



RISING SUN

CENTER FOR OPPORTUNITY

March 21, 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,

Rising Sun Center for Opportunity, a climate- and equity-focused nonprofit workforce development organization operating in the Bay Area, strongly 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, 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.

Rising Sun works closely with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and are confident that this partnership will not only deliver high quality home upgrades but will also build workforce knowledge and capacity to position the region to continue to scale this work beyond the grant period. Rising Sun is leading the Bay Area High Road Training Partnership (HRTTP), an initiative funded by the California Workforce Development Board, that will help ensure that efforts to decarbonize buildings generate high quality jobs as

well as other economic and health benefits for Bay Area residents. We support this program design because it directly addresses critical needs we have seen in our ongoing H RTP work to integrate high roads workforce standards into residential decarbonization programs. Should the proposal be successful, Rising Sun will actively participate in the successful implementation of the BACHI by working with ABAG, BayREN and BAAQMD to integrate lessons learned from our ongoing H RTP work through our participation on the BACHI Advisory Working Group.

The proposed BACHI program design aligns with Rising Sun's equity and climate action objectives, including prioritizing underserved communities, collaborating with local partners, such as other local governments, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, community based organizations and Community Choice Aggregation agencies, to support the shift to building decarbonization in existing buildings, particularly in multifamily and single-family homes.

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 high quality jobs and residential decarbonization for households disproportionately impacted by pollution, burdened by high energy costs, and historically excluded from clean energy opportunities.

Rising Sun 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 access to significant near-term GHG reductions while positioning the Bay Area region to decarbonize our communities successfully and equitably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julia Hatton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Julia Hatton
President & CEO, Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

www.risingsunopp.org