

March 22, 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,

Rebuilding Together strongly support 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, as defined by EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), 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. As affiliated agencies across the Bay Area and beyond, Rebuilding Together has maintained a 30-year commitment to keeping low-income communities safely housed. BACHI is ensuring that this mission continues to support the changing needs of our communities and helps our affiliates and partners ensure that our neighbors are not left behind in the energy transition.

Rebuilding Together will continue to deepen our collaborative work with Habitat for Humanity, 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. This partnership will not only deliver high quality installations but will also build workforce knowledge and capacity to position the region to continue to scale this work beyond the grant period. We support this program design because it directly addresses critical needs we have seen in our ongoing work with low-income households, including covering the cost of pre-electrification measures to remediate health hazards. Additionally, this model seeks to institutionalize weatherization and appliance electrification measures in home rehabilitation programs leading to substantial long-term benefits for the communities we serve as well as significant GHG reductions.

BACHI seeks to deliver services complementary to those offered through BayREN's existing multifamily and single-family programs; we believe both efforts are vital and necessary to help rapidly decrease GHG emissions and support community decarbonization as a solution to transition our region away from fossil


fuel use. This partnership also builds upon and expands the reach of existing pilots in the region, including the Home Electrification Equity Project led by Habitat for Humanity East Bay Silicon Valley with funding from Google.org and ICLEI, and the Just Transition Residential Electrification Pilot by the City of Berkeley working with Rebuilding Together East Bay Network to advance high-road, family-sustaining workforce opportunities through aggregated residential building electrification retrofits.

Bay Area Rebuilding Together Affiliates 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 expand our capacity to serve LIDAC communities with our affiliates across the Bay Area. The project design and funding will enable Habitat for Humanity/ Rebuilding Together and our affiliates to participate in new training opportunities and will ensure that our pipeline of past rehabilitation projects can be referred to BACHI for participation which will ensure that the effort can achieve significant near-term GHG reductions.

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.

Rebuilding Together looks 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.

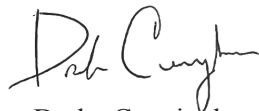
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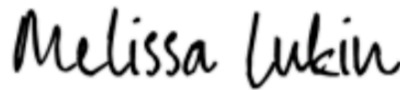
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