



May 4, 2018

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #2
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95184

RE: \$100 Million for Transformative Climate Communities

Dear Chairs Wieckowski and Bloom:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our strong support for restoring funding out of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program at \$100 million this year. Transformative Climate Communities delivers multiple emission-reducing strategies – like affordable solar-powered housing with access to clean public transit and active transportation -- in a coordinated way that can transform communities into models of economic and environmental sustainability.

We have long been supportive of the Transformative Climate Communities program for focusing on catalytic investments in the communities most impacted by pollution and poverty. TCC directly connects investments to residents impacted by multiple sources of pollution and vulnerable to the anticipated impacts of climate change, and requires robust community engagement in all phases of project development and implementation. The program fosters an integrative, collaborative approach to comprehensively address the needs of communities impacted by environmental pollution.

TCC awarded \$140 million in its first round of funding to three communities for transformative projects. Combined the projects will reduce GHGs by 117,412 MTCO₂e and deliver local environmental, health and economic benefits through projects ranging from expanding green space to improving public transportation to the development of a new community college campus. Last year, however, the program received only \$10 million and the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) decided to wait on awarding the funds until we can secure additional resources for Transformative Climate Communities this year. \$10 million is simply not enough for even one catalytic award, let alone multiple large-scale, transformative investments.

Moreover, SGC awarded 10 Planning Grants during its first round of funding. 10 communities (East Oakland, Sacramento, East Los Angeles, Riverside, Stockton, Richmond, Coachella, West Oakland, Moreno and the Gateway Cities) will now be undertaking planning activities this year in the hopes of competing for future TCC Implementation Grants. These 10 Planning Grants represent months of work on the ground to bring communities together, build stakeholder support and envision more sustainable and resilient futures. All of this planning work will be wasted if there is not adequate funding to support multiple Implementation Grants in the future.

The signatories to this letter represent strong supporters of TCC for the real opportunity it provides to work collaboratively together to reduce greenhouse gases and bring coordinated investments to our most overburdened communities. We urge the Senate and Assembly to support this \$100 million request for Transformative Climate Communities and bring catalytic change to the communities most impacted by poverty and pollution.

Sincerely,

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The Greenlining Institute

Amy Vanderwarker and Tiffany Eng
California Environmental Justice Alliance
(CEJA)

Brian Beveridge
West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

Chuck Mills
California ReLeaf

Colin Parent
Circulate San Diego

Diane Takvorian
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Malcolm Harris
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Mary Creasman
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Miya Yoshitani
Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)

Renato Almanzor
Oakland Building Healthy Communities

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Sammy Nunez
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Amber Blackwell
Higher Ground Neighborhood Development

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Caroline Farrell
The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

Colin Miller
Oakland Climate Action Coalition (OCAC)

Cynthia Strathmann
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy

Ernesto Arevalo
Communities for a Better Environment

Laura Muraida
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy
Education (SCOPE)

Martha Dina Arguello
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles

Michele Hasson and Allen Hernandez
Center for Community Action and
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Nicole Capretz
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