, Ali!

Hiking Butte County

Coordinated by Alan Mendoza



Hiking Butte County is a wonderful field guide to hikes in and around Butte County. It was assembled by the outings leaders in the Yahi Group under the direction of Alan Mendoza. In it you will find descriptions directions, distances and difficulty information for 35 hikes. This is the only book of its type for this area.

You can purchase it for \$11.95 at **Mountain Sports, The Bookstore** in Chico (118 Main Street) and the **Lake Oroville Visitor Center** (917 Kelly Ridge Road). Or you can order one directly from Alan for \$10 plus shipping. Contact Alan Mendoza, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

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Newsletter Information

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For submissions, comments, or inquiries, contact: Louise Casey, *Louise.Carol.Casey@gmail.com*. Please include name, phone number, and address with each submittal. Short, single-topic articles are preferred. Deadlines for proposed articles and letters to the editor: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1.

Yahi News reserves the right to edit all submissions for reasons of space, clarity and potential libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Yahi Group.

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