



March 27th, 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**

Dear US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Administrator,

I am a representative of Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC), a nonprofit organization serving frontline communities in the nine county San Francisco Bay Area. We commend the EPA for its creation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), 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 priority low-income disadvantaged communities over the long term.

I am writing in support of the Bay Area Clean Homes Initiative (BACHI) which will deliver short and long-term greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions through a replicable model that combines shovel-ready home retrofits and strategic interventions to unlock our ability to scale residential decarbonization. I 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 priority low-income disadvantaged communities over the long term.

Emerald Cities Collaborative worked closely with both the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to support the development of the Central Bay Area's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) funded through the CPRG. Our organization is a member of the Equity Roundtable convened by BAAQMD to inform the design of priority climate action measures for the PCAP.

Emerald Cities supports ABAG's proposed Bay Area Clean Homes Initiative (BACHI) that would directly benefit 2,000 low-income and disadvantaged community (LIDAC) households, as defined by EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), across the region. Should the proposal be successful, ECC looks forward to actively supporting the delivery of

program services in LIDAC communities by providing guidance and advising on best practices in implementing BACHI's suite of services for LIDAC residents.

The proposed BACHI program design aligns with ECC's equity and climate action objectives, including prioritizing underserved communities, collaborating with local partners. The program 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. As an administrator of contractor development and training programs for small, local, minority, women and disadvantaged contracting businesses, Emerald Cities Collaborative looks forward to the opportunity BACHI can provide for contractors in our network. We are excited to collaborate with BACHI on the creation of initiatives and programs that will help build a high-road job market for residential decarbonization.

ECC 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.

Sincerely,



Avni Jamdar
Regional Director, Emerald Cities Collaborative Northern California