

March 25, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Office of Air and Radiation  
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant  
Washington, DC 20460

**Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program:  
Implementation Grant Letter of Support - EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07 for the Bay Area  
Clean Homes Initiative**

Dear US EPA Office of Air and Radiation,

The Association for Energy Affordability supports the Association of Bay Area Government's (ABAG's) proposed Bay Area Clean Homes Initiative (BACHI) that would directly benefit low-income and disadvantaged community (LIDAC) households across the region. We commend the EPA for its creation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, which will drive transformative work and significant near term GHG emission reductions through 2030 as well as provide a pathway to scale greenhouse gas reductions in low-income disadvantaged communities over the long term.

We are proud to partner with ABAG to implement the BACHI which will deliver immediate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions while building a foundation for ongoing reductions through a replicable model that combines shovel-ready home retrofits with strategic interventions to unlock the region's ability to scale residential decarbonization. BACHI's strategic partnerships and synergy of both short- and long-term strategies enables on-the-ground project implementation to directly inform effective and transformational systemic interventions that address technical, economic and behavioral barriers in frontline communities. AEA is dedicated to achieving energy efficiency and clean energy existing buildings in order to foster and maintain affordable and healthy housing and communities, especially those of low-income, and we are confident the BACHI solution will help communities and buildings that are often left behind.

We will work closely with the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) to deliver a suite of services including environmental remediation, electrical capacity upgrades, weatherization and energy efficiency and replacement of gas appliances with efficient electric appliances to residents of LIDAC communities. The proposed model reflects the extensive leading experience of the Bay Area, and is consistent with innovative program design emerging across the state. We base this observation on our experience and role as implementer of over 15 multifamily energy efficiency and electrification programs throughout the state, including many that focus on low income households.



We are prepared to serve in the roles identified in the proposal if it is awarded. We have the organizational structures needed to enroll homes and conduct bidding and contracting with qualified contractors to complete the retrofits and we welcome the opportunity to support BACHI partners Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together to expand their ability to deliver energy retrofits.

The BACHI will deliver a streamlined region-wide program, presenting offerings that, while unified in approach, will be tailored to each community based on local needs, local goals, and complementary local services. We feel confident that the unique BACHI delivery model will expeditiously expand access to residential decarbonization for households disproportionately impacted by pollution, burdened by high energy costs, and historically excluded from clean energy opportunities.

We look forward to participating in this historic effort to drive direct, household-level climate action, economic relief for LIDAC households, and transformative solutions that will deliver significant near-term GHG reductions while positioning the Bay Area region to decarbonize our communities successfully and equitably.

Sincerely,



Nick Dirr  
Senior Director, Programs