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,
Alvaro Sanchez  The Greenlining Institute
Amber Blackwell  Higher Ground Neighborhood Development

Amy Vanderwarker and Tiffany Eng  California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)
Bill Magavern  Coalition for Clean Air

Brian Beveridge  West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
Caroline Farrell  The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

Chuck Mills  California ReLeaf
Colin Miller  Oakland Climate Action Coalition (OCAC)

Colin Parent  Circulate San Diego
Cynthia Strathmann  Strategic Actions for a Just Economy

Diane Takvorian  Environmental Health Coalition
Ernesto Arevalo  Communities for a Better Environment

Grecia Elenes  Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Laura Muraida  Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)

Malcolm Harris  T.R.U.S.T South LA
Martha Dina Arguello  Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles

Mary Creasman  Trust for Public Land
Michele Hasson and Allen Hernandez  Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAEJ)

Miya Yoshitani  Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)
Nicole Capretz  Climate Action Campaign

Renato Almanzor  Oakland Building Healthy Communities
Richard Marcantonio  Public Advocates

Rio Holaday  HOPE Collaborative
Robin Freeman  Brower Dellums Institute for Sustainable Policy Studies and Action

Sammy Nunez  Fathers & Families of San Joaquin
Shaniece Alexander  Oakland Food Policy Council (OFPC)
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<tr>
<th>Tamika Butler</th>
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