



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 EPA Office of Air and Radiation,

I am a representative of San José Clean Energy, or SJCE, which is San José's local, not-for-profit electricity supplier operated by the City of San José. 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 priority low-income disadvantaged communities over the long term.

SJCE 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. Most of Downtown and East San Jose are identified as LIDAC communities through CEJST. SJCE is passionate about supporting LIDAC communities and has done so by developing rate discounts and other programs with these communities in mind. BACHI 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.

SJCE works closely with both the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN), a partnership that serves the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties. The proposed BACHI program design aligns with SJCE'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, on regional outreach, and expanding our programs with electrification measures designed to support the shift to building decarbonization in existing buildings, particularly in multifamily and single-family homes.

SJCE supports the design and intent of the proposed Initiative and, should the proposal be successful, will actively participate in the successful implementation of the BACHI by working with ABAG, BayREN and BAAQMD to identify and implement solutions that ensure electrification of residential homes does not result in increased utility bills. SJCE will participate in quarterly convenings to discuss and design rate protection mechanisms for residents of LIDAC communities served by the BACHI, of which San José has many.

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.

SJCE 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,

Zachary Struyk

Zach Struyk
Assistant Director, San José Clean Energy