



P.O. Box 1030, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

March 26, 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 EPA Office of Air and Radiation,

I am a representative of Sonoma Clean Power, a Community Choice Aggregator serving residents and businesses in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. 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.

Sonoma Clean Power supports ABAG's proposed Bay Area Clean Homes Initiative (BACHI) that would 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 region. 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.

Sonoma Clean Power 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. BACHI seeks to deliver services complementary to those offered by all Bay Area CCAs and through BayREN's multifamily and single-family programs; we believe all of these 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.

Sonoma Clean Power 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. Sonoma Clean Power

will participate in quarterly convenings to discuss and design rate protection mechanisms for residents of LIDAC communities served by the BACHI.

The proposed BACHI program design aligns with Sonoma Clean Power'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.

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.

Sonoma Clean Power 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,



Rebecca Simonson
Director of Programs
Sonoma Clean Power