# Challenges and Optimism Surrounding Public Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles



On April 17, a man was photographed standing beside a row of charging towers at a Tesla Supercharger station located at the corner of 14th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard in Santa Monica, California. This location, part of Tesla’s extensive Supercharger network, is designed to offer rapid charging solutions for Tesla vehicles.

Mariel Garza, Editorials Editor for the Los Angeles Times, detailed her challenges with the availability and functionality of public charging stations in a piece published on May 15, 2024. Garza, an owner of a 2019 Kia Niro, highlighted the sporadic availability and inefficiency of non-Tesla public chargers, especially during a recent trip to the Carrizo Plain National Monument. She described instances of waiting in line due to limited fast charging stations, contrasting this with the visibly larger and often underutilized Tesla Supercharger stations.

Garza mentioned that starting the next year, non-Tesla EVs with a port adapter would gain access to Tesla Superchargers. Furthermore, newer EV models will come equipped with Tesla’s North America Charging Standard port. Despite Tesla’s recent organizational changes, including layoffs and rehires within their Supercharger group, Garza remains cautiously optimistic about the potential improvement in public charging infrastructure for all EV owners.