

March 22, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
Washington, DC 20460

Re: U.S. EPA - 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,

The County of San Mateo is a member of both the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN). Our Sustainability Department supports ABAG's proposed Bay Area Clean Homes Initiative (BACHI) because it would directly benefit 2,000 low-income and disadvantaged community (LIDAC) households across the region, as defined by EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The proposed BACHI program design aligns with San Mateo County's equity and climate action strategies, including prioritizing underserved communities and collaborating with local partners to accelerate the decarbonization of existing buildings, particularly multifamily and single-family homes.

In San Mateo County where the cost of living is significantly higher than the national average, more than 28,000 households have been identified as LIDAC using the CEJST. In particular, the Broadmoor and North Fair Oaks unincorporated areas are included on the CEJST map, as well as communities in incorporated San Mateo, Daly City, South San Francisco, Redwood City, and East Palo Alto. The Sustainability Department currently contracts with 10 community-based organizations to assist us in helping underserved communities access sustainability resources and to provide input on program designs and delivery strategies. We also partner with Peninsula Clean Energy on decarbonization initiatives that help San Mateo County jurisdictions meet aggressive climate action goals.

San Mateo County supports the design and intent of the BACHI proposal and would actively participate in the delivery of program services as a BACHI partner. Our organization would conduct marketing, education, and outreach (ME&O) efforts, and pilot neighborhood approaches. We would also provide ongoing program input to ensure BACHI continued to meet the needs of our local community, especially efforts to advance neighborhood decarbonization.

San Mateo County 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,



Carolyn Bloede
Director, Sustainability Department

