



Environmental Protection Agency
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program
Funding Opportunity : EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07

March 25, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter in strong support of Blue Lake Rancheria's grant application to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program (CPRG.) Blue Lake Rancheria, a federally recognized Tribal government and community located in Humboldt County, California, has consistently demonstrated leadership in sustainability, resilience, and environmental stewardship.

Blue Lake Rancheria's proposal focuses on critical carbon reductions across their Tribal land, aiming to enhance both local and regional energy infrastructure. Specifically, they plan to:

1. **Solar Carport Covers:** Blue Lake Rancheria intends to acquire and install solar carport covers. This initiative aligns with our shared goals of promoting clean energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
2. **DC Fast Charging Stations:** Recognizing the need for more DC fast chargers across California's North Coast, Blue Lake Rancheria aims to install 10 DC fast charging stations. This infrastructure will not only benefit electric vehicle owners but also provide essential access to electrification during power outages.
3. **Emergency Support Services:** Blue Lake Rancheria plays a crucial role in providing emergency support services during GRID disruptions. Their microgrid systems ensure continuity of energy supply, benefiting not only their community but also approximately 10,000 people in the region.
4. **Electric Trucks:** Blue Lake Rancheria's plan to purchase four electric trucks demonstrates their commitment to sustainable transportation. These trucks will serve multiple purposes, including transporting goods, electrifying homes during emergencies, and supporting their Food Sovereignty Program.

The acquisition of these assets will assist the Tribe to enhance their Emergency Support Services. Specifically, Blue Lake Rancheria plays a crucial role in providing emergency support services during GRID disruptions, wildfires and seismic activity. Their existing microgrid systems ensure continuity of energy supply, benefiting not only their community but also approximately 10,000 people in the region. The vehicles and

DC fast charging infrastructure will provide the Tribe with even more ways to provide critical services and supports to its Tribal members, and others across the region.

RCEA is a local-government joint powers agency of the County of Humboldt, Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe, the Cities of Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Ferndale, Blue Lake, and Trinidad, the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, and the Yurok Tribe. Formed in 2003, RCEA's mission is to develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean efficient and renewable resources available in the region.

Our partnership with Blue Lake Rancheria is built on shared values of regional and Tribal resilience. Together, we strive to address the disproportionate effects of climate change, wildfire risks, seismic activity, and GRID failures in our vulnerable region.

Blue Lake Rancheria's comprehensive approach to energy self-sufficiency, carbon reduction, and community well-being exemplifies the kind of forward-thinking action needed to combat climate change. RCEA strongly endorses this grant application and looks forward to continued collaboration. I urge you to give full and fair consideration to Blue Lake Rancheria's application to the CPRG program. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Eileen Verbeck
Acting Executive Director
Redwood Coast Energy Authority
707-291-4588