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March 20, 2024

County of Santa Clara  
70 West Hedding, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95110-1705

RE: Letter of Commitment for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG):  
Implementation Grants General Competition

Dear Cayce Hill,

Joint Venture Silicon Valley is pleased to support Santa Clara County in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the goals outlined in their CPRG Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation proposal: *Implementing Innovative Approaches: Greater Bay Area Compost and Food Recovery Expansion Program*. Our organization will directly assist in the design and performance of the project by offering design and implementation support for a food recovery organization sub award process, stakeholder facilitation, and technical assistance for the food recovery organizations active in the County.

These purposes advance Joint Venture's mission to foster the health and vitality of the region, first by providing local and regional data, research, and analysis; and second by convening cross-sector partnerships to address the region's most pressing issues. The organization has a long history of working closely with Santa Clara County, including multiple County Supervisors serving as co-chairs of the board, and the County funding many Joint Venture research and pilot projects over the past 30 years.

Active in Silicon Valley since 1993 and in food recovery since 2016, Joint Venture serves as the research and convening partner for Santa Clara County in its efforts to comply with SB 1383, California's solid waste reduction law. In this capacity, we convene the county-wide Food Recovery Steering Committee and the regional Silicon Valley Food Recovery Council, bringing together expertise and insight from local governments, industry, academia, and the nonprofit sector. We also manage the Santa Clara County Food Recovery Program, the implementation of SB 1383 on the local level. This shows a long-term commitment on behalf of Joint Venture to serve as the food recovery capacity nexus, to continue to support the efforts of all stakeholders involved, and to pursue innovative programs that will achieve significant GHG reductions.

Recent publications funded by Santa Clara County include the county-wide food recovery capacity analysis required under SB 1383; *Deep Dive*, a data-intensive survey into the region's food recovery operations and clients; and the public-facing report, *Making the Most of Surplus Food in Santa Clara County*.

Joint Venture helped craft the proposal and design the "Measure 2: Food Recovery and Organics Diversion Program" portion of the project and will continue to directly assist in the implementation and performance of the project over the course of the next 5 years. Because of our central role in the food recovery landscape of the County, Joint Venture is uniquely positioned to implement this project alongside our counterparts in County government. We have been working with these County

colleagues for many years in the design of our countywide Santa Clara County Food Recovery Program, as well as in the design of additional capacity enhancements, and this infusion of funding will be a game-changer for our work in this space. This funding will allow us to greatly expand the recovery efforts across the County, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities, and Joint Venture is poised to shepherd in that new era of expansion. Joint Venture's participation in the project will allow the County to administer the project more effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Russell Hancock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Russell" and last name "Hancock" clearly distinguishable.

Russell Hancock  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Joint Venture Silicon Valley