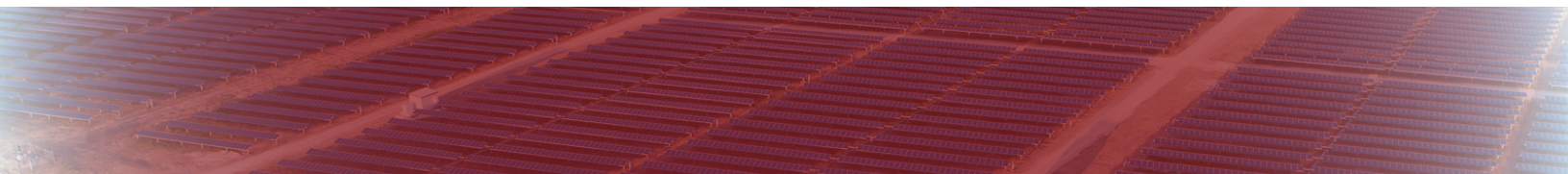


# Letters of Commitment

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- City of San Antonio
- CPS Energy
- San Antonio Water System (SAWS)
- Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute (TEPRI)





**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

March 27, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
EPA Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Funding Opportunity Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07

Dear Administrator Regan:

On behalf of the City of San Antonio and consistent with City Council's authorization on March 21, 2024, to submit an application, we are pleased to provide this letter of commitment in support of the *Preparing Alamo Area Water & Energy Systems for an Equitable & Sustainable Future Project*. The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program through U.S. EPA is directly aligned with San Antonio's priorities of safety, environmental justice, increased equitable access, climate and sustainability, and workforce development as it invests in resilient strategies having both a local and regional impact. In addition, the Project features a strong partnership with our utility entities: CPS Energy and San Antonio Water System (SAWS). In our dedication to focus on community-focused benefits this project directly aligns with the goals of CPRG and further emphasizes the investments from the City of San Antonio and our partners.

Located in an area of persistent poverty and a historically disadvantaged community, this project provides the necessary strategies to address the increasingly harmful impacts of climate change. Collectively, we are experiencing more extreme heat, drought and water scarcity, and dangerous levels of flooding, among other impacts. Unfortunately, these impacts have the most severe consequences on frontline and vulnerable communities. We recognize we must not only take immediate action to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are accelerating climate change but also increase the resiliency of our most vulnerable populations to these impacts. On November 9, 2023, the City of San Antonio approved a \$30 million services agreement with Big Sun Solar for the largest on-site solar project by a local Texas Government. This services agreement provides innovative resources to install solar canopies at 42 city facilities. Through this agreement, the City of San Antonio utilizes public-private partnerships and combines local, state, and federal funding to progress towards San Antonio's 2040 goal of zero net energy for all municipal buildings.

In complementing our ongoing efforts, this project features a new local 100 MW community solar project online in an Energy Community that has historically served as a basis for fossil fuel electricity generation. In addition, the solar project and battery storage at a SAWS facility will help decarbonize and increase resilience in the regional water system. As a result, this project will provide direct financial benefit to our most energy burdened residents. The City will work with local workforce partners to establish the much-desired Solar Panel Training Program and further job opportunities for the community.

Sincerely,

David McCary, CPM  
Assistant City Manager



**Rudy D. Garza**

*President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Program Coordinator  
Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

March 25, 2024

Subject: US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Letter of Commitment

Dear Program Coordinator,

Please accept this letter as CPS Energy's commitment to work with the City of San Antonio (CoSA) and San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) on the development and execution of the proposed solar and energy storage project under the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

CPS Energy is San Antonio's municipally owned utility, and we have a long history of encouraging the adoption of solar in the community. We have led and supported various initiatives that have helped earn the ranking as 5th in the nation and 1st in the state of Texas for solar capacity, as recognized by the eighth edition of Environment Texas Research & Policy Center's report *Shining Cities: The Top US Cities for Solar Energy*.

Expanding on efforts to support the adoption of solar, through the award of this grant and in collaboration with the CoSA and SAWS, we will increase access to solar to low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents with up to 100 MW of new community solar.

Community solar reduces traditional barriers to solar, such as home ownership, roof integrity, shading, and the need for upfront capital. Through this proposed community solar program, LMI residents will be eligible to participate in the program. Grant funds awarded will significantly reduce the cost of developing and interconnecting the community solar farm, reducing energy costs for LMI residents and creating a path to participating in clean energy.

We are excited about this partnership opportunity and support the grant proposal between CoSA, CPS Energy, and SAWS to prioritize local solutions that deploy clean, resilient solutions with community-facing benefits to the citizens of Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, and all of the communities we serve.

Thank you for this opportunity. We look forward to the EPA's decision to fund this collaborative project to help with the clean energy transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rudy D. Garza", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rudy D. Garza  
President & CEO





March 27, 2024

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Program  
Coordinator Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Subject: US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Letter of Commitment

Dear Program Coordinator,

Please accept this Commitment Letter indicating the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) willingness to work with CPS Energy and the City of San Antonio on the development and execution of the proposed project under the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We agree that there is tremendous opportunity to deploy clean energy, enhance regional water and energy resilience, provide low-income and disadvantaged community benefit, and create innovative education and job opportunities.

SAWS is one of the largest municipal water and wastewater utilities in the nation, serving more than 2 million residents, and is responsible for an underground network of nearly 14,000 miles of pipes. Built through effective strategic planning and by having one of the leading water conservation programs in the United States, SAWS is nationally recognized for its diversified water portfolio that comes from seven different sources and ensures a reliable supply for our community – even during times of severe drought. Additionally, SAWS owns and operates four thermal energy facilities providing environmentally and economically sustainable district cooling services to governmental and private entities.

SAWS is excited about this partnership opportunity and wholeheartedly supports the grant proposal between the City of San Antonio, CPS Energy, and SAWS to prioritize local solutions that deploy clean, resilient solutions with community-facing benefits to the residents of Bexar County and the City of San Antonio.

It is our belief that SAWS and its community partners are uniquely positioned to deliver tremendous community-wide impact through the CPRG and we look forward to a positive decision by the EPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Puente", followed by a stylized flourish.

Robert R. Puente  
President/CEO



TEXAS ENERGY POVERTY RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
1403 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Austin, TX 78703  
[www.tepri.org](http://www.tepri.org)

March 21, 2024

Douglas Melnick  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
City of San Antonio

**Re: Commitment to Partner on EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant**

Dear Mr. Melnick:

As the Executive Director of Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute (TEPRI), I am pleased to confirm our commitment to participate on your team to reduce the energy burdens of residents who contend with low-incomes by community solar on transitioning fossil-based energy assets.

TEPRI is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization founded in 2015 to advance an equitable energy transition and to advance solutions for affordable, reliable, and clean energy for disadvantaged communities. TEPRI is accelerating the move towards an energy system that is affordable, reliable, sustainable, and supports healthy thriving communities. We work with clean energy and social equity stakeholders to inspire lasting energy solutions for all people in Texas.

TEPRI will play a key role in designing a program that will serve households that contend with low-incomes, as well as minority-owned small business enterprises. We will identify, engage, and educate community organizations about the opportunities that community solar can provide, and, we will evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts and the experience of residents to guide continuous program improvements in meeting the needs of low-income households.

TEPRI staff will work closely with the team to execute on the project to decarbonize, reduce energy burdens, and advance the expansion of solar, putting the U.S. on a path to achieve net-zero emissions economy-wide by 2050. We are thrilled to work with the City of San Antonio and CPS Energy to ensure more effective use of a once-in-a-generation Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) investments to modernize and upgrade American infrastructure, tackle the climate crisis, and ensure stronger access to economic, environmental, and other benefits for disadvantaged communities.

We highly recommend this project, as San Antonio includes some of the highest concentrations of vulnerable populations in the state. This project will serve as an exemplar statewide.

Sincerely,

Margo Weisz,  
Executive Director, TEPRI  
[margo@tepri.org](mailto:margo@tepri.org)