

COUNTY OF MONTEREY



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

JUAN HIDALGO, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

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April 1, 2024

Cora Panturad, Sustainability Program Manager (Interim)

County of Monterey, County Administrative Office

168 West Alisal Street, 3rd Floor

Salinas, CA 93901

Re: Letter of Support for Monterey County's *Agriculture and Tourism Worker EMobility Network* proposal to the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

Dear Ms. Panturad,

I am writing on behalf of the County of Monterey Agricultural Commissioner's Office to confirm our support of Monterey County's *Agriculture and Tourism Worker EMobility Network* proposal to the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office is dedicated to worker health and safety, the protection of environmental resources, and the promotion of the agricultural sector of Monterey County. We accomplish our mission through various programs that include preventing the introduction of invasive pests, regulating the safe and effective use of pesticides, and weights and measures that implemented locally protect agriculture and our environment, protect the health of agricultural workers and our communities, and ensure a level playing field and equity in the marketplace. Our office has a history of working with our farmworker community and local community organizations to ensure the health and safety of the most valued resources in agriculture. The EPA CPRG grant will support efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions and provide transportation options and opportunities to low-income residents in the County of Monterey. Agricultural workers in our region will benefit significantly from this grant by making vanpools a transportation option that will not only help to reduce greenhouse emissions by using electric vans but will also reduce transportation costs for these community members. Low-income communities in our region will benefit from the increased access to new sustainable transportation modes offering the opportunity to participate and enjoy EV carsharing mobility options which will provide hands-on experiences to continue to learn and become more acquainted with EVs and their benefits.

Should the EPA CPRG grant be awarded, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office is committed to supporting the promotion of the EMobility Network services with our local agricultural industry and community organizations through e-mail communication, word of mouth, and at local meetings.

Thank you for considering our proposal, which will serve among the lowest income residents in the state, living in some of the highest cost of living and housing markets in the nation with limited public

transportation options, working outdoors in variable weather conditions, and impacted by unpredictable weather events that can result in potential exposure to extreme heat, potential exposure to wildfire smoke, and drought and flood events that can jeopardize job security.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Juan Hidalgo

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Juan Hidalgo

Agricultural Commissioner

Sealer of Weights and Measure