



Sonoma County Transportation Authority  
Regional Climate Protection Authority

March 15, 2024

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,

I am a representative of the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA). We are a partner of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Sonoma County representative for the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN), a partnership that serves the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties. We commend the EPA for creating the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, which will drive transformative work and significant near-term GHG emission reductions through 2030 and provide a pathway to scale greenhouse gas reductions in low-income disadvantaged communities over the long term.

We support 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. 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.

**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 enable on-the-ground project implementation to directly inform effective and transformational systemic interventions that address technical, economic, and behavioral barriers in frontline communities.**

The proposed BACHI program design aligns with RCPA'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 companies, 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.

RCPA supports the design and intent of the proposed Initiative and, should the proposal be successful, will actively participate in delivering program services to BayREN customers as a BACHI partner. Our organization will conduct marketing, education, and outreach (ME&O) efforts, pilot neighborhood approaches, and provide ongoing program input to ensure BACHI continues to meet the needs of our local community. **In particular, we are prepared to serve in the role described for BayREN county members in the BACHI proposal's task of advancing neighborhood decarbonization.**

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.

As the Sonoma County lead for BayREN, RCPA 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Cameron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

James Cameron, Executive Director  
Sonoma County Transportation Authority/Regional Climate Protection Authority