



March 28, 2024

United States 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 California Energy Commission (CEC) as the state of California State Energy Office supports 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. The CEC commends 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.

Led by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) with the critical support of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) as a coalition member, BACHI will be implemented through an unprecedented partnership of Bay Area local and governments, the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN), nonprofits, academic institutions, and community choice aggregator (CCA) agencies. With the urgency to fully decarbonize our systems to meet California's ambitious GHG reduction goals, residential decarbonization strategies must be both tailored to serve frontline communities and regionally consistent to achieve GHG reductions at scale. The BACHI will achieve this by delivering 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.

ABAG's leadership and commitment to implementing BACHI will directly benefit up to 1,500 low-income and disadvantaged community (LIDAC) households, as defined by EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), across the Bay Area region. Additionally, BACHI seeks to deliver services complementary to those offered through BayREN's existing multifamily and single-family programs as well as those offered by our region's seven CCAs. By

leveraging existing programs, funding, and expertise, the Bay Area region can commit to rapidly decreasing residential GHG emissions while supporting community decarbonization as a solution to rid our reliance on fossil fuels.

The proposed BACHI program design directly aligns with California's equity and climate action objectives, including prioritizing underserved communities by collaborating with and strategically building the capacity of local partners such as Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together, who currently serve these communities. BACHI partners are committed to developing and testing solutions to address key technical, economic, and social barriers to scaling residential decarbonization which will enable this model to be replicated in other regions statewide. The CEC is 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.

The CEC fully supports this historic effort to drive direct, household-level climate action and economic relief for LIDAC households. The transformative solutions that BACHI will deliver will achieve 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 "David Hochschild", written in a cursive style.

David Hochschild
Chair
California Energy Commission