



*StopWaste is the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board, and the Energy Council operating as one public agency.*

March 15, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
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**

*Member Agencies:*

Alameda County  
Alameda  
Albany  
Berkeley  
Dublin  
Emeryville  
Fremont  
Hayward  
Livermore  
Newark  
Oakland  
Piedmont  
Pleasanton  
San Leandro  
Union City  
Castro Valley  
Sanitary District  
Oro Loma  
Sanitary District

Dear US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Administrator,

I am a representative of StopWaste, a joint powers authority representing local governments in Alameda County. We represent Alameda County jurisdictions as a member of the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN), a partnership that serves the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments. 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.

Our county supports 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. Alameda County has a high concentration of residents living in LIDACs along the Interstate 880 corridor whose health and comfort would benefit from home energy improvements. BACHI seeks to deliver services complementary to those offered through BayREN's 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 rid our reliance on fossil fuels. Our agency manages BayREN's multifamily program across the region, and the BACHI model would be complementary and fill gaps in our current program offering.

The proposed BACHI program design aligns with our member jurisdictions' 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 Aggregators, on regional outreach, and expanding our programs with

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electrification measures designed to support the shift to building decarbonization in existing buildings, particularly in multifamily and single-family homes.

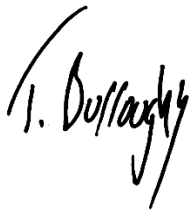
Our member jurisdictions have piloted innovative delivery models for equitable home decarbonization. The Home Electrification Equity Project is a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and four of our jurisdictions: Berkeley, Fremont, Hayward, and Oakland. The City of Berkeley has partnered with Rebuilding Together East Bay Network to launch the Berkeley Just Transition pilot. UC Berkeley and a team of partners have been advancing block-scale decarbonization through the EcoBlock project, with a site in Oakland, and City of Albany will be piloting neighborhood-based decarbonization outreach with a DOE grant in 2024-2025. BACHI's effective program design reflects lessons learned from these pilots and will continue to benefit from coordination during implementation. We are committed to facilitating ongoing exchanges.

We support the design and intent of the proposed Initiative and, should the proposal move forward, we will actively participate in the delivery of program services to BayREN customers as a BACHI partner. Our organization will conduct marketing, education, and outreach efforts, pilot neighborhood approaches, and will provide ongoing program input to ensure BACHI continues to meet the needs of our local community. We will also coordinate the CPRG funded portion of support provided through our multifamily technical assistance provider, the Association for Energy Affordability. We are prepared to serve in the role as described for us in the proposal.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Burroughs", with a stylized, cursive script.

Timothy Burroughs  
Executive Director