



Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

November 3, 2016

Transformative Climate Communities Program
c/o Kim Danko
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the Strategic Growth Council:

PROPOSED RULEMAKING FOR THE TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITIES REGULATION (IMPLEMENTATION OF SB 2722)

The Department of Regional Planning appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed action (California Public Resources Code 75243) for the Transformative Climate Communities Program that implements Assembly Bill 2722 (authorized by Burke, 2016). We recommend that further consideration be given to Los Angeles County (unincorporated areas and cities) for the allocation of funds, and to a different methodology to determine the allocation of program funds for specific geographic locations.

The UCLA Luskin Center has estimated that 50% of Californians who live in a disadvantaged community are residents of Los Angeles County, which is comprised of 88 cities and unincorporated areas. Our understanding is that the proposed action directs 75% of the total available funding to be allocated solely for the City of Fresno and the City of Los Angeles. The proposed approach does not acknowledge that the most disadvantaged communities are located throughout Los Angeles County in many cities and unincorporated areas. Furthermore, with many region-wide initiatives underway to secure more parks, expand our transit infrastructure, and combat the housing crisis, there is a missed opportunity to address sustainability at a regional scale and to fully meet the intent of the Transformative Climate Communities Program.

The County of Los Angeles has land use planning jurisdiction for its unincorporated areas. The County's new General Plan, which was adopted in October 2015, provides an example of the opportunities within the region to foster sustainable and equitable communities while supporting compact development and a strong economy. In order to implement these goals, the County has developed or is currently developing plans to integrate land use and transportation, promote economic development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide sufficient services, improve infrastructure, streamline the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, and pursue funding opportunities through vigorous interdepartmental efforts. The areas highlighted in the attached map have been identified in the General Plan as being well-served by transit

Members of the Strategic Growth Council
November 3, 2016
Page 2

and having large potential for infill and compact development if catalytic and strategic investments are made.

In addition, we suggest a different methodology, one that does not determine the allocation of program funds for specific geographic locations. Limiting resources to one jurisdiction excludes others that are also equally disadvantaged. In the disadvantaged unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County, for example, there are a total of 42 census tracts that are at or above the 95th percentile in CalEnviroScreen, with a total population of 140,593 living in the unincorporated area portion of those census tracts. As shown in the attached map, these census tracts are located throughout the south and southeast region of Los Angeles, and most of the communities border the City of Los Angeles. The proposed regulation also has the unintended effect of not promoting multijurisdictional collaboration. This is a major barrier for planning efforts in fostering more interconnected and equitable development throughout the State, especially in unincorporated areas and smaller cities. The State should promote such efforts, particularly when eligible jurisdictions can demonstrate their capacity to manage funding effectively and work collaboratively.

We hope to gain your support for our efforts to further sustainable, compact and equitable development in our region. Should you have any questions, please contact Connie Chung in the General Plan Development and Housing Section at (213) 974-6417 or cchung@planning.lacounty.gov. Our office hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

for
RJB

RJB:MC:CC:SC:lm

Attachment: Map of Unincorporated Areas at Top 5th Percentile in CalEnviroScreen

c: County of Los Angeles Sustainability Council



**Kern Council
of Governments**

November 4, 2016

Mr. Ken Alex, Chair
Attn. Mackenzie Wieser
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Comment on the Transformative Climate Communities Program Rule Making**

Dear Chairman Alex:

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on one the important new programs being developed by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC). We would also like to thank Allison Joe from your staff for coming down and holding public workshops in Bakersfield and Fresno to solicit input on the SGC's programs such as Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program. One of the comments Ms. Joe received during the meetings was the limitation that is created on disadvantaged communities when funding is piecemealed in small amounts and other funds are matched. This new Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program addresses that issue by concentrating funding in a specific disadvantaged community. Since the adoption of the first Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), Kern has been very aggressive in pursuing and delivering more sustainable projects that support our local SCS goals and the State's Green House Gas reduction goals.

Kern COG's comments are as follows:

- 1) **Keep Remaining \$35 Funding Together/Award Competitively** – The TCC Program should provide the remaining \$35 million funding competitively to one community to maximize the transformative effect. This will have synergistic benefits for the disadvantaged community and avoid piecemeal development.
- 2) **Use Same Methodology to Award Remaining Funding as for Fresno** - The TCC Program should provide the remaining \$35 million in funding to the community with the next highest number of disadvantaged census tracts using the same method that was used to identify Fresno.

- 3) **Use CES & RWJ County Rankings to Identify Disadvantaged Communities** – In addition to the CalEnviroScreen (CES) Tool for identifying Disadvantaged Communities, the method for award of the remaining \$35 million should consider use of the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation County Health Rankings.
- 4) **Use Potential to Reduce Sprawl onto Farmland as Factor** – The potential for reducing sprawl onto farmland should be a major consideration in awarding of the final \$35 million in funding. The community with the highest potential growth rate, a large disadvantaged community, as well as the potential to promote infill housing rather than providing housing on periphery (farmland), would be able to demonstrate the greatest potential benefit for GHG reduction, preservation of farmland, and Disadvantaged Communities.
- 5) **Near Term High Quality Transit Opportunities** - The funds should be used in communities that have an opportunity for High Quality Transit such as High Speed Rail.

Thank you for considering these comments as part of your rule making. We look forward to working closely with the SGC.

Sincerely,



Ahron Hakimi,
Executive Director

Attachments:

cc: Rudy Salas, Assemblyman, 32nd District

Assembly
California Legislature



DR. JOAQUIN ARAMBULA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT

November 4, 2016

Council Members
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support—Transformative Climate Communities Program

Dear Council Members:

I am enthusiastic about the work the Strategic Growth Council is doing for the Transformative Climate Communities Program. The proposed rulemaking is another positive step toward ensuring our most disadvantaged communities have the resources and support they need to meet the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I came to Sacramento to fight for Fresno and the state's most vulnerable populations because as an emergency room doctor, I have seen how environmental problems lead to poor health.

By leveraging public investments in disadvantage communities, the funds will allow our neighborhoods to become communities where businesses attract more workers and residents have access to safe, environmentally sustainable communities.

This will help Fresno create a thriving downtown and will revitalize the local economy. The Central Valley is excited about a program that improves economic, health and environmental benefits and invests in job training.

I look forward to working with you to refine the guidelines and thank you for sharing in a vision that will help the Valley and Fresno meet the challenge of climate change and build a sustainable economy and environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joaquin Arambula", written over a vertical blue line.

Assemblymember Arambula
31th Assembly District



November 4, 2016

Randall Winston
Executive Director
Strategic Growth Council
1400 10th Street, #100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposed Rulemaking for the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Strategic Growth Council's (SGC's) proposed rulemaking for the new TCC program. The Trust for Public Land is in strong support of this new program, and the positive impacts it will have on the state's most disadvantaged communities (DACs) while helping to meet our GHG reduction obligations under SB 32. We also commend the vision of the SGC to focus what is hopefully the first of many years of TCC funding to attract and support large-scale proposals that include multiple and coordinated GHG reduction strategies within strategically-selected communities, for greatest impact. While DACs that would benefit greatly from the TCC program are located across the state, we understand the rationale for the selection of Los Angeles and Fresno (and a third location to be determined) as the focus of the first year of the program.

We believe that the ambitious and multilayered approach underpinning the TCC program is necessary so that we can not only reduce GHG emissions but do so in a way that strengthens the economy, benefits the local environment, and improves physical and mental health of Californians living in DACs. It is our hope that the guidelines will attract multiple-benefit and neighborhood-scale interventions that are truly transformative and catalyze the right types of public and private investments. To that end, we have the following recommendations.

➤ Given the anticipated, and sought-after improved economic outcomes of TCC investment in DACs, it is imperative that anti-displacement measures are mandated with use of TCC program funds so that current residents and businesses are not priced out of their communities as a result of program benefits. The SGC's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program is one program that sets a precedent for this, and we believe that anti-displacement strategies should be both mandatory in the TCC program and further incentivized in project scoring. In the AHSC program applicants receive a maximum of 4/100 points for anti-displacement strategies; we encourage SGC to devote at least 10% of project scoring to promote enhanced anti-displacement measures.

➤ We recommend that a portion of TCC funds be directed to providing technical assistance within funded regions to ensure and incentivize robust local participation in the communities in which funding will be implemented. Given the transformative goals of the program, it is imperative that projects reflect community needs and priorities and we believe that funding priority should be given to multi-

stakeholder, community-driven proposals. We anticipate that the TCC grant application process will be arduous, possibly providing a barrier to community-based applications. The opportunity for authentic community participation is greatly enhanced by SGC's selection of three locations in which to invest TCC funds.

- We see the need for SGC to provide outreach in DAC regions not currently receiving TCC funding to encourage local public and community leaders to identify specific needs and priorities around climate planning and to assist in developing plans that can lead to future TCC-type projects. This could initiate thoughtful, equitable, and proactive climate planning in communities not currently receiving TCC funding and lay the groundwork to attract and receive TCC funding in future years.
- We suggest that the third location where the final 25% of funds will be spent be the Inland Empire, within San Bernardino and/or Riverside Counties, as these regions score highest among top 5% of DACs in terms of their CalEnviroScreen Score, after the Cities of Fresno and Los Angeles.
- We are pleased to see that all TCC program grants will be awarded pursuant to a competitive process and believe that this is essential to the success and defensibility of the program going forward. We suggest that a separate competitive process be held in each of the three selected regions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rulemaking on the TCC program. We look forward to continued working with the SGC in the development of the program and seeing the benefits of the state's investment in communities that need it most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Creasman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary Creasman
Director of Government Affairs



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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November 4, 2016

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Mr. Randall Winston
Executive Director
Strategic Growth Council
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Transformative Climate Communities Program Guidelines (TCCP)

Dear Mr. Winston,

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission is writing to express concerns about the Strategic Growth Council's proposed guidelines for the first installment of \$140 million for the new Transformative Climate Communities Grant Program, established by AB 2722 (Burke) this year and funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund through enactment of AB 1613.

Under SGC's proposal, 50 percent of funds (\$70 million) would be reserved for the City of Fresno, 25 percent for the City of Los Angeles (\$35 million), and the remainder for a third location to be determined in a future proposal. We find it highly unusual for a state agency charged with administering a new competitive grant program to propose limiting funds to just three jurisdictions statewide in advance of reviewing any project applications. We believe this sets a troublesome precedent for the distribution of TCCP funds in future years, as well as other SGC-administered programs.

Additionally, we are concerned about the rationale provided for this approach, namely that the cities of Fresno and Los Angeles have the highest concentration of census tracts scoring in the top 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen (CES). AB 2722 allows SGC to "give priority to plans and projects that cover areas that have a high proportion of census tracts identified as disadvantaged and that focus on communities that are most disadvantaged." However, use of a "top 5 percent CES scores" is not required by statute and does a poor job of identifying the state's most disadvantaged communities. Consider that 29 Bay Area census tracts scoring in the top 5 percent statewide with respect to socio-economic disadvantage (what CES terms "population characteristics") do not rank in the top 5% of the CES score based on the current version of CES.

Moreover, based on the proposed Version 3 update to CES, use of a top 5 percent CES threshold for defining eligible TCCP areas would eliminate any project within the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area from eligibility. Under the current Version 2 of CES, just one Bay Area census tract located in Oakland would qualify. This is unacceptable for a new statewide competitive grant program to fund "neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans" that included no such restrictions when voted on by the Legislature.

Mr. Randall Winston
November 4, 2016

SGC should also consider that limiting TCCP funds to just three jurisdictions reduces the potential GHG reductions and co-benefits that could be realized from the program. Every disadvantaged community in California is likely to have greenhouse gas reduction projects that would provide local, economic, and environmental and health benefits, as sought in AB 2722. By limiting where TCCP funds can be spent at the outset, SGC is ruling out consideration of projects in other communities that might provide greater or earlier GHG reductions, potentially resulting in more transformational change or greater co-benefits.

In conclusion, we believe the program eligibility should not be restricted as is currently proposed. To the extent that SGC wants to focus on the “most disadvantaged communities,” we recommend targeting funds on the basis of socioeconomic factors or specific pollution-related variables with a strong relationship to greenhouse gas emissions, rather than the CES score. However, if the SGC is committed to focusing TCCP funds on Fresno, Los Angeles and a third location in the program’s first year, we respectfully request that this decision be made on the basis of specific needs the SGC seeks to address in those cities. We further request that the guidelines make clear that disadvantaged communities with a CES score in the top 5-25% range remain eligible for current and future TCCP funds.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Steve Heminger
Executive Director

SH:rl

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PRESIDENT AND CEO
DOUGLAS GUTHRIE

November 7, 2016

Kim Danko
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA EMAIL: tccpubliccomments@sgc.ca.gov

Subject: Comment Letter on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Transformative Climate Communities Program

Dear Ms. Danko,

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the rule proposed by the Strategic Growth Council that would allocate Transformative Climate Community Program (TCCP) funds to the cities of Los Angeles, Fresno and a third location, with a minimum of half of the funds allocated to the City of Fresno and a minimum of one-quarter of the funds allocated to the City of Los Angeles. HACLA wholeheartedly supports the implementation of this rule.

In addition, HACLA recommends that the Strategic Growth Council implement a rule designating a funding set-aside and/or preferential scoring for eligible public housing redevelopment projects that meet TCCP program requirements. A set-aside or preferential scoring for public housing sites, which are home to some of the densest concentrations of vulnerable populations subjected to high pollution burdens in the state, would amplify the impacts of the TCCP funding in these communities and ensure that the program meets its goal of targeting greenhouse gas emission reductions in disadvantaged communities.

In the City of Los Angeles, HACLA's public housing portfolio comprises more than 6,500 units on 16 sites providing the deepest affordability for very low and extremely low-income residents. Many of these complexes were built over 65 years ago and chronic underfunding has resulted in deteriorated housing units that are far from meeting today's standards for energy efficiency and other aspects of livability. Although many of these sites contain hundreds of units, they were built at relatively low densities and therefore represent the potential not only to improve housing quality but to promote infill development through increased density. Furthermore, the majority of our public housing sites are located in census tracts with pollution burden scores in the highest possible range (91-100%), according to the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 tool.

Each public housing site represents a significant opportunity to improve economic, environmental and health outcomes for a sizable population. Your council has funded and is well aware of our Jordan Downs complex in Watts, which currently has 700 public housing units (with approximately 2,300 residents). At Jordan Downs, HACLA is undertaking the first stage of a redevelopment project that will replace each of the

deteriorated units with new housing units and increase the density by adding an 700 more affordable and market-rate units, as well as a central park, a community center and on-site retail shops to serve residents and the surrounding community. The Jordan Downs redevelopment project also includes road improvements to increase resident accessibility to public transit and bikeways and pathways that connect residents to nearby commercial corridors and other community assets such as the Los Angeles River.

The Jordan Downs redevelopment project is a model of sustainability that incorporates several elements contributing to reducing GHG emissions, such as quality, high-density housing, mixed uses and walkability. But it is just one of HACLA's 16 public housing communities, all of which are in dire need of revitalization, and there are many other public housing communities like ours throughout California. By creating a set-aside and/or preferential selection for public housing redevelopment projects, the Transformative Climate Communities Program would ensure that it meets the goal of targeting at least 25% of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to disadvantaged communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to assisting the State in achieving the tremendously important goals captured in this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Guthrie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a prominent "G".

Douglas Guthrie
President / CEO



525 S. Hewitt St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

213.634.3790
climateresolve.org

November 8, 2016

Randall Winston, Executive Director
California Strategic Growth Council

Re.: Transformative Climate Communities Proposed Rulemaking | Support

Dear Mr. Winston:

As a representative of Climate Resolve, an organization whose focus is on Southern California and whose mission is in strong alignment with that of your agency, I write to you to express my support for the inclusion of the specification in the proposed rulemaking on the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program that Los Angeles would be sure to receive 25% of the program's funds. I think we both know that car-centric Los Angeles sure could use a boost in its efforts to put the right infrastructure and policies in place to nudge behavior in a more climate-friendly direction. Public agencies, non-profit advocates, and private sector players alike realize the importance of swift and significant behavior changes. With the TCC you have the opportunity to make a big splash; in the paragraph below I offer my two cents as to how you can best go about that.

First, as you consider what threshold requirements and incentive scoring criteria you will put in place in the program's guidelines, I encourage you to err on the side of not being overly restrictive. For the types of comprehensive, integrated projects that were intended with AB 2722's creation of the TCC program, it may be that NGO actors are better-suited to serve as project managers as they may have more imaginative capacities regarding the potential for change. Second, it is important that anti-displacement strategies are integral to any new infusion of funds to a community, so as to not lose core transit riders to the suburbanization of poverty. Third, I encourage you to not downplay the impact of programmatic efforts, such as employer-based incentive schemes and similar mechanism that attempt to tilt the scale towards favoring climate-friendly everyday behavior.

I trust that this is only the beginning as you embark on your process of establishing TCC program guidelines that deliver the most climate (and other co-) benefits for the buck, and I look forward to continued engagement with you around this topic.

Thank you for giving LA the opportunity to be a larger part of this momentum, and we will do our best to deliver for the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryn Lindblad".

Bryn Lindblad
Associate Director, Climate Resolve



Plug In America
6380 Wilshire Blvd
Suite 1010
Los Angeles, CA 90048
(415) 323-3329

Transformative Climate Community Program
c/o Kim Danko
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Submitted via email at: tccpubliccomments@sgc.ca.gov

November 7, 2016

Re: Comments on the Transformative Climate Community Program

Dear Ms. Danko:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Transformative Climate Community Program, which was created by AB 2722, recently passed this August 2016. The Program is intended to fund plans that include multiple, coordinated greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects within disadvantaged communities.¹

Plug In America is the national consumer voice for plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) and works to promote policies and programs nationwide that put more PEVs on the road for all consumers.² Our members are passionate PEV advocates and have driven PEVs for many years, affording Plug In America a unique perspective on how consumers think about PEVs and what actually inspires a consumer to purchase a PEV.

Along with co-sponsors Electric Auto Association and Sierra Club, Plug In America hosts National Drive Electric Week (NDEW), an annual weekly celebration of PEVs across the country. Events are hosted by volunteers and often allow for test rides in PEVs. This past year, there were more than 20 events in California, providing exposure to thousands of potential PEV drivers. Notably, there were the first NDEW events ever in disadvantaged communities, including Watts and in the port adjacent communities.

The PEV market has been growing in California since 2010. As these clean vehicles are usually leased for approximately three years, this means that cars leased in 2010-2013 are now on the used car market, and available to disadvantaged communities. Plug In America is working to increase the awareness of these clean vehicles to potential PEV drivers in these communities through events like NDEW, consumer information on our website and through exploring partnerships with environmental justice advocates.

¹ As stated in the Initial Statement of Reasons, "The problem the Council intends to address with this regulation is to ensure that California makes appropriate investments that reduce greenhouse gases and also demonstrate co-benefits for the economy, workforce, and the health of California's most vulnerable communities." Available at: http://www.sgc.ca.gov/resource%20files/Initial_Statement_of_Reasons_TCC_Program_Allocation_FINAL_09-23-16.pdf page 4

² More information available at: www.pluginamerica.org



Plug In America
6380 Wilshire Blvd
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Los Angeles, CA 90048
(415) 323-3329

Plug In America has also been the lead advocate for HOV lane access policies for PEVs. We are working to improve the current program by extending the sunset date of the program, essentially allowing for the decal to stay with the vehicle. As most PEVs are leased in California, the decal would pass to the used car market, increasing the value of the vehicle to those in disadvantaged communities, as they often have longer commutes and could benefit from access to an HOV lane. This provides yet another reason to make the switch to driving electric.

As the PEV market continues to accelerate, and more vehicles are available in the used car market, it is important that there be adequate charging infrastructure for these vehicles. Therefore, we encourage an allocation of investment be spent on strategic placement of charging infrastructure in these communities. Specifically, the funding should be prioritized to ensure access to adequate L1 charging (120V) stations, workplace charging stations and DC fast charging stations.

Should an allocation of investment be spent on car- or ride-sharing programs, we encourage the Transformative Climate Community Program to require the use of PEVs for these ride-sharing programs, and not gasoline vehicles.

We would be happy to discuss these recommendations further with you, in addition to other ideas we have for promoting the adoption of PEVs in disadvantaged communities, such as a battery replacement program. Please send any questions to Katherine Stainken, Policy Director, at kstainken@pluginamerica.org.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the Transformative Climate Community Program, and look forward to working with you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel Levin".

Joel Levin
Executive Director
Plug In America

Would love you to consider Bakersfield and a collaborative effort to put homeless and parolees to work. One of our joint efforts has already succeeded in putting 56 homeless to work weekly, changing lives. We've won awards and presented at League of CA Cities and at Harvard. Please follow up. Thanks.

Sal Moretti <smoretti@bakersfieldcity.us>

Greetings,

The "Initial Statement of Reasons: Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities Program

Allocation" document of Sept 23, 2016, at

http://sgc.ca.gov/resource%20files/Initial_Statement_of_Reasons_TCC_Program_Allocation_FINAL_09-23-16.pdf suggest an allocation of \$70 million for Fresno, \$35 million for LA, and \$35 million for a possible third area.

The goal is "neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include multiple,coordinated greenhouse gas

emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities"

Your rationale for some money to go to Fresno and LA is solid. What I seriously question is why a region would need \$70 million or even \$35 million for planning. In 2010-2011, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development launched very similar regional sustainability planning efforts for larger, multi-county regions. Much of the South Central Valley was in fact covered by an effort involving Sacramento COG and UC Merced. Those comprehensive plans were funded at \$1 million-\$2 million, covering a broader scope, and I felt those I was involved with still had some level of overplanning. And what implementation has been done, now that the plan is complete?

I recommend the money should be either be scattered among several regions at \$1 - \$3 million. Remaining money should go into implementation of GHG emission reduction projects. You don't need \$35 million for planning.

Second, I recommend the state leverage any relevant HUD planning and any other climate action plans that have already been done. Much effort goes into planning, and much of that so often isn't implemented, limiting its usefulness and the wisdom in funding the effort.

Finally, please pay grassroots groups to do the community organizing around the planning, rather than consultants that aren't involved with the community. Consultants can have a role, but they shouldn't compete with what grassroots groups can do.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for the program.

--

David Jaber, LEED AP O+M

Principal, inNative

510-684-5467

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Executive Director
Arthur L. Dao

November 7, 2016

Mr. Ken Alex
Chairman, Strategic Growth Council
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCCP) Guidelines

Dear Chairman Alex,

Thank you for your consideration of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) comments on the Strategic Growth Council's proposed guidelines for the first installment of \$140 million for the new Transformative Climate Communities Grant Program (TCCP). We are pleased this year's budget includes funding for a program that can address climate change initiatives in local communities. Alameda County is home to many communities that are deeply affected by both socioeconomic and pollution factors. As such, we express concern that even though the TCCP was set up as a competitive statewide program, the proposed rulemaking is suggesting directing 50 percent of funds to the City of Fresno, 25 percent to the City of Los Angeles, and the remainder for a third yet-to-be-determined location.

Limiting TCCP funds to just three jurisdictions reduces the potential GHG reductions and other co-benefits that could be realized from the program in very deserving communities across the state. Alameda CTC recommends that the guidelines provide a more open competition for TCCP funds. In addition, we request that you do not restrict TCCP funds to census tracts scoring in the top 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen. This criteria was not included in AB 2722 and would eliminate all but one Bay Area census tract from qualifying, and if the California Environmental Protection Agency adopts the proposed Version 3.0 update to CalEnviroScreen, no Bay Area communities would be eligible.

Thank you for consideration of our comments on this important new grant program.

Sincerely,

for

ARTHUR L. DAO

GRID

ALTERNATIVES

Inland Empire

November 3, 2016

Randall Winston, Executive Director
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Winston:

On behalf of GRID Alternatives Inland Empire, a nonprofit organization that makes renewable energy technology and job training accessible to underserved communities in the Inland Valley, we strongly recommend that the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) designate San Bernardino County for the third regional Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) allocation.

A large percentage of the population in San Bernardino County lives in areas scoring in the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 top 5%. These areas face many of the challenges for which SGC was formed under AB 2722 to address: poor air quality (one of the worst in the nation) compounded by high poverty rates, long commutes times, and a lack of affordable housing.

In light of these multiple challenges, we have unique opportunities to implement innovative and sustainable solutions. Environmental justice stakeholders along with local government and non-profit agencies have already come together to create initiatives in support of a sustainable vision of growth for San Bernardino County. For example, sustainability plans have been crafted to address long-standing environmental health and justice challenges and catalyze equitable economic development at the neighborhood level. These plans draw from deep resident engagement and advance solutions led by the people most impacted, in partnership with local government agencies.

Funds from the TCC allocation will enable other innovative projects to be carried out in San Bernardino County to increase the quality of life for the region's most vulnerable communities with the co-benefits of reduced emissions of GHGs and criteria pollutants, improved public health, and a more vibrant economy:

- **Implementation of the Valley Corridor Specific Plan in Bloomington, San Bernardino:** Features a much needed energy-efficient affordable housing project, improved access to transit, transit passes, and relocating a community park currently next to the freeway. The plan also includes a study to recommend mitigation approaches for when warehousing and related logistics businesses are developed in proximity to residential areas.
- **Westside 4th Street Revitalization and Beautification Project:** Developed collaboratively between the City of San Bernardino, residents, regulatory agencies (SCAQMD, EPA, DTSC, and Attorney General), and community organizations, it features installation of a vegetative barrier along 4th Street in front of the BNSF intermodal rail yard to filter dangerous particle matter from the air, high performance air filtration units for homes along with energy efficient strategies such

as weatherization and solar panel installation, bus passes for residents to access fresh food and services, and upgrading the community center to include an indoor gymnasium so that children and other vulnerable populations can exercise indoors and out of the heavy pollution.

Green Warehousing Project: The project goal is to reduce greenhouse gases and co-pollutants in a way that demonstrates we can have jobs in the logistics industry along with healthy communities to serve as a model for other industrial developments. Key strategies include zero emission trucks and on-site equipment, electric plug-in vehicles, LEED certified buildings, installation of solar panels, energy-efficient affordable worker housing with integrated workforce development and other vital services and access to the warehouses via electric shuttles.

We strongly believe these projects advance California's climate goals and achieve the objectives of the TCC Program and AB 2722 by engaging the community and delivering multiple coordinated benefits for our disadvantaged communities in San Bernardino County. GRID Alternatives Inland Empire looks forward to collaborating with other agencies to successfully implement these important projects and ensure accountability for the TCC funds.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 951-471-7045 or btran@gridalternatives.org.

Sincerely,



A. Bambi Tran
Inland Empire Regional Director



November 7, 2016

Randall Winston
Executive Director
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
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Subject: **Comment Letter on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Allocation of Transformative Climate Community Program Funds**

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Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard

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Barbara Messina, Alhambra

Dear Mr. Winston:

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the first phase of rulemaking associated with the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, which was created pursuant to Assembly Bill 2722. The TCC Program promises to target substantial resources from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to support multiple projects within defined geographies that can provide myriad economic, environmental and health benefits, and particularly to Disadvantaged Communities (DAC).

Based on the Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) "Initial Statement of Reasons," SCAG concurred with the allocation of 25% of TCC resources within the City of Los Angeles and 50% within the City of Fresno to advance local, regional and state objectives. Moreover, as the State continues to develop guidelines, selection criteria, and implementation procedures for the Program, SCAG strongly urges the Strategic Growth Council to allocate the remaining 25% of TCC resources to within the SCAG region.

Cities within the SCAG region contain the overwhelming majority of the most deeply impacted Disadvantaged Community (DAC) census tracts and population in California. For example, based on an analysis of the most disadvantaged communities in the state:

- 68% of the most disadvantaged areas (top 5% of DAC census tracts) are located in the SCAG region;
- Following Los Angeles and Fresno, 12 of the next 15 (or 80%) most disadvantaged jurisdictions are located in the SCAG region;

- Identifying a third location in the SCAG region for the allocation of TCC resources will increase the region's share of program funding to 50%; however, this is still below the region's share of DAC population (68%);
- SCAG's share of AHSC funding in the last two rounds were far from equitable based on the SCAG region's share of the total state's population or DAC population.

Accordingly, there is a unique opportunity and a compelling need for the State to concentrate resources and investments in the SCAG region to support a catalytic, transformative, community-driven project that will advance the State's climate goals. Allocating the remaining 25% of TCC resources in the SCAG region will facilitate implementation of our recently adopted 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS), which envisions equitable infill development coordinated with a range of transit and non-vehicular mobility investments to accelerate reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, SCAG would like to work with the SGC in the forthcoming rulemaking to select the appropriate investments within the SCAG region for the remaining 25% of TCC Program funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Hasan Ikhata
Executive Director

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Mr. Ken Alex, Chairman
Strategic Growth Council
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

November 7, 2016

Dear Chairman Alex,

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District, I am writing to express concern about the Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) proposed guidelines for the first installment of \$140 million for the new Transformative Climate Communities Grant Program (TCCP). We are concerned that even though the TCCP was set up as a competitive statewide program, SGC is proposing to direct 50 percent of funds to the City of Fresno, 25 percent to the City of Los Angeles (\$35 million), and the remainder for a third yet-to-be-determined location.

There are several important projects that we are involved in that would provide local economic, environmental and health benefits to disadvantaged communities. For example, Caltrain is currently in the planning stages for CalMod 2.0 projects to fully replace the diesel fleet with 8-car electric trains and improve stations to better serve riders with level boarding and accommodate longer trains. Our environmental analysis shows that a fully electrified 6-car fleet would reduce annually, greenhouse gases by 176,000 Metric Tons of CO₂ and an 8-car fleet would further reduce GHG and air pollution for disadvantaged communities along the Caltrain corridor.

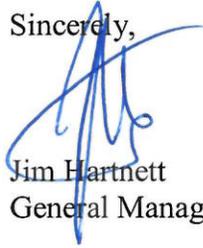
Limiting TCCP funds to just three jurisdictions reduces the potential GHG reductions and other co-benefits that could be realized from the program. Every disadvantaged community in California is likely to have greenhouse gas reduction projects, but not all will provide equal benefit. By limiting where TCCP funds can be spent at the outset, SGC is ruling out consideration of projects in other communities that might provide even greater benefit in terms of greenhouse gas reduction benefit and other community benefits sought by AB 2722.

We recommend you revise the guidelines to provide a more open competition for TCCP funds. In addition, we urge that you withdraw the proposal to restrict TCCP funds to census tracts scoring in the top 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen. This criteria was not included AB 2722 and would eliminate all but one Bay Area

census tract from qualifying, or none if the California Environmental Protection Agency adopts the proposed Version 3.0 update to CalEnviroScreen. This is not an acceptable approach to establishing guidelines for a statewide competitive program.

Thank you for your consideration of the concerns expressed in this letter.

Sincerely,



Jim Hartnett

General Manager / CEO / Executive Director

cc: SamTrans Board of Directors
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors
Seamus Murphy, Communications Executive Officer



November 7, 2016

Strategic Growth Council
c/o Kim Danko
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Council Members:

The Natural Resources Defense Council applauds the Council on its initiation of the Transformational Climate Communities rulemaking process. This program implements a holistic approach to climate action by investing in multi-sector solutions within disadvantaged communities, an approach NRDC has advocated for throughout the Green.

NRDC has been working in the City of Los Angeles since 1990. NRDC works in Los Angeles on energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, affordable housing, land use, water, environmental justice and other sectors. The City has concrete goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent by 2025 and 80 percent by 2050 (from 1990 levels), according to the Sustainable City pLAn. Los Angeles is a municipality ready to make enormous strides in climate-related policy change, but it is in need of greater resources to bring integrated climate programs to the parts of the city that are in most need of the benefits. With a much more sizable investment, Los Angeles is ready to do even more.

We support the Council's approach to prioritizing Los Angeles as a geographic area eligible for TCC dollars with at minimum twenty-five percent of the program's funding. We look forward to engaging in the ongoing rulemaking process and bringing catalytic change to communities most in need.

Sincerely,

Kimi Narita
Director of Strategic Engagement, City Energy Project

Kristen Pawling
LA Urban Solutions Coordinator

David Pettit
Senior Attorney

Maria Stamas
Project Attorney

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

1314 2ND STREET | SANTA MONICA, CA | 90401 | T 310.434.2300 | F 310.434.2399 | NRDC.ORG



Mackenzie Wieser
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Proposed Rulemaking for the Transformative Climate Communities Program

Dear Mr. Wieser:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Strategic Growth Council's geographic allocation of the \$140,000 of Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program funding. We write in support of the proposed \$70 million allocation to the City of Fresno and allocation of the remaining \$70 million in this round of funding to Los Angeles and the Inland Empire – all communities marked by the location. We truly appreciate the Strategic Growth Council's commitment to communication with the public in Fresno to assure that the funding creates a transformative impact for the City's most burdened neighborhoods as AB 2722 intends. If used effectively, this funding can truly transform neighborhoods in Southwest Fresno, that rank as literally the most burdened by pollution in the entire state under CalEnviroScreen 2.0, along with the Downtown. Through commitment to a strong community process in the development of a plan for the allocation of funding to Fresno, TCC funding can transform West Fresno with new economic opportunities, quality housing for households of all income levels, improved public health and access to daily necessities, while making strong contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the City and region.

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability works with alongside the most impacted disadvantaged communities in the Central and Coachella Valley. Our mission is to eradicate injustice and eliminate barriers to opportunity based on wealth, race, income or place. In the City of Fresno, we work directly with residents of Downtown, Southeast, Southwest, Calwa, and Jane Addams neighborhoods to advance their priorities for access to safe and affordable housing, efficient and effective transportation, green space, equitable investment, and healthy land use patterns for their families and their communities.

In establishing rules for the allocation of funding pursuant to the TCC program, the Strategic Growth Council must adhere to AB 2722 in requiring a meaningful community engagement process and must base its decisions on the outcome of this process. Applicants for funding must demonstrate that a meaningful public engagement process has informed the development of their application. Public engagement must include a representative population of the residents living in these communities, including in particular low-income communities of color and sub-populations within these communities, including African American, Latino, and East Asian populations. Outreach must be meaningful in that materials and presentations must be in all threshold languages, meetings and workshops must be in the evenings with child care

provided. To meet this requirement, applicants should pursue a multitude of partnerships with stakeholders and local community based organizations.

Last week, the City of Fresno Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of a vision and draft land use map for the Southwest Specific Plan, which encompasses portions of West Fresno. The draft Southwest Specific Plan was developed with sixteen months of public workshops and meetings and sets forth a vision for an equitable, healthy, and vibrant future for the state's most impacted census tracts. The Plan would eliminate future industrial development inside the community's neighborhoods, implement environmental greening practices to reduce the impact of pollution and disproportionately short life spans of West Fresno residents, create mixed income and mixed use housing opportunities, support active transportation and bus rapid transit, and create new parks and green spaces. The plan lays the foundation for true revitalization and transformation for the West Fresno community and would support infill development in the area of Fresno with the most acreage of vacant land in the City. We encourage SGC to look to the Southwest Specific Plan as a roadmap for investment of TCC dollars that not only has the support of the community but was developed by and for the community.

We thank SGC's staff for their commitment to a transparent and inclusive process in the implementation of SB 2722. We appreciate our dialogue with staff to date and look forward to a rich and robust community process going forward that will lead to the achievement of TCC's twin goals of greenhouse gas reduction and transformation of the state's most impacted communities.

Sincerely,

/s/

Grecia Elenes
Policy Advocate



November 7, 2016

Sent via: tccpubliccomments@sgc.ca.gov

Kim Danko
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Strategic Growth Council:

On behalf of **California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF)**, I write in support of The Strategic Growth Council proposed regulation:

Transformative Climate Community Program funds shall be allocated in the cities of Los Angeles and Fresno, and a third location. A minimum of half of the funds shall be allocated in the City of Fresno. A minimum of one fourth of the funds shall be allocated in the City of Los Angeles.

CRLAF is a statewide non-profit organization providing legal services and policy advocacy for farmworkers and most vulnerable rural populations in California.

California is making tremendous progress in addressing greenhouse gas emission reductions and the Transformative Climate Community Program is key step in supporting disadvantaged communities the opportunity to use to leverage to build sustainable and healthy communities for all residents.

Specifically, we support the targeted investment in the City of Fresno to the most impacted by poverty and pollution in California. Thanks to these investments, Fresno will be positioned to be a model for lifting up California's most vulnerable communities in need.

CRLAF looks forward to the implementation of the proposed regulation and future rulemaking steps. Thank you for your consideration. You may contact me at 209-499-8637.

Sincerely,

Noe Paramo
Co-Director
Sustainable Rural Communities Project



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

November 7, 2016

Ken Alex
Council Chair
California Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on SGC Proposed Action on AB 2722 Transformative Climate Communities

Dear Chairman Alex:

Thank you for the proposal to allocate a minimum of 25% of the total funds from the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program to the City of Los Angeles. As the Council's assessment concludes, there is both critical need and great opportunity in Los Angeles. The TCC program has the ability to become a model for driving investment in transformative change in disadvantaged communities across the state.

In 2015, I released the City's first ever Sustainable City pLAN, which serves as a roadmap for environmental health, economic growth, and equity. The pLAN sets targets in 14 categories that directly support the SGC's mission of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating livable communities for all Angelenos. As such, I am committed to continuing that momentum and ensuring our communities grow and thrive in a sustainable, equitable way, with attention to improving mobility and affordability. My Sustainable City pLAN underscores my commitment to comprehensive neighborhood-scale approaches to sustainability. The policy objectives of the Transformative Climate Communities program directly support top pLAN goals, such as:

- Improving disadvantaged communities (reduce the number of census tracts in the top 10% of CalEnviro Screen by 25% by 2025)
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (45% below 1990 by 2025)
- Installing local solar energy (900-1,500 MW by 2025)
- Increasing affordable housing (100,000 new housing units by 2021 and 57% of new housing within 1,500 feet of transit by 2025)
- Improving mobility (increase percentage of trips made by transit, walking, or biking to at least 35%)
- Encouraging workforce development (72,500 green jobs by 2025)

At the same time, communities in LA are still exposed to some of the highest pollution burdens in the state. As the Council identified, LA has 85 census tracts in the top 5% of CalEnviro Screen, accounting for more than 325,000 Californians. Our Housing and Community Investment Department's analysis shows there could be as many as 112 census tracts in the top 5%.

A minimum allocation of 25% of the funds is a welcome boost, but I encourage the Council to consider a more equitable share of the fund for Los Angeles. Increasing the proposed minimum to 33% would allow more partnerships to come forward to meet the existing needs in our disadvantaged communities. I also ask that the Council be open to allowing LA communities to compete beyond any minimum allocation to ensure the most impactful investments be made to improve the lives of disadvantaged communities while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We have already demonstrated our ability to execute transformational projects and initiatives that are in the spirit of TCC:

- Bikeshare pilot that has carried more than 70,000 trips in its first four months
- Launch of Clean Up Green Up, which will help protect the health of some of the most polluted neighborhoods in the city, while supporting economic development and improving public spaces
- Investing \$1.5 billion in the Regional Connector Metro Rail project, which will combine three rapid transit lines into an integrated network, allowing transit riders to travel without a transfer from South LA to the San Gabriel Valley and from East LA to the Westside
- Permitting 46,124 new housing units since July 1, 2013 to help ease the supply crunch and meet growing demand
- About to launch new EV car share program in underserved communities that will serve as a catalyst to reduce air pollution and carbon emissions
- DWP low-income energy efficiency programs: Refrigerator exchange has delivered 111,000 new refrigerators to low income customers; ESAP program has served 2,500 customers and saved 270,000 kWh over a nine month period

Again, thank you for your and SGC's leadership. We are also grateful for the work Assemblywoman Autumn Burke and Senator Kevin de Leon have done to help fund projects in our state's most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with the Council on developing specific guidelines for the program.

Sincerely,



ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

cc: Randall Winston, Executive Director, California Strategic Growth Council

CITY OF OAKLAND



1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • 3RD FLOOR • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of the Mayor
Libby Schaaf
Mayor

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TDD: (510) 238-3254

November 7, 2016

Mr. Ken Alex
Chairman, Strategic Growth Council
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCCP) Proposed Rulemaking

Dear Chairman Alex:

On behalf of the City of Oakland, I am writing to respectfully express our concerns about the Strategic Growth Council's proposed rulemaking for the first \$140 million cycle of the new Transformative Climate Communities Grant Program (TCCP). We are concerned that, while the TCCP was set up as a competitive statewide program, SGC is proposing to direct 50 percent of funds to the City of Fresno and 25 percent to the City of Los Angeles, with the remaining 25 percent to a third location still to be determined.

First, the City of Oakland respectfully requests that you revise the guidelines to provide a more robust competition for TCCP funds. An open competition would be more effective for reducing GHG emissions in communities across the State. At a minimum, SGC should distribute at least 30 percent of the funds through a competitive process. Given Oakland's ethnic, linguistic, and economic diversity, a TCCP project in Oakland would stand as a compelling model for others. Oakland would be a very strong candidate if there was competitive portion of the program.

Second, if SGC declines to revise the guidelines at this time, then I respectfully request that Oakland be selected as the third location to receive 25 percent of the TCCP funds. Oakland provides appropriate geographic balance to the Central Valley and Southern California, and is a worthy selection in our own right, given our high levels of poverty and air pollution, and strong commitments to greenhouse gas reduction, resilience and community-based planning.

While we are very proud and pleased with our recent AHSC awards, this success should not distract SGC from addressing Oakland's environmental justice problems including asthma, carcinogen exposure, and life-expectancy that AHSC projects do not address.

In Oakland, TCCP funds would advance its legislative purpose by supporting community plans in our underserved and disadvantaged communities of color. The City of Oakland is poised to implement transformative projects called for in Oakland's Energy and Climate Action Plan and recently published Resilience Playbook. Our new Department of Transportation's Strategic Plan shows a deep commitment and measurable benchmarks to improve transportation equity and GHG

reductions. For example, TCCP funds could implement the East Oakland Community Streets Plan to enhance transit, pedestrian, and bicycle friendly facilities in one of Oakland's most marginalized neighborhoods, and leverage deeper investments in housing, transportation, and sustainability.

Third, I urge you to withdraw your proposal to restrict TCCP funds to census tracts scoring in the top 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen (CES). Pursuant to AB 2722, projects must benefit a disadvantaged community, identified by CES 3.0 as census tracts within the top 25 percent.

Unfortunately, the SGC decision to diverge from AB 2722, and limit funding to the top 5 percent of disadvantaged census tracts, further marginalizes disadvantaged communities throughout California. This decision could eliminate all Bay Area census tracts from TCCP funding, which is neither fair nor prudent policy.

CES 3.0 shows dozens of Oakland census tracts score in top 90th percentile of exposure to diesel particulate matter, toxic clean-up sites, ground water threats, hazardous waste disposal, impacted water bodies, asthma rates, low birth weights, linguistic isolation, poverty, unemployment, and rent-adjusted income. However, using the CES 3.0 scores, none of Oakland census tracts rank in the 95th percentile of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and only 14 are even ranked in the top 75th percentile, a decline of 60% from CES 2.0.

Based on these dramatic differences, we do not believe that CES 3.0 accurately reflects the environmental and socio-economic strain experienced by our residents. Your decision abandons the families we need to serve in Oakland's numerous tracts ranked in the top 75th percent – people who are exposed to higher levels of diesel particulate matter, live near toxic and hazardous waste, experience higher rates of poverty and housing burden, and whose children suffer higher rates of asthma and low birth weights.

Oakland presents an immense opportunity for the Strategic Growth Council to leverage the city's leadership, and ongoing efforts to impact Oakland's severely disadvantaged communities of color. The City of Oakland is prepared to carry out transformative work with its neighborhoods using TCCP funds and we would like to work with SGC in a process that makes that possible

We greatly appreciate your consideration of these three requests, and are willing to provide additional information to support the process.

Sincerely,



Libby Schaaf
Mayor
City of Oakland

CC: Governor Edmund G. Brown
Nancy McFadden, Office of Governor Brown
Assembly Member Rob Bonta
Assembly Member Tony Thurmond



November 7, 2016

Randall Winston
Executive Director
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Transformative Climate Communities Program Comments

Dear Mr. Winston:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the proposed Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program. The City of Richmond applauds the intent of Assembly Bill (AB) 2722 and the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) to provide transformative, targeted investment in disadvantaged communities via the TCC program.

The SGC's Initial Statement of Reasons identifies Los Angeles (Southern California) and Fresno (Central California) as the initial recipients of TCC funding. **The third community to receive TCC funding should be a disadvantaged community from the Northern California region.** Selecting a Northern California community will ensure an equitable distribution of resources to underserved and disadvantaged California residents.

The TCC program follows the guidelines set forth by Senate Bill (SB) 535 to identify disadvantaged communities based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria. The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) is identified as the primary assessment tool for allocating TCC funding. The City of Richmond submitted comments to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) on October 21, 2016 in response to the latest draft update of the tool, CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

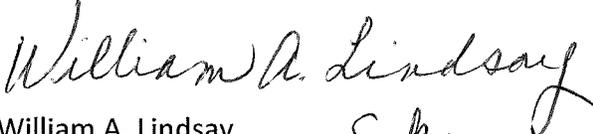
It would be fair and appropriate for SGC to ensure that CalEnviroScreen 3.0 scoring is updated to incorporate comments by the City of Richmond and other communities prior to evaluating TCC grant proposals. While it is unrealistic to expect any methodology to completely capture the nuisances of each community in California, there are still basic changes that need to be made to CalEnviroScreen 3.0 to more accurately measure environmental burdens, and ensure the equitable measurement that AB 2722 and SGC desires. Richmond's comments on the draft CalEnviroScreen 3.0 indicate that the draft tool, as currently designed, does not accurately reflect the health, safety, and economic burdens Richmond residents bear from hosting multiple stationary sources, including solid waste facilities, a refinery, and recycling facilities, since such facilities are omitted or not adequately considered.

The SGC should implement the TCC with a comprehensive equity framework; award funds to communities not only with significant environmental burdens, but to those that host Cap and Trade regulated facilities. Richmond residents, a majority of whom are low-income and people of color, live directly adjacent to California's largest oil refinery and two additional facilities regulated by SB 535. In 2012, the Legislature directed that SB 535, in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, needs to provide a quarter of the proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to projects that provide a benefit to disadvantaged communities. The TCC should take this initiative a step further and award funds proportional to disadvantaged communities hosting Cap and Trade regulated facilities. The entire Bay Area region benefits from Richmond's significant environmental burden, while local residents are disproportionately affected by a variety of health, safety, and economic disparities. Residents absorb the impacts of these facilities, as well as their negative ancillary effects that deter private sector investments, and deserve to be adequately represented with contributing funds.

Local climate equity leadership and innovation in resiliency solutions should be considered as a part of the TCC guidelines. The TCC's ability to facilitate strategic investments will be the most effective in communities with an established policy framework and track record of leadership with public health and climate change initiatives.

Thank you for considering these comments on behalf of the City of Richmond.

Sincerely,


William A. Lindsay
City Manager



November 7, 2016

Strategic Growth Council
ATTN: Mackenzie Wieser
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Transformative Climate Communities Program Proposed Rulemaking [sent by email]

Dear Strategic Growth Council Members,

On behalf of Sierra Business Council (SBC), a non-profit network of 4,000 business, local government and community partners working to foster vibrant, livable communities in the Sierra, we submit the following comments on the Proposed Rulemaking for the Transformative Climate Communities Program.

We appreciate the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCCP) rationale for the proposed 75% allocation to the state's top two urban areas with the largest proportion of residents experiencing the highest pollution burden (Fresno and Los Angeles), as described in the Initial Statement of Reasons. This allocation clearly addresses the stated goals of catalyzing transformational change and giving priority to areas that are the most disadvantaged.

In order to test the program in a different setting, however, we request that the Council consider using some portion of the remaining 25% to pilot a rural-specific program that can focus on forest health and biomass utilization as a means of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from wildfire and certain forest treatments. A report by the Legislative Analyst's Office has indicated that forest health is one of the most cost-effective ways of achieving GHG reductions. A suite of competitive rural projects within the TCCP program will meet the goals of reducing GHG emissions while creating local jobs, improving public health, and increasing resilience of our natural resources. Such a program would provide complementary benefits to the urban-focused projects in the Fresno and Los Angeles areas.

Unfortunately the current methodology for identifying disadvantaged communities, as called for under HSC §39711, does not include forested communities. We have made recommendations for other methodologies that we believe meet the geographic, socioeconomic, public health and environmental hazard criteria as required by SB 535 but that are more appropriate for identifying relative disadvantage in rural regions (please see attached *Disadvantaged Communities in the Sierra Nevada Region* white paper, dated October 2016).



California's small and rural communities are crucial to meeting the state's aspirational GHG reduction and adaptation goals; but without resources, the ability of these communities to make change and meet statewide targets is compromised. The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program has taken steps to address this issue by creating a separate Rural Innovation Project Area funding category. We urge the Council to take a similar approach within the Transformative Climate Communities Program, in order to better reflect the state's geographic, economic, and resource diversity.

We look forward to continued engagement with the Strategic Growth Council and staff on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Kerri L. Timmer, Government Affairs Director
Sierra Business Council

Attachment: Disadvantaged Communities in the Sierra Nevada Region



Tim Carmichael
Agency Relations Manager
Energy & Environmental Affairs

925 L Street, Suite 650
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: 916-492-4248
TCarmichael@semprautilities.com

November 7, 2016

Strategic Growth Council
ATTN: Mackenzie Wieser
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Southern California Gas Company Comments to the Proposed Rulemaking and Initial Statement of Reasons for the Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities Program

Dear Ms. Wieser:

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) would like to thank the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) for the opportunity to offer comments on the Proposed Rulemaking and Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) for the Transformative Climate Communities grant program (TCC). SoCalGas commends SGC for their attention to the needs of disadvantaged communities through programs such as the TCC and the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program (AHSC).

The TCC presents a tremendous opportunity to deliver long-term and significant benefits to the health, environmental and economic wellbeing of our most vulnerable communities, and we therefore offer the following comments for consideration: 1) expand eligible funding locations to the county-level, and 2) consider the beneficial impacts of improving existing housing and community infrastructure beyond infill projects.

I. Expand Eligible Funding Locations

The proposed section to be added to Title 14, Division 6.5 of the California Code of Standards specifies the eligible areas of funding and minimum allocation for each area. SoCalGas understands that it is the desire of SGC to allocate funds in a targeted manner in order to maximize impact. We also understand the cases made for the cities of Fresno and Los Angeles; both have high rankings in environmental hazard, health and socioeconomic factors as reported in Cal/EPA's CalEnviroScreen. In order to obtain diversity of grant applicants and in order for projects to truly include "multiple, coordinated GHG reductions strategies," as stated in AB 2722,

we recommend expanding the areas to the county-level. Limiting applicants to submit projects within city boundaries will needlessly reduce the pool of potential projects and reduce the opportunities for cross-cutting innovation. By opening up to the county-level SGC will allow for integration of more greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies and infrastructure enhancements.

Furthermore, many adversely impacted communities face unique challenges that transcend city-boundaries. For example, in Los Angeles, the majority of the communities adjacent to the I-710 transportation corridor would be excluded from a TCC grant. Even though the I-710 is known in the region to be both a vital transportation artery and a major environmental health problem, under the proposed funding eligibility rules, the communities adjacent to the I-710 would not be able to benefit from TCC projects. For these reasons, SoCalGas suggests changing the proposed rulemaking language to reference the eligible grant areas to “*County of Fresno*” and “*County of Los Angeles*.”

II. Consider Beneficial Impacts of Improving Existing Housing and Infrastructure

To execute the TCC as currently described in the ISOR, SGC intends to “accelerate greenhouse gas reduction” through “changing the way Californians think about transportation, housing, energy, water, natural resources and waste while simultaneously addressing growing equity issues, resource conservation, economic sustainability and climate resiliency.” However, SGC’s proposal to do so by promoting “infill development, coordinated transportation and other infrastructure in existing urban boundaries” appears to be very similar in its goal to SGC’s existing AHSC.

As such, SoCalGas is concerned that there is an over-emphasis on new “infill” projects. While we believe that new developments built within existing locations have many environmentally and socially sustainable benefits, it may do so at the expense of investing in existing housing stock, infrastructure and communities that may become examples to transform their neighborhoods. Improving existing housing and infrastructure affords many benefits that infill projects may not, including the following: 1) the benefits are immediate and direct, 2) infill projects provide local jobs and economic stimulus to local businesses, 3) energy efficiency improvements reduce energy costs for homeowners and local business owners, and 4) effective home upgrades encourage other homeowners to make similar improvements.

Therefore, SoCalGas recommends that SGC consider broadening the program’s focus to encourage projects from a wider range of GHG-reducing strategies in a way that more embodies the intent of AB 2722 to “fund the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include multiple, coordinated greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities...” Such projects may also offer protection against economic displacement, another goal of AB 2722.

For example, funding a project that includes upgrading the building envelope and ventilation systems for existing housing at the neighborhood-scale along a major transportation corridor can have immediate beneficial health impacts through indoor air quality improvements and energy

saving impacts that promote health benefits while reducing GHGs. This approach also invests directly in the assets of disadvantaged communities, reinforcing home values and protecting against displacement. There may be many more integrated and cross-cutting projects if applicants are allowed to think outside of the infill development paradigm. SoCalGas encourages SGC to maintain an open viewpoint and consider the many possible projects that can lead to a successful program as intended by AB 2722 and how the communities that stand to benefit from the program will be best-served.

Again, SoCalGas thanks you for this opportunity to provide its comments, and we look forward to additional dialogue as the TCC moves forward. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tim Carmichael

Tim Carmichael
Agency Relations Manager
Southern California Gas Company



California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)
Attn: Kim Danko
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
tccpubliccomments@sgc.ca.gov

November 7th, 2016

Dear Strategic Growth Council,

On the behalf of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA), Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, Environmental Health Coalition, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, and Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, we respectfully submit comments on the proposed rulemaking on the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program. We recognize these comments extend beyond the limited issues addressed in the proposed rulemaking, but would like to take this opportunity to formally submit comments on other aspects of the program as the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) develops this exciting and ambitious endeavor.

CEJA is a community-led statewide alliance that unites over eleven grassroots organizations and over 20,000 residents from environmental justice (EJ) communities across California to advance just policy solutions. The organizations signed onto this letter are member organizations, and all work directly with low-income communities and communities of color directly impacted by environmental issues. Our alliance was a co-sponsor of AB 2722 (Burke, 2016) that created the TCC program to be administered by SGC. We greatly appreciate this opportunity to share feedback to the program and look forward to our continued work with SGC and CalEPA as TCC continues to be developed and implemented.

In the spirit of AB 2722, which was created to fund neighborhood-level plans that demonstrate community engagement and multiple, coordinated benefits for disadvantaged communities, CEJA is proposing the following eight recommendations to: 1) ensure TCC's inclusive and transparent process, 2) produce effective community partnerships, and 3) successfully provide transformative improvements to our state's most under-resourced EJ communities.

On the specific rulemaking "Allocation of Transformative Climate Community Program Funds," we offer the following recommendation.

1. Designate the Inland Valley, in particular San Bernardino County, as the third regional TCC allocation

We strongly recommend SGC designate San Bernardino County as the third region for a TCC allocation. We make this recommendation based on the high percentage of disadvantaged

communities in the region and the opportunities for successful TCC implementation based on local capacity and engagement.

San Bernardino County, and specifically the City, contains one of the highest proportions of disadvantaged communities in the state. In administering the Transformative Climate Communities program, SGC is authorized to prioritize allocations to the state’s severely disadvantaged communities in accordance with the legislative intent of AB 2722 and Public Resources Code. Similar to the cities of Fresno and Los Angeles, the Inland Valley cities of San Bernardino and Riverside also contain high percentages of disadvantaged communities, including many communities in the top 5% of CalEnviroScreen 2.0 results.

City	Total Population	Population in Top 5% DACs	% of City Total Population is in DAC	# of Tracts in Top 5%	# of Tracts in City
Fresno	477,468	188,307	39%	40	103
Los Angeles	3,788,402	328,331	9%	85	999
San Bernardino	210,171	77,543	36%	14	41
Riverside	296,785	38,855	13%	9	64

Source: <http://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-version-20>

These numbers reflect the many on-the-ground environmental and socioeconomic burdens the communities contend with: “extreme” nonattainment for ozone (in fact, the worst air quality in the nation), increasing levels of poverty, long commutes, and a lack of affordable housing.

Despite these challenges, the County of San Bernardino also has unique opportunities for transformative and comprehensive community solutions. Environmental justice stakeholders along with local agencies have come together to create innovative plans that will lift up a sustainable vision of growth for San Bernardino County. Many community-based organizations are leading the way by crafting strategies that can address long-standing environmental health and justice challenges while catalyzing equitable economic development at the neighborhood level. These plans draw from deep resident engagement and are advancing solutions led by the people most impacted in partnership with local government agencies. The plans also contain a myriad of important opportunities ranging from green workforce development, electrification of freight and an integrated transit system with rail, expanded bus service including BRT, and projects to encourage active transportation. We urge the SGC to lift up this chronically under-resourced, but much in need, region and direct the third regional allocation to this area.

However, if SGC decides against specifying a region for the third allocation, we strongly recommend that funding goes toward other disadvantaged communities beyond the cities of Fresno or Los Angeles in order to create a more equitable distribution of TCC resources across the state.

We offer the following recommendations on the development of the TCC Program overall.

2. Ensure that any TCC-funded plans incorporate direct, extensive and transparent community engagement

A big component of the TCC program's success will depend on whether or not community residents from target neighborhoods are directly engaged in TCC plan development, decision-making and implementation. SGC has a crucial role to play in both incorporating specific policy guidance to ensure this, and also "setting a tone" in public settings on the importance of community engagement and leadership.

For CEJA members and partners, authentic community engagement means:

- Ensuring residents and community-based organizations from target investment neighborhoods and environmental justice communities in funded regions are engaged in the process to create TCC project applications;
- Ensuring residents and community-based organizations from target investment neighborhoods and environmental justice communities in funded regions have equal decision-making along with other stakeholders in plan development and implementation;
- Ensuring SGC reaches out to community groups, hosts meetings and workshops in environmental justice communities, ensuring staff are accessible to community residents and community-based organizations;
- Ensuring feedback from residents and community-based organizations from target investment neighborhoods and environmental justice communities in regions on project and plan implementation and evaluation is incorporated.

Concrete recommendations for achieving the goals outlined above include:

- Producing communication materials that illustrate what community-led projects could look like, and highlighting the importance of these values during all public events. TCC promotional materials can include profiles of real projects that are models for effectively working with and serving local neighborhoods.
- Designing guideline requirements to provide clear criteria and plans for community engagement for the design, selection, and implementation of the plans, for instance through a participatory budgeting process.¹ The guidelines can also require equal decision-making by all parties working within a particular collaborative for TCC, and Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) signed by all parties to outline their internal processes, decision-making structure, and funding agreements. Such MOUs should ensure transparent processes for project amendments during the course of implementation that require community approval of any plan change.

It is extremely important that all parties, including local agencies who are important partners on these projects, support deep community engagement. Unfortunately, local agencies can have gaps in their community inclusion strategies and difficulty maintaining effective grassroots partnerships. The end result could be a set of projects that do not fully reflect disadvantaged community needs in a region or have negative impacts on local disadvantaged communities, both of which would run counter to the intent of the TCC program.

¹ See <http://www.participatorybudgeting.org/participatory-budgeting-white-paper/>.

To avoid this outcome, SGC should provide clear guidance to local agencies at the City and County level on the need to create authentic working relationships with residents and community-based organizations, and ensure that planning and projects put forward in TCC applications reflect the range of disadvantaged community needs and solutions in a region.

3. Ensure transparency and public engagement in the guideline development process

In addition to requiring direct and extensive community engagement throughout the TCC plan design, selection, and implementation process, it is critical that all agency efforts to develop the guidelines, designate the allocations, craft key policies and produce program decisions include significant public dialogue and vetting with community stakeholders. Maintaining transparent and inclusive proceedings will allow this process to achieve a high level of accountability to the broader community, especially for those living and working in the areas that will be most affected by TCC's large-scale plans and investments. Those living and working on the ground in environmental justice communities can provide great expertise to ensure the success of the TCC program.

4. Include clear criteria and measurements to prevent displacement in the guidelines

Without effective anti-displacement policies in place, neighborhood-level investments at the TCC scale run the very real risk of pushing out long-time, low-income residents and small businesses as their communities improve due to project implementation. In the City of Fresno for instance, local nonprofits have witnessed many small and minority owned businesses move away after rents increased along the Fulton Mall and Downtown area, where the City has been investing local, state and federal dollars for revitalization.

AB 2722 includes language that requires SGC to “consider” whether projects avoid economic displacement in the guidelines. In addition, SGC has an already-existing obligation to avoid both economic and physical displacement for low-income disadvantaged community residents and businesses, as established under the Guidelines.²

We recommend the following measures to minimize displacement through the TCC program:

- SGC should only award grants for plans that are designed to avoid substantial harms, including economic and physical displacement of low-income disadvantaged community residents and small businesses. Although “businesses” is undefined in this policy, we recommend instituting protections that put a special emphasis on small and minority-owned local businesses.
- All TCC plans should include effective strategies to prevent resident and small business displacement. The TCC guidelines can accomplish this by requiring all plans to contain specific neighborhood stabilization strategies, including: efforts to prevent rapid rent increases such as rent control, obligations for creating 100% affordable housing, inclusionary zoning policies that require the building of affordable units (including units for extremely and very low income residents) in all new residential developments--or the payment of an in

² California Air Resources Board (Dec. 21, 2015). *Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments*. Pp. 2-12. Retrieved from: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/arb-funding-guidelines-for-ca-climate-investments.pdf>

lieu fee, a local commitment to inserting an affordability requirement in the deeds of all public property sold in areas that receive funds, and other such policy tools.

- Additionally, if a plan or project involves demolition or rehabilitation of existing housing units affordable to or occupied by lower income households, those units must be replaced with the same or greater number of units affordable to the current occupants and with a right of return for any displaced households.
- SGC should publicly track and report on all TCC anti-displacement efforts, whether quantitatively or qualitatively, and explore ways to assess displacement over time in a TCC area.

5. Develop a quick and effective process to administer technical assistance (TA) dollars to under-resourced areas

Technical assistance and planning support is critical for many communities that have historically lacked the resources and local networks to engage in the extensive planning necessary to create a competitive TCC application. Areas such as the Southern San Joaquin Valley, South Los Angeles, and smaller cities in the Los Angeles region all contain highly disadvantaged communities that would greatly benefit from TCC program investments. However, these communities would also require technical assistance to engage in the types of planning and technical studies needed to create viable projects. TA is also critical to creating a “pipeline” of communities ready to apply for future rounds of TCC funding.

The planning grants proposed by SGC will be critical to ensure that communities that don’t have “shovel ready” projects can also become competitive for future grants, and will also help to create a “pipeline” for additional under-resourced communities. Maintaining a sole focus within the TCC program on project-ready plans that have an ability to roll out quickly overlooks the many overburdened communities that have a strong potential to engage in transformative neighborhood-level plans. Areas that contain high numbers of disadvantaged communities and active community organizations are excellent candidates for the TCC program, yet they would require additional planning and technical assistance support to get their plans off the ground. The proposed planning grants will be critical to support the planning needed to move towards a full TCC implementation grant.

In administering any planning grants and a technical assistance program, SGC should consider the following lessons and best practices in providing TA from community groups:

- Identify entities that have successfully served specific regions in the past to provide technical assistance to those regions. SGC should ensure that any groups providing TA in a region have on-the-ground regional expertise in the communities being served.
- Ensure TA is broadly available to a wide range of applicants and entities.
- Ensure TA is distributed equitably across geographic and capacity needs. SGC should consider capacity and scale of entities when making final decisions on who received TA. This can help ensure that TA support does not end up within heavily-resourced agencies.
- Establish a network of trusted experts that can provide assistance to different communities based on needs, including grantwriters for those lacking development support, technical experts who can help with project design (e.g., engineers and economists), etc.

6. Ensure that TCC funds for the City of Fresno are directed to plans that serve disadvantaged communities, particularly in West Fresno

Local groups have identified the communities adjacent to Fresno's downtown area as some of the most vulnerable and overburdened neighborhoods in the entire city. These areas, including West Fresno, have suffered through long-standing infrastructure problems, various forms of neglect, and high environmental pollution burdens for decades. TCC can be a significant catalyst for change in these areas if the plans are designed to intentionally include these highly disadvantaged communities.

Despite the fact that the Southwest Specific Plan contains exciting and promising plans for community transformation that fit well within the vision of TCC, local groups are highly concerned that the TCC allocation for Fresno will be limited to downtown revitalization in and around the future High Speed Rail station and will have a sole focus on economic development in just the downtown area. In order to comply with AB 2722, any funded plan for Fresno must: 1) establish connectivity within and across the city's downtown area neighborhoods (especially for West Fresno), 2) tie investments back to improvements, and 3) achieve climate benefits alongside other co-benefits.

7. Ensure that TCC funds for the City of Los Angeles are directed to plans that serve the communities most disproportionately impacted by poor health outcomes resulting from proximity to industrial and toxic land uses.

Displacement, affordability and toxicity are key concerns for communities in the Los Angeles region, including South Los Angeles and several areas in the top 5% of CalEnviroScreen that are slated for redevelopment. For many LA neighborhoods that have faced chronic disinvestment, public officials have viewed any development as "good development" and have thus engaged in top-down approaches that have not benefitted existing community members. Given this context, a focus on public health improvement and anti-displacement measures will be particularly important for awarding the LA funding allocation.

Thank you for considering CEJA and our member organization's comments on the proposed rulemaking for the Transformative Climate Communities Program. We look forward to working with SGC staff to further develop this program in the future.

Feel free to reach out to myself, Tiffany Eng, at any time to discuss these comments further in person. I can be reached at tiffany@caleja.org; (510) 808-5898 x 103.

Sincerely,

Amy Vanderwarker, Co-Director and Tiffany Eng, Green Zones Program Manager
California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)

Caroline Farrell, Executive Director
The Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment (CRPE)

Carolina Martinez, Policy Advocate
Environmental Health Coalition

Grecia Elenes, Policy Advocate

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Martha Dina Arguello, Executive Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles (PSR-LA)

Miya Yoshitani, Executive Director
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Penny Newman, Executive Director
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)



November 7, 2016

Mackenzie Wieser
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Transformative Climate Communities Program Proposed Rulemaking

On behalf of TreePeople, I would like to thank the Strategic Growth Council (Council) for the opportunity to comment on the recently proposed rulemaking for the new Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC). TreePeople is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming our local communities by bringing people together to plant and care for trees, harvest the rain and renew depleted landscapes.

The proposal to strategically direct TCC funds to the state's most disadvantaged communities, including those in Fresno and Los Angeles, will ensure the Program achieves its intended priorities, leveraging public investment to catalyze private enterprise to the benefit of California's most at-need communities. This is a practical approach for optimizing limited resources.

TreePeople strongly supports the Council's proposal to allocate 25 percent of program funds to the Los Angeles region, which contains a substantial disadvantaged community population and faces unique vulnerabilities to climate change impacts like poor air quality, urban heating and drought. Given the region's particular circumstances, we urge the Council to maintain at least 25 percent of Program funding for Los Angeles and recommend consideration of a still larger allocation to the region.

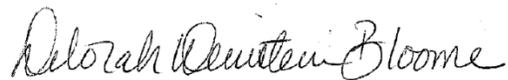
Los Angeles has more than double the number of census tracts in the top 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen scores as Fresno – and five times the number of any other city in the state. Likewise, Los Angeles has 75 percent more residents than Fresno who experience pollution burdens in the state's top 5 percent. Given the significant proportion of disadvantaged communities in Los Angeles, it would be wholly appropriate for the city to be the primary recipient of Program funding. And so we urge the Council to consider increasing the proportion of funds allocated to Los Angeles by either equalizing the allocation between Fresno and Los

Angeles at 37.5 percent each or flipping the proposed allotments to provide Los Angeles with 50 percent and Fresno with 25 percent of Program funding.

While it has been argued that a more balanced allocation of Program funding between Fresno and Los Angeles would reduce the catalytic effects of investments in Fresno, this same argument can just as easily be reversed. Favoring Fresno to such a large (and disproportionate) degree will certainly reduce the Program's potential impact in Los Angeles, particularly as many opportunities for private development exist in Los Angeles and so private investment may be less reactive to Program funds. We understand that the Council does not yet have sufficient data to determine what approach offers the greatest potential for success. However, we believe that the Program's potential to stimulate private investment to make our communities more climate-resilient is significant, urgent and likely to be better realized in Los Angeles.

As a non-profit organization with more than four decades of experience partnering with diverse communities to green Los Angeles, TreePeople can attest to the pressing need to support greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects in the region, providing economic, environmental and health benefits to those who need it most. We thank the Council for its consideration and continued support of a sustainable, equitable California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Weinstein Bloome".

Deborah Weinstein Bloome
Senior Director of Policy
TreePeople



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Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123

main 858.244.1177
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www.energycenter.org

November 7th, 2016

TO: Strategic Growth Council (SGC) via email to: tccpubliccomments@sgc.ca.gov
FROM: Center for Sustainable Energy®
RE: Transformative Climate Communities Program: Proposed Regulation for Program Allocation

The Center for Sustainable Energy® (CSE; www.energycenter.org) is pleased to provide these comments in response to the Strategic Growth Council's (SGC's) proposed regulations for the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program. CSE is a nonprofit organization headquartered in California that works with policymakers, public agencies, local governments, utilities, and business and civic leaders to transform the energy marketplace and accelerate the transition to a clean energy future. This future depends on a strong, low-carbon economy that provides abundant jobs and business opportunities, a high quality of life, and a clean and healthy environment.

CSE supports the current funding allocation and selected localities as proposed in the regulation. In addition, CSE agrees with the selection of Fresno and Los Angeles, as these two cities experience high poverty levels and substantially higher pollution burdens than other parts of the state. For these reasons, CSE supports the amendments to the regulation under consideration by the Council.¹

CSE looks forward to working with SGC and TCC stakeholders to inform program design and development. CSE will be actively commenting throughout this process on the importance of energy planning and installing clean energy technologies to reduce carbon emissions, as well meet the additional TCC goals of increased economic vitality; cleaner air and improved public health outcomes; decreased consumption of water, energy, and other natural resources; and more efficient infrastructure and delivery of municipal services.

¹ The Council proposes to add the following section to Title 14, Division 6.5, of the California Code of Regulations: *Transformative Climate Community Program funds shall be allocated in the cities of Los Angeles and Fresno, and a third location. A minimum of half of the funds shall be allocated in the City of Fresno. A minimum of one fourth of the funds shall be allocated in the City of Los Angeles. Note: Authority cited: Section 75243, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 75240-75243, Public Resources Code.*

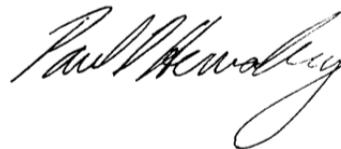
**CSE's Comments on the Proposed Regulation for Transformative Climate Communities Program
Funding Allocation; Submitted November 7th, 2016**

CSE appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments in response to SGC's proposed regulation for TCC Program Allocation. Please continue to consider CSE as a resource on these and other matters, and feel free to reach out with any questions or for clarification regarding these comments.

Respectfully Submitted,



Hanna Grene, LEED AP+
Senior Government Affairs Manager
Center for Sustainable Energy®



Paul D. Hernandez
Transportation Electrification Policy Manager
Center for Sustainable Energy®

The following are Public Comments to the California Strategic Growth Council Regarding Proposed Rulemaking for the Transformative Climate Communities Program.

These initial comments are presented on behalf of REV, a California company and leader in process engagement to advance measurable sustainability outcomes for organizations and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this proposal now and in future proceedings.

Since we know at the global level we are not achieving the GHG reductions necessary to avoid the worst of global warming, time is of the essence to develop new tools and tactics to scale GHG reducing change quickly. As such, we applaud California's leadership in creating the TCC program and stand ready to assist in its success and expansion.

Building criteria for using limited public funds to predictably produce GHG reductions and sustainable economic development co-benefits is a challenging pursuit.

As such, we recommend that as a part of the criteria development process, the SGC should utilize related work already done in the field so it can build a program that has best-in-class criteria that can be copied, perfected and put to use anywhere as soon as possible.

One example of related work that can be put to good use in the criteria development process is a recent initiative by the U.S government to spark transformative economic development and job creation. Focused on the manufacturing sector and its public and private ecosystem of support necessary to achieve desired outcomes, this White House led collaborative called the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) draws from strong evidence showing two things.

First, as a driver of more sustainable economic development, manufacturing as a sector punches above its weight. That is, of any economic sector, the greatest positive ripple effect that benefits the wider community and its people comes from a robust and sustainable manufacturing sector.

Second, as with any economic development initiative to include those with a focus on GHG reductions, building an ecosystem of support amongst key stakeholders is a prerequisite to collective transformation. To succeed, that set of stakeholders needs an engagement process to evaluate strengths and opportunities for collective impact on the way to developing the best possible plans to achieve predictive outcomes.

More specifically and as an example for application to the TCC, here is the IMCP Playbook designed to help communities make this kind of transformation in the manufacturing context.

<http://www.manufacturingcommunities.org/playbook.html>

Not incidentally, two of IMCP's designated communities already include the cities of Fresno and Los Angeles, so we recommend that the SGC engage stakeholders in those efforts and related others who are already working to use these tactics to find and build collaborative synergies.

As it relates to initiatives like TCC designed to deliver a broad range of sustainability outcomes, we have also discovered that stakeholders who join together do not always have the same understanding and experience about the complex elements of what sustainability is as it relates to their community. Further, they often know little about how progress toward advancing community objectives often depends upon the organizations within it understanding and embracing more sustainable practices themselves.

As such, organizations that want to be a part of the TCC transformation should learn by doing. That is, we also recommend that as a prerequisite for larger TCC funding commitments, key stakeholder organizations should be asked to join one of what could be a series of TCC funded peer cohort trainings designed to help each create their own organizational sustainability action plans while at the same time working together to build and deliver on particular TCC objectives.

Put another way, peer cohort trainings offer a versatile engagement process that can both help TCC stakeholders become more sustainable and at the same time help them work together to develop specific and impactful GHG reducing initiatives where TCC funds are leveraged for increased results.

We submit that to better ensure the best outcomes for these targeted and high impact investments, the TCC should initially invest at least 5% of the funding in such a proven engagement process.

REV, as one practitioner in this space, has already helped over 400 organizations utilize these promising peer cohort tactics, tactics that have been recognized by many to include the California Energy Commission in its 10 Existing Building Energy Efficiency Action Plan:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/ab758/documents/>

Our many users that include cities, school districts, manufacturers and businesses of all kinds, can provide further evidence as to the merits of this important and transformative tactic.

As the strength of the evidentiary nexus builds between how GHG reducing economic development efforts are organized and led and the resulting outcomes the efforts are aimed to achieve, California has another unique opportunity to lead in the field of sustainable economic development. We submit that a key component in the TCC program and criteria should be to utilize the benefits of peer cohort engagement processes to make those program outcomes much more predictive.

We look forward to becoming an on-going part of the TCC process.

Matt Bogoshian
Chief Strategy Officer and General Counsel
REV

Good afternoon,

My name is Darrell Everett Patterson Jr. and I am a current graduate studying for my Masters of Arts in Urban Sustainability at Antioch University, Los Angeles, while interning within the sustainability department of the land use and environmental planning division at Southern California Association of Governments. Prior to attending AULA, I received my Bachelors of Arts in Environmental Science and Policy, from California State University, Long Beach.

I am contacting you in order to submit commentary in order to further develop the impact of investments into public infrastructure. I will be short and brief – hopefully you can consider my voice, as I speak for many.

- When investing into a community of need/socioeconomically challenges (or anywhere specifically), it is imperative to engage the target population for not only functionality input (where something will go, who can access etc.), but for cultural resources as well, innovatively connecting the history, customs, identity, and collective vision of a people through visual and interactive opportunities within infrastructure development.
- For example
 - Street and Signal signs that creatively and visually represent the city/regional demographic of people
 - Seeking public input for the naming of infrastructure developments
 - Incorporating regional history of people, place and culture through visual art and text within infrastructure opportunities
 - Engaging community and their connection to place/infrastructure through city/region-wide artistic efforts like the [Creative Corridor Challenge to Beautify North Long Beach](#) (mural paintings on blighted walls and utility boxes)
 - Through creative use of imagery, writing and storytelling, powerful messages can help to reach outcomes.
 - The process of art enables us to understand and prolong humanity. What makes us human is priceless, thus making the value of art astronomical ([Marek Dzida, Hellada Gallery](#))
 - The combination of our scientific knowledge shared across agencies (numbers, data, systems) and the convergence of artistic processes that nonverbally speak to listeners could be the nexus between communication and resonance.

Thank you for your time, and I hope my comments can come in handy.

Darrell Everett Patterson Jr.
Sustainability Department of the Land Use and Environmental Planning Division
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017
T: (213) 236-1879 | E: patterson@scag.ca.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District wishes to be eligible for funding for Cap and Trade, so we would suggest the Bay Area or at least the East Bay Area be added to the list of eligible locations for funding. Our independent special recreation and park district encompasses a 245 square-mile area of East Alameda County and meets the needs of citizens of Livermore and the unincorporated areas of East Alameda County for recreation programs, parks, and recreation facilities. Funding from Cap and Trade would be used to improve environmental conditions in our formal parks, open space areas, trails, and recreation facilities that would meet the goals of the grant program. If you need additional information, please contact me at (925) 373-5727 or tbarry@larpd.org.

Tim Barry
General Manager
Livermore Area Recreation and Park District



November 7, 2016

Mackenzie Wieser
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Allocation of Transformative Climate Community Program Funds

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), an organization whose purpose is to raise standards of living for the residents of Los Angeles County by increasing economic opportunity and regional prosperity, I am submitting formal comments on the proposed regulations for the \$140 million Transformative Climate Community (TCC) Program to fund the neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans, which include greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects that provide “triple-bottom line” economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities.

The LAEDC e4 Mobility Alliance mission is to promote Southern California as the national hub for advanced transportation technology research, development, demonstration, production and exportation, with the goal to realize the marked job, output and tax revenue ripple effects associated with leadership in each phase along transportation technology product/service value chain. The alliance’s efforts include: attracting investment to spur innovation; encouraging the transfer of technology out of academia into the hands of private firms; strengthening the region’s workforce and education systems to develop the requisite talent to support this fast-growing industry; and advocating for sensible policy initiatives to engender a regulatory environment that is conducive to achieving the co-equal goals of accelerating the adoption of advanced vehicle technology and building the world’s leading export-oriented advanced transportation industry here in Southern California.

The Los Angeles region is an ideal location for this program’s implementation, as the region leads the nation on a number of dubious distinctions, including income inequality, structural poverty and the number of “unsafe” air quality days per annum. We believe that the TCC Program will improve these unacceptable attributes. And for this reason, we recommend the following revisions to the program’s regulations to maximize the positive impacts to L.A. County’s most economically- and environmentally-distressed communities:

- First, we agree that **the bulk of funding should be directed to the areas that are unfortunate enough to have both an extremely high burden for air quality and a higher than unemployment (when compared to the national average)** —San Joaquin Valley and the Los Angeles region are the clear “leaders” in this combined category. However, the “need” for a TCC Program extends beyond simply the City of Los Angeles and City of Fresno within these two regions. As such, the LAEDC recommends the language be broadened to include all of the County of Los Angeles and the counties within the San Joaquin Valley.



- Second, **funding should not be restricted by funding share to a specific city within a particular year, but instead prioritize funding to ensure money is allocated to the “best and highest use” projects within a particular year.**¹ The regulation specifically reads, in part: “a minimum of half of the funds shall be allocated in the City of Fresno;” and “a quarter of the funds shall be allocated to the City of Los Angeles.” However, this rigid prescription does not account for the potential of having only few quality applications from just one city, which would markedly undermine the overall impact of this program on the communities that need it the most.
- Third, **a funding threshold should be set to encourage larger programmatic efforts** that can have a transformative effect within a region. From the “Initial Statement of Reasons,” one of the primary aims of the program is to make a few large investments, as opposed to numerous and comparatively small investments, to ensure community transformation. In support of this goal to transform communities, the LAEDC encourages you to set a minimum threshold, which would serve as a built-in “back stop” to ensure that mostly transformational projects are attracted, rather than placing a call for projects that list no dollar amount.
- Fourth, the LAEDC recommends a **“partnership” requirement on these projects to ensure that applicants come in with a team of partner organizations that can successfully complete and fulfill the program and/or the project within these communities, and thus improve environmental and economic outcomes accordingly.** For example, a successful partnership might include the following partners: the local government(s) in question, an economic development organization representing the area, and an environmental or community-based organization that can bring the requisite expertise needed to improve environmental or equity outcomes within that community.

Should you have any questions and/or comments on any of the above recommended changes to the regulations, please give me a call directly at 213-236-4837, as we are eager to work with the Strategic Growth Council to better ensure that this TCC Program meets – and exceeds – its originally intended outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamara", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Tamara Gishri Perry
Director, Strategic Initiatives and Industry Cluster Development
Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation

¹ For example, provide first priority funding to Los Angeles and San Joaquin Valley areas with CalEnviroScreen scores above 81 percent; provide second priority funding to areas that have a CalEnviroScreen Score above 81 percent; and provide third priority funding to areas that have a CalEnviroScreen Score above percent. This ensures that if there are insufficient numbers of quality funding applications for the funding in a given year, the funding can still be utilized to make a difference in places that need it in the next priority level.

Partners in the Emerging Collaborative -

Agencies



Bernardino



Omn,Trans San



City of San Bernardino



Community Partners



**Center for Community
Action and
Environmental Justice**

**IQI iW arehouse Worker
N I ! Resource Center**



**CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS**



f' ICUC

**Inland Congregations
United for Change**



**TODEC Legal Center
(Training Occupational
Development Educating
Communities)**



While many of the organizations/agencies listed have worked together in partnership previously each has their own process to undergo before formally joining the collaboration. Those listed have indicated a willingness - and eagerness - to participate and will pursue their formal process for doing so.



County Administrative Office

Gregory C. Devereaux
Chief Executive Officer

November 4, 2016

Randall Winston, Executive Director
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Winston:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, we would like to extend an invitation to you and your staff to host a public hearing in San Bernardino County to receive valuable input from a variety of local stakeholders to ensure the regional allocations reflect the goals of the Transformative Climate Community (TCC) Program prior to making any determination on the unallocated portion of the program.

This invitation is to support the agency's efforts to implement TCC in the spirit of AB 2722, which was created to fund neighborhood-level plans that demonstrate community engagement and multiple, coordinated benefits for disadvantaged communities, learn more about the projects that are currently underway, and to consider designating San Bernardino County as the third regional TCC allocation.

It is critical that as the Strategic Growth Council develops the guidelines and crafts key policies, it include significant public dialogue and vetting with all stakeholders. Maintaining transparent and inclusive proceedings, accessible to all impacted stakeholders would allow this process to achieve a high level of accountability.

As you are aware, San Bernardino County faces many of the challenges for which the Strategic Growth Council was formed to address: a large percentage of the population living in CalEnviroScreen bottom 5%, "extreme" non-attainment for ozone - in fact, the worst air quality in the nation - increasing levels of poverty, long commutes, and a lack of affordable housing.

With those challenges we also have unique opportunities for innovative and sustainable solutions - environmental justice stakeholders along with local agencies have come together to create innovative opportunities for a sustainable vision of growth for San Bernardino County. Many community-based organizations are leading the way by crafting sustainability plans that address long-standing environmental health and justice challenges, and can catalyze equitable economic development at the neighborhood level. These plans draw from deep resident engagement and advance solutions developed by the people most impacted in partnership with local government agencies. There are a myriad of opportunities ranging from green workforce development, electrification of freight as well as an integrated transit system with rail, expanded bus service, including bus rapid transit, and projects to encourage active transportation.

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TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITY
NOVEMBER 4, 2016
PAGE 2 of 2

These projects, recently completed or deep in the planning phase, represent substantial investments and demonstrate a vision for the future that will deliver a higher quality of life with the benefits of reduced emissions of GHGs and criteria pollutants, improved public health, and a more vibrant economy.

With the emphasis on disadvantaged communities, particularly those most affected by pollution, this region has the potential to benefit from projects and programs, including TCC, supported by the Strategic Growth Council. Utilizing the Transformative Climate Communities program, there is an opportunity to fund a set of comprehensive innovative projects that will increase climate sustainability, address long-standing public health and air quality issues, and improve the local economy.

We look forward to having you as our guest . If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, at 909 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory C. Devereaux". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gregory C. Devereaux
Chief Executive Officer

GCD:JC:arc



1700 W. Fifth St.
San Bernardino, CA 92411
909-379-7100
www.omnitrans.org

November 4, 2016

Randall Winston, Executive Director
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Transformative Climate Communities Program

Dear Mr. Winston :

On behalf of Omnitrans, I write to support the recommendation that the Strategic Growth Council designate the highly disadvantaged communities in the San Bernardino Valley as the third regional Transformative Climate Communities allocation under AB 2722. As you are aware, the San Bernardino Valley faces many of the challenges the Strategic Growth Council was formed to address, including a large percentage of the population living in the top 5% most disadvantaged areas in the State (CalEnviroScreen), the worst air quality in the nation, increasing levels of poverty, long commutes, and a lack of affordable housing.

With those challenges, we also have unique opportunities for innovative and sustainable solutions. Environmental justice stakeholders and local agencies have come together to create innovative opportunities for a sustainable vision of growth for the San Bernardino Valley. Many community-based organizations are leading the way by crafting sustainability plans that address long-standing environmental health and justice challenges, and can catalyze equitable economic development at the neighborhood level. These plans draw from deep resident engagement and advance solutions led by people most impacted, in partnership with local government agencies.

Utilizing the Transformative Climate Communities program, there is an opportunity to fund innovative projects that will increase climate sustainability, address long-standing public health and air quality issues, and improve the local economy. Omnitrans is happy to be a partner in this effort. Some of the potential ways that Omnitrans' ongoing efforts to reduce GHG emissions could be leveraged and expanded with the TCC program include the following:

- Expansion of bus service in disadvantaged communities;
- Bus stop improvements, including passenger amenities, safety and security features, and pedestrian or bicycle connections to bus stops; and
- Possible electric vehicle demonstration project.

We look forward to partnering on this program. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Jaiswal, Development Planning Manager, at (909) 379-7256.

Sincerely,

J\)\flt\ .; Afl1Mo{ _/

Anna Jaiswal
Development Planning Manager



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

Office of the Acting Executive Officer
Wayne Nastri
909.396.2100, Jax 909.396.3340

November 4, 2016

Penny Newman
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
PO Box 33124
Riverside, CA 92519

Dear Ms. Newman,

The South Coast Air Quality Management District is supportive of efforts to accelerate greenhouse gas reductions that will have concurrent criteria pollutant and toxic risk reductions that will reduce localized and regional air quality impacts and provide health benefits to disadvantaged communities in San Bernardino. There is a clear need for additional air quality programs in San Bernardino. San Bernardino County experiences some of the worst air quality in the nation with exceedances of the federal 8-hour ozone standard and higher concentrations of PM_{2.5} than other parts of the South Coast Air Basin.

In addition to the regional air quality issues in San Bernardino County, there are localized air quality impacts that affect communities throughout the County. San Bernardino has major freight corridors that traverse through disadvantaged communities as well as a large intermodal railyard that has residences, schools, and a youth center in close proximity. Researchers at Loma Linda University stated in Project ENRRICH: A Public Health Assessment of Residential Proximity to Goods Movement Railyard that, "... community members living in closer proximity or attending school near the San Bernardino Railyard may be experiencing an even greater health burden when compared to residents in areas further away." These localized air quality impacts are also being experienced from diesel trucks that are associated with the growth in warehouse and distribution centers throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

CCAIEJ has a suite of proposals will help to reduce this health burden to communities near these goods movement related sources throughout San Bernardino County. Programs to reduce greenhouse gases will have co-benefits in reducing key pollutants

that will help the Basin achieve federal air quality standards. The **SCAQMD** staff looks forward to providing collaboration and support for the implementation CCAEJ's projects to reduce air pollution from goods movement activities, provide greater access to asthma programs for children in disadvantaged communities, create open green spaces that are away from major transportation corridors, and zero emission transit opportunities that increase mobility in the cleanest way possible.

If you have any questions, please call me at (909) 396-3131.

Sincerely,



Wayne Natri
Acting Executive Officer

WN/drw



Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

"bringing people together
to improve our social and natural environment"

Mailing Address:
PO Box 33124, Jurupa Valley,
CA 92519

Physical Address:
3840 Sunnyhill Drive, Suite A,
Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

Tel: 951-360-8451
Fax: 951-360-5950
penny.n@ccaaj.org
www.ccaaj.org

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**Lendy Eads, Community
Representative-Riverside**

**Ronwyn Leebaw, Assoc. Professor
UC Riverside**

**Julianne Anderson, Deputy City
Attorney of Los Angeles**

*Titles for Identification Purposes
V.J.Ly*

November 5, 2016

Randall Winston, Executive Director
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Winston:

On behalf of Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, we would like to join the chorus of leaders from the Inland Empire and extend an invitation to you and your staff to host a public hearing in San Bernardino County to receive valuable input from a variety of local stakeholders to ensure the regional allocations reflect consistency in rulemaking of the Transformative Climate Community (TCC) Program prior to making any determination on the unallocated portion of the program.

This invitation is to support the agency's efforts to implement TCC in the spirit of AB 2722 which was created to fund neighborhood-level plans that demonstrate community engagement and multiple, coordinated benefits for disadvantaged communities, learn more about the projects that are currently underway and to consider designating the San Bernardino County area as the third regional TCC allocation.

It is critical that as the Strategic Growth Council develops the guidelines and crafts key policies, it include significant public dialogue and vetting with all stakeholders. Maintaining transparent and inclusive proceedings, accessible to all impacted stakeholders, would allow this process to achieve a high level of accountability.

As you are aware, San Bernardino County faces many of the challenges for which the Strategic Growth Council was formed to address: a large percentage of the population living in CalEnviroScreen bottom 5%, "extreme" non-attainment for ozone - in fact, the worst air quality in the nation - increasing levels of poverty, long commutes, and a lack of affordable housing.

With those challenges we also have unique opportunities for innovative and sustainable solutions - environmental justice stakeholders along with local agencies have come together to create innovative opportunities for a sustainable vision of growth for San Bernardino County. Many community-based organizations are leading the way by crafting sustainability plans that address long-standing environmental health and justice challenges, and can catalyze equitable economic development at the neighborhood level. These plans draw from deep resident engagement and advance solutions led by people most impacted, in partnership with local government agencies.

There are a myriad of opportunities ranging from green workforce development, electrification of freight as well as integrated transit system with rail, expanded bus service, including BRT, and projects to encourage active transportation.

These projects, recently completed and/or deep in the planning phase, represent substantial investments and demonstrate a vision for the future that will deliver a higher quality of life with the co-benefits of reduced emissions of GHGs and criteria pollutants, improved public health and a more vibrant economy

With the emphasis on disadvantaged communities, particularly those most affected by pollution, this region has the potential to benefit from projects and programs, including TCC, supported by the Strategic Growth Council. Utilizing the Transformative Climate Communities program, there is an opportunity to fund a set of comprehensive innovative projects that will increase climate sustainability, address long-standing public health and air quality issues, and improve the local economy.

We look forward to having you as our guest. If you have any questions, please contact 951-360-8451 or at penny.n@ccaiej.org.

Since

 e an
 Executive Director

AboutCCAIEJ

The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAIEJ) is a 38 year old nonprofit working on social justice change through the lens of environmental health. The primary focus of our work is to build power within low income communities of color. Through community capacity building and leadership development we seek to change the political and social landscape of the Inland Valleys of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The work of CCAIEJ consistently focuses on those most affected by environmental health hazards: low-income communities of color and recent immigrants who live, work, learn and play closest to rail yards, industrial areas, toxic waste facilities, intermodal facilities, freeways and other areas at greatest risk for environmental health hazards.

PAUL S. LEON
MAYORDEBRA DORST-PORADA
MAYOR PRO TEMALAN D. WAPNER
JIM W. BOWMAN
PAUL VINCENT AVILA
COUNCIL MEMBERS

November 1, 2016

AL C. BOLING
CITY MANAGERSHEILA MAUTZ
CITY CLERKJAMES R. MILHISER
TREASURER

Chairperson Ken Alex and Members
Strategic Growth Council (SGC)
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Transformative Climate Communities Program—Ontario Funding Needs

Dear Chairperson Alex and Members:

I would like to urge you to consider the City of Ontario as the third location for funding from the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program. Ontario's need for this funding is clear: Ontario is one of the most environmentally disadvantaged cities in the state, and, with seven of the top 100 most disadvantaged census tracts, is the only city, besides Fresno and Los Angeles, with census tracts within the top 10.

Similar to Fresno and Los Angeles, Ontario faces significant environmental justice issues linked to socioeconomic disparities. Ontario's downtown area is in the 98th percentile for pollution burden, the 97th percentile for unemployment, and the 80th percentile for poverty. Within Ontario, 45,002 residents, or approximately ¼ of Ontario's entire population, live in the top 5% of the most disadvantaged census tracts in California. Ontario residents—children and adults—are afflicted with asthma, diabetes, and obesity at a rate higher than that found in either the County of San Bernardino or the State of California. Also, there is an urgent need for affordable housing: Ontario has the third highest Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) obligation in the SCAG region (behind only Los Angeles and Irvine).

The City has worked proactively to address these issues on the policy level, in addition to collaborating with community partners to improve environmental and public health. In 2010, the City adopted a comprehensive general plan known as "The Ontario Plan," which implements a Climate Action Plan advancing the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction goals of AB 32. The Ontario Plan helps the City reach SB 375 goals by focusing growth in high-density, mixed-use areas adjacent to high quality transit service (existing and future) with access to employment centers. When realized, the plan would reduce VMT (due to an average trip length reduction of 0.03 miles per trip) and reduce GHG emissions by 0.2 percent for the entire SCAG region despite doubling our population from 167,000 to 350,000.

Importantly, some critical groundwork toward accomplishing these goals has already been laid. In 2010, the California Department of Housing and Community Development selected Ontario as a "Catalyst City"

and granted the City \$500,000 in seed funding for a “Downtown Core Catalyst Project.” Over the last several years, the City of Ontario has demonstrated our commitment to downtown economic and environmental sustainability with the completion of several transit adjacent, Catalyst-related projects, including:

- Sewer capacity and sidewalk improvements to facilitate downtown intensification;
- A 376-unit affordable rental housing complex with densities up to 65 units/acre;
- A 1.77 acre park and a 0.8-acre conservation garden;
- Adaptive reuse of the Civic Center, with rehabilitation of City Hall to LEED Silver;
- Installation of two major solar power systems on city facilities totaling nearly 1.8 megawatts;
- Development of an electric vehicle pilot program with installation of electric vehicle chargers throughout the top 5 disadvantaged census tracts throughout Ontario; and
- An \$18 million three-story office building for a County public health clinic (FQHC) made possible with partnership and funding from the private sector.

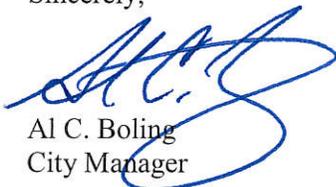
The City still has a long ways to go, however, and has a distinct need for additional funding to build upon this focused momentum to truly transform the community. TCC funding could close the gap on several projects and bring to fruition the following:

- Development of 519 low-income, transit-adjacent housing units designed for larger families on locations where the City already has site control and entitlements;
- Transit stations and infrastructure to facilitate multimodal connectivity between a planned Bus Rapid Transit line, High-Speed Rail, and Foothill Gold Line rail to Ontario Airport;
- A BRT-parallel bicycle route to facilitate east-west travel; and
- Electric vehicle chargers; bike racks, signage and other placemaking features to enhance livability and create safe access to transit.

A major investment from the state at this time would catapult existing efforts. And, as we are beginning to see with the initial public investments of the Catalyst projects, we are confident that Ontario is well positioned to successfully leverage that funding to stimulate private investment and create additional job growth. We sincerely believe that Ontario could become a replicable model for other communities throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (909) 395-2010.

Sincerely,



Al C. Boling
City Manager



GATEWAY CITIES

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*Artesia**Avalon**Bell**Bellflower**Bell Gardens**Cerritos**Commerce**Compton**Cudahy**Downey**Hawaiian Gardens**Huntington Park**Industry**la Habra Heights**La Mirada**Lakewood**Long Beach**Lynwood**Maywood**Montebello**Norwalk**Paramount**Pico Rivera**Santo Fe Springs**Signal Hill**South Gate**Vernon**Whittier**County of Los Angeles**Port of Long Beach*

October 26, 2016

Mr. Ken Alex, Chair
 Strategic Growth Council
 Office of Planning & Research
 P.O. Box 3044
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Dear Mr. Alex:

Gateway Cities COG Comments Regarding Transformative Climate Communities Program

On behalf of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG), I am pleased to submit the following staff comments regarding the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Allocation of Transformative Climate Community Program Funds.

The Gateway Cities are twenty-seven cities and unincorporated communities in Southeast Los Angeles County, with a combined population close to two million residents. Through the Gateway Cities COG, we have collaborated for twenty years to improve transportation, air quality, housing, and economic development for our communities. One of our most recent achievements is a Strategic Transportation Plan, which we adopted in April of this year and which represents our long-term, multi-modal vision for all forms of transportation in and through our region.

We understand that the proposed allocation of funds in the Transformative Climate Community (TCC) program would provide fifty percent of the first-year funds (\$70 million) to the City of Fresno and twenty-five percent of the first-year funds (\$35 million) to the City of Los Angeles. We understand that the basis for these initial allocations is the number of census tracts, and the population of those tracts, that score in the top 5% of disadvantaged communities across the state.

The Gateway Cities as a whole would rank between Los Angeles and Fresno on these same measures. Three-quarters of our region's population lives in census tracts that are considered disadvantaged (top 25% of scores) according to the state's model.

Mr. Ken Alex, Chair
October 26, 2016
Page 2

We further understand that the state is seeking a third area in which to invest the balance of the first-year funds in the TCC program (\$35 million). We also understand that the desired investments should be truly transformational for the communities that receive them.

Based on our long history of successful planning, and the vision articulated through our Strategic Transportation Plan, the Gateway Cities are prepared to work on that transformational scale for the benefit of our deserving communities.

Elected leaders and their staff all around our region are investing time and local resources into transit-oriented development, active transportation projects, and support of new transit lines. These leaders also support critical freeway projects that will expedite the concentrated movement of freight through our region.

Each of these initiatives promises to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through use of alternative modes of transportation, urban greening, and reduced congestion.

I hope that through this round or future rounds of TCC program funding, you will consider partnering with us in the Gateway Cities region to achieve the state's dual goals of addressing climate change while also investing in disadvantaged communities. We look forward to seeing program criteria that reward the type of collaborative regional planning our jurisdictions have been engaged in for many years.

I also hope that you will help us give our member jurisdictions the best possible support by providing a portion of the technical assistance funds set aside for disadvantaged communities by the Legislature in this year's budget for cap and trade funds. I sent you a letter on this subject dated September 30, detailing efforts the COG staff has already undertaken on behalf of the cities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed TCC rulemaking. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at richardpowers@gatewaycog.org or 562-663-6850.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Powers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Powers
Executive Director

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-03

RESOLUTION OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS REGARDING INVESTMENT OF STATE CAP AND TRADE REVENUES

WHEREAS the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) is a Joint Powers Authority consisting of twenty-seven incorporated cities, Supervisorial Districts 1, 2 and 4 of the County of Los Angeles, and the Port of Long Beach;

WHEREAS the member jurisdictions of the COG have been collaborating for the benefit of the two million residents they represent since the COG was formed in 1996;

WHEREAS three-quarters of our residents live in census tracts designated as "disadvantaged communities" (top 25% of scores) according to the State's CaJEnviroScreen 2.0 model;

WHEREAS sixty-four (64) of our census tracts are in the top 5% of disadvantaged communities, with a total population of 281,576 in those tracts;

WHEREAS the COG has policy committees overseeing the improvement of the 1-710 South Corridor and the SR-91/1-605/1-405;

WHEREAS the COG voluntarily developed in 2011 a subregional Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) under Senate Bill 375, one of only two such subregional SCS documents in the state;

WHEREAS the COG in 2014 formed a Committee on Sustainability to ensure that our member jurisdictions could benefit fully from state cap and trade revenues and similar sources of funding;

WHEREAS the COG adopted in 2016 a Strategic Transportation Plan articulating the long-term vision of the region for all modes of transportation, including transit, highways, active transportation, freight, and advanced technologies;

WHEREAS the COG has formed an Economic Development Working Group and a Committee on Homelessness as venues for collaboration on economic development and housing, respectively;

WHEREAS several member cities have joined the Beacon Program for energy efficiency, and the member City of South Gate won the prestigious Beacon Award last year for its transformative climate and sustainability actions, showing that our region is stepping forward as an example of climate action by disadvantaged communities;

WHEREAS the Gateway Cities COG staff has submitted a comment letter to the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) regarding the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Allocation of Transformative Climate Community Program Funds;

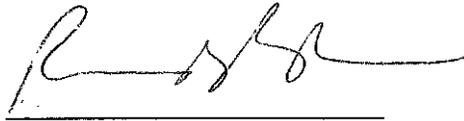
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gateway Cities COG is ready to work with the State to ensure that cap and trade revenues, and related funds, can be constructively invested in our region to meet the State's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also improving conditions in disadvantaged communities.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of November, 2016.

-

Al Austin 11, President

ATTEST:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Powers', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Richard Powers
Secretary

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ss



Sonoma County Transportation Authority
Regional Climate Protection Authority

November 3, 2016

Mr. Ken Alex
Chairman , Strategic Growth Council
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Transformative Climate Communities Program Guidelines

(TCCP) Dear Chairman Alex:

The Sonoma County Transportation Authority is writing to express concerns about the Strategic Growth Council's proposed guidelines for the first installment of \$140 million for the new Transformative Climate Communities Grant Program. We are concerned that even though the TCCP was set up as a competitive statewide program, SGC is proposing to direct 50 percent of funds to the City of Fresno, 25 percent to the City of Los Angeles, and the remainder for a third yet-to-be-determined location. We recognize that the needs in these areas are significant, but would like to emphasize that other regions of the State also have important GHG reduction needs which may be overlooked by applying the current criteria. Many disadvantaged neighborhoods in Sonoma County will benefit greatly from GHG reduction projects focused on providing better, cleaner, and safer access to schools, employment centers, and services. These areas are often poorly served by clean transportation modes or have inadequate alternatives to automobile travel. Improving travel alternatives in these areas would reduce GHG emissions and improve the economic, social, and physical health of these disadvantaged communities.

Limiting TCCP funds to just three jurisdictions reduces the potential to reduce GHG emissions statewide and would exclude sensitive areas that are in desperate need of improvements to local infrastructure, services, and the environment. Many rural areas are overlooked and unidentified as disadvantaged communities when applying current criteria. These many scattered communities would benefit from GHG reduction projects which would undoubtedly provide statewide, regional, and significant local benefits. By limiting where TCCP funds can be spent at the outset of the program, SGC is ruling out consideration of projects in other communities that might provide considerable greenhouse gas reductions and other community benefits. SGC should provide flexibility in the distribution of funds in order to ensure that the goals of AB 2722 are met and that the widest range of disadvantaged communities have a chance of being considered for much needed funding.

We recommend that you revise the guidelines to provide more open competition for TCCP funds. In addition, we urge that you withdraw the proposal to restrict TCCP funds to census tracts scoring in the top 5 percent of CalEnviro Screen. This criteria was not included in AB 2722 and would eliminate all but one Bay Area census tract and all Sonoma County disadvantaged communities from qualifying for funding from this program. Using the census tract level to discern disadvantaged areas is too broad a brush. Rural census tracts are very large and often very socio-economically diverse. SCTA has identified 137 disadvantaged communities locally by examining more geographically detailed socio-economic data. We urge SGC to consider a more flexible and open approach to establishing guidelines for this statewide competitive program.

Sincerely,

/s/ Suzanne Smith
Executive Director, SCTA/RCPA

490 Mendocino Ave. #206, Santa Rosa, CA | 707.565.5373 | scta.ca.gov | rcpa.ca.gov

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

**PUBLIC HEARING AND DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
ON PROPOSED RULEMAKING FOR THE TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE
COMMUNITIES PROGRAM**

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL, 2nd FLOOR
2600 FRESNO STREET
FRESNO, CA 93721

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016

9:00 A.M.

Reported By:
Peter Petty

APPEARANCES

CSGC

Randall Winston, Executive Director
 Suzanne Hague, Senior Advisor for Community Development and Planning
 Christopher Calfee, Office of Planning and Research
 Sam Diaz, Office of Planning and Research

INTERPRETER

Manual Dominguez, Spanish to English Translator

PUBLIC COMMENT

Penny Newman, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, CCAEJ
 Michele Hasson, CCAEJ
 Veronica Alvarado, Warehouse Worker Resource Center
 Matt Abularach-Macias, California League of Conservation Voters
 Aaron Blair, Downtown Fresno Partnership
 Brian Angus, Fresno EOC
 Paul Hernandez, Center for Sustainable Energy
 Dr. Joaquin Arambula, California Assembly, District 31
 Jessica Medina, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education, SCOPE, and California Environmental Justice Alliance, CEJA.
 Magdalena Barrios, Concejo de Liderazgo
 Tiffany Eng, CEJA
 Grecia Elenes, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, LCJA
 Keith Bergthold, Fresno Metro Ministry
 Isabel Vargas
 Margarita Villasenor
 Ashley Swearengin, Mayor, City of Fresno
 Amparo Cid, Sierra Health Foundation
 Esmeralda Soria, Fresno City Council
 Venise Curry, Communities for a New California Education Fund, CNCEF

APPEARANCES (Cont.)

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Yolanda Randles, West Fresno Family Resource Center, Voice-Gladiator Trustee

Josh Candelaria, County of San Bernardino

Lilia Becerril

Lucio Avila, Centro La Familia Advocacy Services, Fresno Building Healthy Communities

Sandra Celedon, Fresno Building Healthy Communities

Maria Del Carmen Padron, Families Addams Por Un Mejor Future

Francisco Mendez

Ashley Werner, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Jeanie Ward-Waller, California Bicycle Coalition

Lee Brand, Fresno City Council

Mary Curry, Concerned Citizens of West Fresno

I N D E X

	<u>Page</u>
I. Introductions	5
II. Overview of Proposed Rulemaking and Purpose of Hearing	6
III. Public Comment	11
Adjourn	88
Court Reporter's Certification	89
Transcriber's Certification	90

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

P R O C E E D I N G S

NOVEMBER 7, 2016

9:05 A.M.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Good morning,
everyone. Thank you for being here.

My name is Randall Winston and I'm the Executive
Director of the Strategic Growth Council. And this is the
public hearing for the proposed Rulemaking for the
Transformative Climate Communities Program. Hopefully, you
all were able to get the information about the agenda and
other materials outside of the room. I'll quickly make
some introductions before maybe running through the agenda
and a couple of items.

So again, my name is Randall Winston with the
Strategic Growth Council. We have Mr. Manny Dominguez here
who will be helping to provide translation services,
Suzanne Hague also with the Strategic Growth Council,
Christopher Calfee with the Office of Planning and Research
and then outside of the room helping to sign folks in Sam
Diaz also with the Office of Planning and Research.

So again, I mentioned that I would begin by going
over the agenda. We'll start with introductions, a brief
overview of the proposed Rulemaking, and the purpose of
this hearing today. And then we will move shortly
thereafter into public comment period.

I should also note from the top that Spanish

1 translation is available. And if need be you can pick up a
2 headset from the back of the room.

3 INTERPRETER DOMINGUEZ: (Speaking Spanish to
4 announce his services for those in the room needing an
5 interpreter.)

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Fantastic. Thank
7 you, Manny.

8 So with that a few other introductory items and
9 logistics just to review here for the purpose of this
10 hearing and how things will run. We just mentioned English
11 to Spanish translation.

12 Hopefully, all of you had a chance to sign in
13 both in terms of identifying who you are by name and
14 organization as well as whether or not you would like to
15 make public comments. If you have not done so, again the
16 sign-in sheets will be outside of the room with Mr. Sam
17 Diaz and please do so if you wish to make a public comment.

18 And for those watching remotely, we are live-
19 streaming the hearing here via webcast. The address is up
20 on the screen. And in addition to providing public
21 comments today you may also email those comments again to
22 the address that you see on the screen.

23 So with that I'll move into just a brief overview
24 of the proposed Rulemaking and again, the purpose of the
25 hearing. Outside of the room there were a number of

1 materials available, all of which are posted online, a
2 notice of the proposed Rulemaking, the proposed Rulemaking
3 itself, and the Initial Statement of Reasons with that
4 Rulemaking.

5 But a little bit of background on Transformative
6 Climate Communities in the legislation, AB 2722, the
7 program is intended to enable transformative change in
8 disadvantaged communities, support and provide funding to
9 multiple coordinated projects within specified target areas
10 and achieve multiple policy goals.

11 Again, you can read a synopsis of the legislation
12 on your screen and more in the materials provided.

13 So with that, the proposed Rulemaking itself,
14 which was released on September 23rd, the Council proposed
15 to adopt the following, and I'll read the regulations.

16 "Transformative Climate Community Program funds shall be
17 allocated in the cities of Los Angeles and Fresno, and a
18 third location. A minimum of half the funds shall be
19 allocated in the City of Fresno. A minimum of one fourth
20 of the funds shall be allocated in the City of Los
21 Angeles."

22 And what I reviewed earlier again attached to the
23 materials again outside the Initial Statement of Reasons,
24 and mentioned in that Initial Statement of Reasons, are the
25 fact that noted in the legislation the Council, "May give

1 priority to plans and projects that cover areas that have a
2 high proportion of census tracts identified as
3 disadvantaged communities and that focus on communities
4 that are most disadvantaged."

5 There are also sections in that Initial Statement
6 of Reasons, which outline a consideration of neighborhood
7 level transformation as well as consideration of investment
8 in Los Angeles, Fresno and a third location.

9 And again, those materials are available online
10 and printed out, outside of the room.

11 So with that I did want to review here the
12 purpose of the Rulemaking and specifically what the
13 Rulemaking does pertain to, today. And what it does not
14 pertain to.

15 I should say broadly that this Rulemaking is the
16 first in a series of actions or phases to develop the
17 program, and specifically this Rulemaking refers to an
18 allocation of a proportion of total Program funds to
19 specific geographies, and a percentage of funds within
20 those geographies.

21 What this Rulemaking does not do is establish
22 guidelines or criteria for the funding of awards including
23 the specific types or locations of those specific awards,
24 the characteristics of projects or where those projects
25 will be located. Nor does it establish any guidelines or

1 selection criteria related to a third location.

2 All of that will be taken up again at a later
3 stage and so public comments as they are received today in
4 this hearing should focus in on the Rulemaking.

5 All right, and we have here a review that once
6 again -- and I will review the purpose just so everyone
7 understands it even though I mentioned it earlier --
8 proposed allocation of funds to specific geographies, again
9 Fresno and Los Angeles, and a third location to be
10 determined. And a proposed minimum percentage of those
11 funds: 50 percent and 25 percent, respectively.

12 A bit here on the timeline, so mention that this
13 Rulemaking is the first of several actions. The Rulemaking
14 itself here today depending upon public comment received,
15 and the time it will take for staff to review those public
16 comments, could be as early as December for final action on
17 the Rulemaking, but again dependent upon comments received.

18 The next phase of the program, more information
19 of which will be available later this month, will include a
20 timeline for Guidelines development and that will include
21 specific guidelines, selection criteria and a competitive
22 process for individual applications. And that should say
23 again a timeline for developing the program and so we will
24 outline how a public process will take place for the
25 development of every aspect of the program from application

1 to awards and program implementation.

2 All right, so public comment period we will begin
3 here shortly. And just to remind everyone to please fill
4 out a comment card with your name and organization outside
5 of the room. And I'm going to ask Mr. Sam Diaz just to
6 raise his hand, if you don't mind Sam, just so folks can
7 see who you are since you have the sign-in sheet.

8 Spanish to English translation is available.

9 Written comments may also be submitted and they
10 are preferred if you are able to send them. You can do so
11 by the close of business, by 5:00 o'clock p.m. today or
12 postmark those comments if sent via mail, again by the end
13 of today. So submitted by 5:00 p.m. if through email or
14 electronically, postmarked by the end of today if sent via
15 postal mail.

16 This hearing will also be recorded and posted on
17 the Strategic Council's website. Okay, so with that we
18 have the proposed Rulemaking before you and again a
19 reminder for the locations through which -- or the
20 addresses through which to submit public comments.

21 We will move to the public comment period now.
22 And again, what I'll do just for format here is call up
23 your name and organization and probably two or three at a
24 time, just so you can be prepared and ready. I ask that
25 you keep your comments to a minimum in deference to other

1 speakers, but no specific time limit at this stage. But
2 just again, ask that you keep your comments to a minimum
3 and submit comments where possible.

4 So with that I'll call up the first set of
5 speakers and if you could again just state your name and
6 entity again, even though I'm saying it. And I apologize
7 in advance if I mispronounce anyone's name or organization:
8 Michele Hasson with the Center for Community Action
9 Environmental Justice; Veronica Alvarado with the Warehouse
10 Worker Resource Center; and Matt Abularach-Macias,
11 California League of Conservation Voters.

12 And for the speakers you can go right up here to
13 the podium. And if anyone does need translation, again we
14 can have our interpreter.

15 MS. NEWMAN: Good morning, my name is Penny Newman,
16 I'm the Executive Director of the Center for Community
17 Action and Environmental Justice in the Inland Empire, the
18 Inland Valleys of Southern California and Riverside and San
19 Bernardino Counties.

20 You might guess why I'm here. We are advocating
21 very strongly that the metropolitan region, the western
22 part of the two counties, be considered for that third
23 region.

24 The Inland Empire, the valleys of Riverside-San
25 Bernardino, covers an immense geographic area of more than

1 27,000 miles with nearly 4.5 million people. That's
2 represents 11 percent of California's total population,
3 making it the third most populous metropolitan area in the
4 state.

5 Geographically, we're larger than 11 states of
6 our nation. We have more people than 23 states and twice
7 the population of states like New Mexico, Nebraska, Idaho
8 and Hawaii. It's a massive area and it has massive needs.

9 When you look at CalEnviroScreen, one of the
10 things that pop out at you is that we have a large number
11 of that upper 5 percent communities, about 52 percent when
12 you count the two counties together in that metropolitan
13 west end. In order to really concentrate and do a good job
14 of making some progress and demonstrating that the projects
15 will meet the needs of TCC we're really proposing that we
16 focus on the San Bernardino area.

17 If you look at the areas that are impacted in our
18 region, you notice something that ties them all together
19 and that is the freeway system and the rail lines going
20 through the area. The communities that are most directly
21 impacted, that have the highest need, that are the most
22 vulnerable, are those along transportation corridors. So
23 it's not a surprise that when we look at greenhouse gases
24 in Southern California 80 percent are due to
25 transportation.

1 And the goods movement is a driving force with
2 that. The transport of goods and products from the Ports
3 of L.A. go through the Inland Valley as they're distributed
4 nationwide. And with that has come this tremendous impact.

5 What we are proposing with our coalition of
6 partners: we have the County of Riverside; Omnitrans, which
7 is our transit agency; the City of San Bernardino; South
8 Coast AQMD, along with our community partners of CCAEJ,
9 Warehouse Workers, California League of Conservation
10 Voters, California Partnership, Inland Congregations United
11 for Change, Todec Legal Center, Leadership Counsel, IREN,
12 (phonetic) Grid Alternatives, all of the organizations that
13 have been working in these high-risk communities for a long
14 period of time.

15 So it has not been hard for us to come with
16 projects that are community-driven that highlight the real
17 needs, the authentic needs of our region, because we've
18 been there, we've been doing this for a long time. We have
19 collaborated with agencies like EPA, the Air Resources
20 Board, Department of Toxic Substances, the Attorney
21 General's Office, our D.A., Zacupas (phonetic) and many
22 more to try and implement in a piece-meal manner ways in
23 which we can improve these communities, reduce the
24 greenhouse gases and reduce the co-pollutants that are
25 impacting people's health.

1 And so we've come up with a way knowing how
2 gigantic the needs are, we've concentrated in three
3 different areas. One is an implementation of a Valley
4 Corridor-specific Plan in the area of Bloomington, an
5 unincorporated area, that is a comprehensive vision of
6 communities on the frontline of warehousing logistics that
7 look at affordable housing, making the community walkable,
8 making services available, bus or transit passes so that we
9 can get people from one place to another.

10 The other one is the Fourth Street Revitalization
11 Project, which is looking at a community that is highly
12 impacted by a rail yard. It is a rail yard with the
13 highest cancer risk of all rail yards in the State of
14 California at 3,300 in a million cancer risk instead of one
15 in a million. It has through a health study that was
16 conducted with our partner, Loma Linda University, found
17 three cancer clusters as well as a 47 percent asthma rate
18 in the children of the local school.

19 We have been trying to find ways to mitigate the
20 heavy pollution that is coming from this rail yard with air
21 filters at the schools, which we have seven schools now
22 that have high-performance air filtration units that reduce
23 pollution by 90 percent. We've had a project onboard to
24 look at putting in a vegetative barrier between the rail
25 yard and the community. That's one we would like to move

1 forward with as well as filters on the homes as well as
2 transit passes, so that the community can get around to
3 food, fresh-food venues, in a food desert, very high food
4 desert.

5 As well as putting energy efficiency on the
6 homes, solar which we've done with Grid Alternatives in
7 another 5 percent community, and combine them into one
8 areas where we really see a huge reduction not only in the
9 greenhouse gases, but in the health impacts.

10 And the third one since this area is targeted for
11 more and more warehousing, more rail yards and an expansion
12 of logistics, is a green warehouse project. Where we
13 really look at how can we bring in good-paying jobs, into a
14 community that we're not killing off the local residents?
15 And there's ways of doing that, so we want to work with one
16 of the warehouse owners in the region and utilize all of
17 the strategies that have been identified through CARB and
18 through AQMD and from the community to really focus on that
19 one. And make it a demonstration project moving forward
20 that we can look and see how do we reduce this in a
21 meaningful way, so that we can have the jobs and the
22 expansion of this industry and yet protect the communities
23 that are around it.

24 And that includes taking into account if you're
25 bringing in 20,000 new jobs that are low-paying at this

1 point, how do you provide the housing? So we want to link
2 the housing elements with the County along with the jobs
3 that we're bringing in. Otherwise we end up -- what we've
4 got right now, which is we have low-paying jobs where
5 families can't afford housing, so they have two or three
6 families living in a single-family home. And that is not a
7 good way to have a living.

8 We also recognize that this is an industry that
9 is making a great deal of profits at the top end, but it
10 needs to be shared with the workers. And you'll hear a
11 little bit about what the working conditions are here. We
12 believe that if we put in place certain conditions and
13 criteria, if you want to operate in the Inland Valley then
14 you need to provide living wage jobs, you need to provide
15 working conditions that are conducive to healthy workers as
16 well as the community.

17 So I've provided you with the packet there that
18 goes into detail for all of this and I hope that you'll
19 seriously consider the Inland Valleys. We're ready to go.
20 We have the collaborative together, the community is there.
21 It's been there, it's ready. It's had the input. It's
22 ready to pitch in and help too and it certainly has the
23 need. Thanks.

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you for your
25 comments. I think I didn't recognize the sort of switching

1 of numbering here, so I apologize. I think next up we have
2 Veronica Alvarado.

3 MS. ALVARADO: Hi, so my name is Veronica
4 Alvarado. I'm the Program Coordinator with the Warehouse
5 Worker Resource Center. I'm also a resident of the Inland
6 Empire. I've been with the WWRSC for the last 80 years.
7 We're a nonprofit organization and we're dedicated to
8 improving the lives of warehouse workers, specifically in
9 the Inland Empire. And we do this through programs of
10 education, advocacy and action.

11 The IE is actually home to the largest
12 concentration of warehouses in the world. You can actually
13 see the concentration of warehouses from Google Earth,
14 which is amazing and scary at the same time. Goods are
15 shipped here from overseas and they make their way to the
16 IE to be redistributed both locally and throughout our
17 country. So the importance and dependence of this industry
18 is very big, but at the same time the industry is causing
19 many hardships for both the environment and our workforce.

20 While warehouse workers move goods for some of
21 the largest big box retailers in the world, they rarely
22 enjoy any benefits. The model for this industry has really
23 become one of purposeful scapegoating through the use of
24 staffing agencies that oftentimes remove accountability
25 from who the real employers are. It is very common for our

1 workers to be permatemps. For us to have workers coming
2 into our offices asking us for help, because they're
3 calling day by day to see if they're going to work and
4 they've been at the same place for over five years. So
5 workers are working as permatemps, working in desperate
6 working conditions, plagued with things like low wages,
7 wage theft. We have an enormous amount of wage theft
8 happening in our region, workers being forced to work 16-
9 hour shifts.

10 We've been able to help some workers with a lot,
11 filing claims and helping them organize themselves. They
12 are exposed to retaliation for speaking up, for speaking up
13 on health conditions, on wage theft conditions, workers are
14 constantly being discriminated against, being sexually
15 harassed, there's no job security, there's no
16 representation, there's constant unsafe working conditions.
17 All of this while inside of a toxic environment.

18 Under these conditions workers are put in very
19 difficult positions. A couple of years ago we had a worker
20 who fell victim to a heat stroke. The temperature outside
21 the warehouse was upwards of 100 degrees. Inside the
22 warehouse, inside of these big steel containers, workers
23 are working alongside propane forklifts. Workers are
24 working inside of unventilated warehouses. Workers are
25 having to move goods where trucks are loaded and pulled

1 back, and left on, to expose even more additional heat for
2 the workers. This worker in particular was hospitalized.
3 He underwent a blood transfusion, but more importantly he
4 almost died.

5 The Transformative Climate Community Program is a
6 great opportunity for us to begin reshaping the way this
7 industry operates. We must transform this industry and
8 collectively with our community build the programs and
9 infrastructure needed to benefit all those that the
10 industry impacts from the residents such as me and my
11 children, my family, to the workers who are exposed to the
12 pollutants the industry draws in whether we approve of this
13 or not.

14 As workers, we seek opportunities for employment
15 where we sell our labor. We should not have to sell our
16 health and our children's future in the process. Thank
17 you.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

19 Michelle Hasson?

20 MS. HASSON: Hi, I'm Michele Hasson. I'm the Policy
21 Specialist with the Center for Community Action and
22 Environmental Justice based in the heart of the Inland
23 Valley.

24 And that is why I'm here today, to really again
25 as my other fellow carpoolers from the Inland Valley make

1 the case, that our region is an incredible opportunity.
2 And why do we talk about warehouses? Because aside from
3 the fact that in the San Bernardino-Riverside County
4 metropolitan area you have over 105 census tracts within
5 the bottom 5 percent, which you guys are all experts in
6 these. And I don't have to go over the needs, what I
7 really want to talk about is the opportunity, right? The
8 opportunity for California to really achieve its climate
9 goals, we need to include warehouses.

10 We need to think about the goods movement
11 industry and the logistics industry if we're ever going to
12 even make a drop in the bucket. Because unless we start
13 changing these industries that are based on extracting from
14 our communities, extracting resources in terms of labor,
15 for low-wage labor, these industries pollute our
16 communities. They extract labor. They leave asthma
17 behind. They leave somebody who is unable to walk to their
18 school which is two blocks away, because there are 50
19 freight trucks in front of them.

20 The need is there, but the opportunity is even
21 better. If we can think of a green goods movement that
22 could not only transform the Inland Valley, but that would
23 transform California and the way that we transform climate
24 policy for the state. That's the opportunity in the Inland
25 Valley. We have an incredible varied stakeholder alliance

1 with the County, with the transit agencies, everybody
2 willing to take a step back and look at this vast panorama
3 we have of goods movement.

4 The way that California provides goods and
5 services to the rest of the country yet is creating this
6 huge burden for our communities. We now have that
7 opportunity to change that, to transform that not only
8 based on the vision that our communities have, but the
9 vision that we're creating with our agencies.

10 And another thing that's a really great
11 opportunity for the Inland Valley is to demonstrate how
12 climate change can happen in the suburbs, because when we
13 look at our climate change investments we look at
14 investments that are designated to urban areas or rural
15 areas. But we have no way of addressing climate change in
16 our suburbs and let's face it, most of Californians, we
17 live in the peripheries. Our coastal cities are too
18 expensive to live in.

19 We can talk about a way of transforming
20 industries, transforming communities in the suburbs without
21 displacing our most vulnerable residents. That's an
22 opportunity and that's an opportunity for investment. And
23 that's why I'm here, I'm making the case not just because
24 of the need, but for the extreme opportunity to transform
25 the goods movement and show how the suburbs can also

1 participate in climate goals. Thank you.

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you

3 MR. ABULARACH-MACIAS: Hi, I'm Matt Abularach-Macias
4 and I'm with the League of Conservation Voters, a statewide
5 environmental organization. And we were disappointed to
6 find the geography in the Inland Valley not named to the
7 proposed rules.

8 Not only have I been organizing in the Inland
9 Region on climate change alongside some of the partners
10 here, but I've lived there for 26 years. So I know
11 firsthand how the opportunity is much needed in the region
12 and also know that we are ready to be a transformative
13 climate community.

14 As an organization, CLCV's been collaborating
15 with community organizations, the County of San Bernardino,
16 and local governments, and even have some support of our
17 local legislators.

18 I understand the Inland Region has not always had
19 the leadership in place that's been most receptive on these
20 issues, but this broad-base support that we've developed
21 shows that the region is ready to implement the program and
22 make it a great success. Our region is made up of hard-
23 working people who are raising families and striving for a
24 better life.

25 Sadly, this life is being built where we have

1 some of the highest populations living in the bottom 5
2 percent census tracts. So instead of kids playing outside
3 or at parks and families enjoying a time together, we have
4 children with asthma attacks in hospitals. We have homes
5 being foreclosed on and homelessness. We have increased
6 rates of cancer. And many of those who are most impacted
7 don't have the resources they seek to care for themselves
8 or live the lives that they need and deserve.

9 That's why the Transformative Climate Communities
10 Program can truly be transformative for lives and make a
11 huge impact in the Inland Region. Name it as the third
12 geography in the Rules and help us improve our quality of
13 life. I get it. There are many places in the state where
14 TCC is also needed. However, beyond need, we have a lot of
15 the right partners in place to make this successfully
16 implemented. We have projects ready to go and when the
17 Rules are written it sounds like they were talking about
18 the Inland Region.

19 This is another step in us building an
20 infrastructure for the region of tomorrow that we need to
21 become to support a healthy, fulfilling quality of life.
22 As a region we haven't often been the beneficiaries of many
23 programs like TCC. We're almost like that kid on the
24 sideline waiting to prove ourselves, right? So I'm asking,
25 give us the shot. We're ready for it. We're ready to move

1 the region forward. We're ready to implement the program.
2 And we're ready to be a model for what a transformation in
3 a community to address and mitigate the impacts of climate
4 change can be for the rest of California. Thank you.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

6 I'd like to call up the next set of speakers
7 here: Aaron Blair with Downtown Fresno, Brian Angus with
8 Fresno EOC and Paul Hernandez with the Center for
9 Sustainable Energy.

10 MR. BLAIR: Thank you, Aaron Blair, Downtown
11 Fresno Partnership, President and CEO. We're here
12 basically in support, to express our support for the
13 approval of the proposed percentage allocation as presented
14 by the Council. Thank you.

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

16 Brian Angus, he's still here? Yes.

17 MR. ANGUS: Thank you. I too am here to express
18 support of the proposal. I'm also here to talk just a bit
19 about why Fresno.

20 I think Bill Gates has recently said he was going
21 to spend all of his money on doing preterm births in
22 Africa, because the data from Africa was so bad that that's
23 where all the money was going to spent from the Gates
24 Foundation to address that issue of preterm birth. When he
25 looked around the world, the one other place he found that

1 matched the African data was here in Fresno, so Gates
2 Foundation is spending money on preterm birth projects in
3 Africa and in Fresno.

4 If you look at asthma data, you're going to find
5 the same thing. If you look at any kind of health data,
6 you know, and cancer data and alike across this Valley, if
7 you're looking at entrenched poverty Fresno is one of the
8 few places in this country that you can truly say has had
9 entrenched poverty over generations. There are other
10 places like Detroit that it's come and gone, but here, in
11 Appalachia, perhaps the rural sections of East Texas, those
12 are the three places in this country in which the poverty
13 has been here forever.

14 And therefore, if you're going to address those
15 kinds of issues then you need to have some sort of
16 transformational injection of projects and funding. And
17 that's what this will do. But that isn't just because
18 we're here and we deserve it, because of the data. You
19 also have to look at where we are in terms of who we are.

20 We have been here in Fresno -- I've been here six
21 years -- and in that past six years under this current
22 Mayor we have been redefining how this city is going to
23 operate, because of our zoning and our plans for the inner
24 city. We have been working together to transform our
25 educational system to look in terms of getting it ready to

1 produce people and young men and women that are ready for
2 jobs. We've been looking at our employment and training
3 prospects and the workforce development work that we've
4 been doing here and aligning that with business, with faith
5 communities, with government and non-profits. This
6 community has been coming together and aligned itself.

7 And I'm happy to say that Fresno EOC feels like
8 we're a big part of that. We're also not new -- well,
9 we're as new as anybody to the greenhouse gas game in
10 California. But we've been running a pilot program around
11 a solar pilot program that's all over the Central Valley,
12 and in fact in other parts of the country and the state
13 rather.

14 And in turn we do that, because a) it's good for
15 the community, b) it's good for poor people and c) it's
16 jobs. And jobs are what really will get people out of
17 poverty and we understand that. And so we are going to
18 make sure that the jobs that we produce here go to people
19 who live here. So it's not just a matter of transforming
20 Fresno with this money, but it's a matter of transforming
21 the Fresno workforce, because the money that is put into
22 this community will create jobs. And this community is
23 prepared to make sure the folks that we care about most get
24 those jobs.

25 One final thing, give me a second before -- I

1 lost it, I'm getting old I guess -- so in addition, I left
2 some information with you about what Fresno EOC is doing,
3 and about what this community is doing and also about the
4 plans that we have for a workforce. And it's really about
5 creating -- Fresno, as you'll often hear say, we're big
6 enough, so that if you make a difference it means a
7 difference. We're not a small community. We're 31st or
8 2nd largest city in the country, so if you can change
9 Fresno you can change any community.

10 On the other hand, we're also small enough so
11 it's manageable. You go in and you try to change -- you go
12 in and you spend this kind of money in New York City and
13 it's almost a drop in the bucket. You can make a little
14 bit of change around the fringes, but it isn't noticeable.

15 You have an opportunity here to come into Fresno
16 and make the kind of change that is noticeable,
17 documentable, and people around the world are going to see
18 it. And they're going to say, "We want to make our city
19 like Fresno," in the future. And they will then follow
20 with us, and the big cities will follow us too. But
21 anyways, thank you.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

23 Paul Hernandez.

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Good morning, Director Winston,
25 Paul Hernandez with the Center for Sustainable Energy. The

1 Center for Sustainable Energy is a nonprofit organization,
2 headquartered in --

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Please remember to
4 speak into the mic for our translator?

5 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay.

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Perfect, thank you.

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: The Center for Sustainable Energy
8 is a nonprofit headquartered in California. It's our
9 nonprofit mission to accelerate the future towards a future
10 powered by clean energy.

11 CSE strongly supports the current funding
12 allocation and selected localities as proposed in the
13 regulation. And in addition, we agree that the selection
14 of Fresno and Los Angeles are appropriate as these two
15 cities have experienced high poverty levels and
16 substantially higher pollution levels than other parts of
17 the state. And for this reason CSE strongly supports the
18 amendments to the Regulation under consideration.

19 So CSE also looks forward to continuing to
20 participate in this Rulemaking and in support of, and in
21 partnership, with the Transformative Climate Community
22 stakeholders to inform the program design and it's
23 development. And we will be actively commenting throughout
24 the process, specifically focused on energy planning, the
25 installation of clean energy technologies, all of these

1 which can be utilized to reduce carbon emissions as well as
2 to meet the additional transformative climate community
3 goals of increasing economic vitality, clean energy,
4 supporting clean energy development, and improving public
5 health and its outcomes.

6 So thank you very much for the opportunity to
7 speak today and to join everyone in Fresno today, on this
8 momentous day. Thank you.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

10 I'm going to go ahead and call up the next set of
11 speakers: Assemblymember Arambula, Jessica Medina with the
12 Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education,
13 Magdalena Barrios, I believe, with the *Concejo de Liderazgo*
14 -- I apologize for the mispronunciation there, hopefully
15 you can clarify it Magdalena -- and then Tiffany Eng with
16 CEJA.

17 ASSEMBLYMEMBER ARAMBULA: Hello, everybody. So it's
18 a rare occurrence that I actually get to speak about a bill
19 that I spent so much of my time working on. But I wanted
20 to tell you about the heart, and why this bill mattered so
21 much.

22 You know, I think it's imperative in our
23 political climate that you recognize the time that you
24 reach across the aisle and are able to sit with a wonderful
25 person who is leading this great city. But I think we're

1 at the precipice of something and we needed help. We
2 needed both resources and a vision, and so I was proud to
3 partner with Mayor Ashley Swearingin to think about how we
4 could return resources back home. And here's what I found.
5 That this is my home and that while I care so much about my
6 community, I didn't have all of the answers to fix the
7 problems. That's why we're here today, to hear from you
8 about how we can fix the things that are going wrong and
9 where to invest the appropriate monies.

10 But here's what I told people about when I was up
11 there, I told the stories of my patients. And what I heard
12 from them are the living conditions of our community.
13 Where they lay their heads at night, where their kids
14 sleep, and how difficult it is for them to be able to study
15 the next day, because of where they sleep.

16 This is my home. You know, I grew up in 93728,
17 it's called the Tower District now. It is one of the top
18 25 most disadvantaged communities in our state. I lived
19 there, my life, it's where I'm raising my kids too. And I
20 know and I was arguing that if we were going to invest
21 dollars we need to come back home. We need to fix the
22 areas that are most disadvantaged. And it's why I want to
23 give a shout out to my Inland Empire brothers and sisters,
24 because your advocates at the state level are making this
25 argument. And they're making it well. Eduardo Garcia,

1 Jose Medina, they're good examples of people who are making
2 that strong argument.

3 But here's what I'm hoping, that this money is a
4 start for us to see a pathway out of poverty; a way to
5 invest into our most disadvantaged communities and to do it
6 smartly. Look, I don't want to reinvent the wheel.

7 Whether we're now the 31st or 32nd -- I actually think
8 we're the 34th or at least that's what I heard, largest
9 city -- there are cities larger than us that are doing
10 something better than us. They have a more vibrant
11 Downtown.

12 I don't know of a single larger city than us that
13 does not have a heart of the city. And I don't know as a
14 physician, how if you don't have a strong core you don't
15 have a strong body, the same is true for our cities. We
16 can't continue to have urban sprawl. We have to turn back
17 at some point.

18 The argument made sense to me, and it's the
19 argument I'm trying to make as well, that we need to be
20 focused in our investments to make sure that we are
21 transforming and are the example for the rest of the state.
22 That with simple smart strategic investments you could
23 transform a community, so affordable housing should be part
24 of that solution.

25 But I want to talk about me as a doctor for a

1 second for I struggle to keep my community healthy patient
2 by patient and some of that has been our poor investment in
3 our parks and our social spaces that you can get exercise.
4 You know, I want to talk about 93728 again, because the
5 only park I have is under a freeway and I try to take my
6 girl -- I have three little girls: 5, 3, and 1 -- the other
7 day to the park. And I have to admit that what was at the
8 park were drug dealers, and I'm not getting out of the car,
9 even if we have to play there.

10 So how do we invest and keep our parks safe? How
11 do we invest in urban greening, so that our communities
12 have a chance to stay healthy? I think we have to think
13 forward about what we want our communities to look like.

14 And this is the final point I want to say,
15 because I think Brian Angus is right, we have to invest in
16 the infrastructure and guts of our city. We have to make
17 the hard investments into our roads, into our technology
18 grid to be able to ensure that we can grow as quickly as we
19 should.

20 Now, I'm encouraged with the \$20 million that
21 Fulton Mall, which has now led to \$100 million of private
22 investment. And I want to challenge us to think about what
23 \$70 million does and how we can turn that and grow our
24 community. The vision is there, it's time for us to learn
25 from the other communities, but that's why I fought so

1 hard. Because for us to make a difference here, we
2 actually have to do it right and do it smartly and be
3 deliberate about it.

4 So thank you all for the public input. I just
5 wanted to add my two cents and for why I try. Thank you,
6 guys.

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you,
8 Assemblymember.

9 MS. MEDINA: Good morning, my name is Jessica Medina
10 and I'm here with Strategic Concepts in Organizing and
11 Policy Education, SCOPE, a nonprofit in South L.A. and
12 member of the California Environmental Justice Alliance,
13 CEJA, who you'll be hearing from as well.

14 We are supportive of TCC and SGC's proposed
15 Rulemaking and excited for the opportunities that may arise
16 from this new program for South L.A. specifically, but for
17 the City of L.A. and Fresno. We also would like to make
18 some suggestions to ensure that the implementation of TCC
19 is successful and really does lead to transformative
20 changes for those that need it the most.

21 On the specific Rulemaking we are supportive of
22 the locations and also supportive of our partners in the
23 Inland Valley in advocating for San Bernardino to be the
24 third location for the allocation of TCC funds.

25 More generally, we also would like to take this

1 opportunity to urge the Council to ensure that TCC
2 Guideline development and the plans be direct, extensive,
3 and transparent with regards to community engagement.

4 And we also want to make sure that these projects
5 include -- these Guidelines include clear criteria for the
6 measurement -- sorry, clear criteria and measurements to
7 prevent displacement in the communities, specifically in
8 Los Angeles where we are seeing a lot of rapid development
9 and public investment that is leading to displacement of
10 our members from my organization in particular.

11 For the City of Fresno, we also would like to
12 recommend that the plans that receive funding be directed
13 to plans that serve disadvantaged communities, particularly
14 in West Fresno.

15 And then again for the City of Los Angeles, we
16 would like to see those funds and projects be allocated to
17 communities that have been most disproportionately impacted
18 by poor health outcomes that are resulting from the
19 proximity to industrial and toxic land uses.

20 Displacement, affordability and toxicity are key
21 concerns for our communities in Los Angeles including
22 communities like South Los Angeles, Pacoima, Boyle Heights,
23 where there is a high concentration of the top 5 percent
24 CalEnviroScreen census tracts that are located in areas
25 that are rapidly redeveloping as I stated earlier.

1 Given that context we really urge that there be a
2 focus on public health improvement and anti-displacement
3 for the City of Los Angeles. Thank you.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

5 MS. BARRIOS: (Interpreter translating) Good
6 morning, I'm Magdalena Barrios. I'm a resident of the
7 southeast area of Fresno and thus I'm requesting for some
8 of those resources to be invested in my community. Our
9 community lacks a lot of the public lighting, paved streets
10 or sidewalks, also traffic lights. And it becomes pretty
11 difficult for our children just to go to school.

12 I understand what the other speakers were talking
13 about and thus I would like for you to think carefully
14 about how the money is going to be invested. And we would
15 like that money to be invested well into our communities,
16 because there is such great need in our communities.

17 Thank you very much.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

19 Tiffany Eng.

20 MS. ENG: Hi, good morning. My name is Tiffany Eng
21 and I'm here today representing the California
22 Environmental Justice Alliance.

23 We thank you for this opportunity to speak on the
24 proposed Rulemaking and we're really excited to see the
25 development and implementation of this program as it moves

1 forward. We appreciate SGC's and CalEPA's leadership on
2 this process.

3 We want to make a few comments to the proposed
4 Rulemaking as well as a few comments that are in addition
5 to the Rulemaking that we'll be presenting in our comment
6 letter.

7 First, we would like to echo the previous
8 sentiments of groups like CCAEJ, SCOPE and others by
9 recommending the Inland Valley region, particularly San
10 Bernardino County and some parts of the City as a third
11 regional allocation for the TCC Program.

12 As has been previously explained, San Bernardino
13 County and communities are some of the worst pollution and
14 socioeconomic challenges in the state, if not the nation.
15 And thus, has a high proportion of disadvantaged
16 communities as identified by CalEnviroScreen.

17 At the same time we understand that there's a lot
18 of great opportunities in this region. There's many local
19 stakeholders that are working together including local
20 agencies, CBOs, residents, and other groups to craft and
21 innovate groundbreaking plans to transform this region into
22 healthy, thriving and sustainable communities.

23 Some of the projects as you may have heard
24 include integrated projects that work on workforce
25 development, local green jobs, integrated transit systems,

1 BRT, active transportation and other things like green
2 barriers. So we think this is a really worthy region that
3 has high needs and high opportunities that really deserves
4 to be funded.

5 At the same time, if SGC chooses to create an
6 open solicitation process to designate the third region we
7 definitely recommend that funding gets equitably
8 distributed throughout the state, so that other regions
9 besides the cities of Fresno and L.A. could have access to
10 these funds.

11 In terms of the existing two allocations for the
12 cities of Los Angeles and Fresno, we understand that Fresno
13 contains also a high number of disadvantaged communities
14 and a very high need. They suffer from incredible amounts
15 of pollution and neglect. We recommend SGC to fund plans
16 that include benefits to include Fresno's disadvantaged
17 communities, some of the highest disadvantaged communities
18 in the area -- including areas like West Fresno, and as the
19 woman mentioned before, Southeast Fresno -- to really avoid
20 top down revitalization that doesn't promote climate
21 benefits.

22 We also urge SGC to only fund plans that take
23 real steps to avoid displacement, particularly areas -- you
24 know, for very urban areas similar to the City of Fresno.
25 We want to avoid top down development projects where local

1 communities are not benefiting and not receiving these
2 benefits. So for example, there's a lot of times where
3 development goes into an area and local communities and
4 their small businesses are getting pushed out. We want to
5 make sure that there are anti-displacement strategies in
6 place, so that there's public health benefits, local
7 development efforts, without displacement.

8 Lastly, we would like to emphasize the importance
9 of authentic, direct, and transparent community
10 involvement. Not just in the Guideline development process
11 for TCC, but also in decision making development
12 implementation of all the plans that are funded. To avoid
13 superficial community involvement we really recommend
14 ensuring that communities are involved in these processes
15 to create and design TCC projects applications, plans, from
16 implementation to evaluation.

17 We also want to ensure that this high level
18 community partnership highlights the importance of
19 communities in all TCC events led by SGC and CalEPA. So
20 whether it's promotional materials or promotional events or
21 workshops we hope that this is really emphasized in this
22 process. Thank you.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you, Tiffany.
24 The next set of speakers I'll call up: Grecia Elenes from
25 LCJA; Keith Bergthold, Fresno Metro Ministry; Isabel

1 Vargas, a resident in Southeast Fresno; and Magarita
2 Villasenor, also a resident in Southeast Fresno.

3 MS. ELENAS: Good morning. First, I would like
4 to thank the Strategic Growth Council as well as the City
5 of Fresno for its ongoing efforts in communicating with us
6 to assure this funding is truly transformative in the City
7 of Fresno and its most impacted communities.

8 We also would like to thank SGC for allocating a
9 portion of this funding to the City of Fresno, as stated
10 with one too many disadvantaged communities in the top 5
11 percent according to CalEnviroScreen. Now, as we move
12 forward and the City is investing in Downtown Fresno we
13 definitely support this investment and its efforts to bring
14 back to life what once was a beautiful Downtown Fresno.
15 But we also believe the adjacent neighborhoods, which have
16 also been equally neglected and are also as equally
17 burdened to see some of this funding and see some of this
18 investment as well.

19 Currently, we're at an opportune time where the
20 Southwest Pacific Plan was recently completed and
21 unanimously voted to move forward by the Planning
22 Commission. And this plan is truly revolutionary in that
23 it listened to the residents and currently it eliminates
24 completely any future development of industrial facilities
25 in Southwest Fresno, which for decades this community has

1 been the dumping grounds for these types of facilities
2 despite resident opposition. The Plan instead introduces
3 housing, commercial and retail opportunities, green space,
4 all of which we've heard from residents time and time
5 again.

6 So as we do support investments in the Downtown
7 Fresno, these fundings should also be touching the
8 surrounding communities and especially Southwest Fresno,
9 which currently has the top three most impacted and
10 burdened communities according to CalEnviroScreen in all of
11 California.

12 So lastly, I would also like to show support in
13 allocating and assigning the third portion of the funding
14 to the Inland Valley. As CCAEJ put it so well earlier, the
15 Inland Valley is surrounded by freight trains, warehouses,
16 it lacks in various resources, and is incredibly exposed by
17 the same places, which the residents are employed by. So
18 this is a great opportunity to transform this community
19 along with Downtown, Southwest and all of the most
20 impacted, as well as the City of L.A. to transform them
21 into Transformative Climate Communities. Thank you.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

23 We have Mr. Keith Bergthold, Fresno Metro
24 Ministry.

25 MR. BERGTHOLD: I didn't know whether I was second

1 or third on that list, so thank you very much for
2 clarifying that. Keith Bergthold, Fresno Metro Ministry, I
3 just want to say how grateful I am that somebody is paying
4 attention to Fresno. Thank you very much for that emphasis
5 on Fresno, very grateful for Assemblymember Arambula's work
6 and Mayor Swearengin's work.

7 There's been concentrated directive focus work in
8 Fresno over the last ten to twelve years that I think is
9 building the infrastructure that can take this kind of
10 money, and get payoffs. We're working with hundreds of
11 faith-based organizations, CBOs, residents, businesses,
12 property owners, and our Better Block Stone Project, Food
13 to Share System, and some other things. And I think
14 they're ready to support this kind of investment in Fresno.

15 We fully support it. Thank you very much.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

17 Isabel Vargas.

18 MS. VARGAS: (Interpreter translating) Good morning.
19 My name is Isabel Vargas. I come from District 5 in the
20 southeast region of Fresno. The problems that we are
21 seeing in our communities have to be with the bad housing.
22 We're asking you to help us reconstruct our community, our
23 area. For us to have more parks for our children, more
24 areas for them to ride their bikes, our streets are in
25 really bad conditions. We're asking you for help, so we

1 can rebuild our homes, because the condition -- that's
2 where the area where there's a lot of homes in bad
3 conditions.

4 So if you can invest and help us with our
5 community, so we can rebuild it we will be very grateful.
6 That's it. Thank you.

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

8 Margarita Villasenor.

9 MS. VILLASENOR: (Interpreter translating) Good
10 morning. I live in the south area of Fresno. I'm here to
11 represent all of the people who are living in these bad
12 conditions. My name is Margarita Villasenor. And I'm here
13 speaking on behalf of all of those in my community where
14 this a lack of lighting, a lack of sidewalks and also a lot
15 of uncleanliness in the sidewalks, which makes it harder
16 for our children to walk to school.

17 There is a lot of danger in our area. There is a
18 lot of homeless in the area and that makes me -- I'm a
19 little leery to go out with my purse whenever I have to go
20 shopping. It's not that I think that they're -- I don't
21 have anything against those people. The thing is that I
22 would like to see Fresno focus in trying to help them, and
23 try to refocus on giving us better lighting, better
24 sidewalks, areas for our kids to ride their bikes, to make
25 our community better.

1 There is a recycling center in that area, which
2 gives a lot of pollution. There's a lot of food facilities
3 that instead of discarding all of the food, they're just
4 storing it there, which makes it --

5 INTERPRETER DOMINGUEZ: The word that she's
6 trying to refer to is unsanitary to be in that area.

7 MS. VILLASENOR: (Interpreter translating.)

8 I would like to see that recycling center
9 actually be replaced by a church, because our church is
10 pretty far from where we live. And other than that, I
11 would like to continue seeing improvements, as far as the
12 lighting, and more than anything, more cleanliness to our
13 area.

14 Once again, my name is Margarita Villasenor. And
15 I urge the Council with the \$70 million being allocated to
16 put some of that to use in some of our most needed areas.
17 And to help us, so that when we take our kids to school it
18 doesn't pose such a danger that it does right now.

19 I would also like to see improvement to the
20 transit services and to focus on some of those people that
21 suffer some type of disability. Sometimes when you ride
22 the public transit, you're able to pick up the scent from a
23 lot of these people. Some of them even have insects in all
24 of their backpacks and things. So it's something that I
25 would like to see if the city can focus on.

1 Thank you very much and thank you for listening
2 to me.

3 INTERPRETER DOMINGUEZ: One thing that the interpreter
4 forgot to mention on the last one, on her last statement,
5 she is a resident of Fresno. She doesn't want to move from
6 her community. She would just like to see improvements
7 being done to her community. Thank you.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

9 And I'll go ahead and call up the next set of
10 speakers here: Mayor Swearingin here in Fresno; Amparo Cid,
11 with the Sierra Health Foundation; Esmeralda Soria,
12 Councilmember also with the City; and Venise Curry with the
13 CNCEF.

14 MAYOR SWEARENGIN: Well, good morning everyone.
15 Good morning to the SGC team who is here, and good morning
16 to those of you who have joined us from places all around
17 out state. I want to welcome you on behalf of the City of
18 Fresno. And in particular to the Inland Empire team, thank
19 you for being here, having made the journey many times down
20 to your neck of the woods. It's not easy to get here. You
21 probably started sometime yesterday, I'm guessing. But we
22 always feel a kindred spirit with the other inland
23 Californians, so it's good to have you guys here in person.

24 And, of course, I'm here on behalf of the
25 residents of the City of Fresno to say we completely affirm

1 and support the draft Rulemaking that would dedicate 50
2 percent of these dollars to the City of Fresno.

3 We are really, really pleased to be to this point
4 where we're even having this conversation, on being able to
5 weigh in, in support of what we think is a fantastic Rule
6 and one that we wholeheartedly support.

7 I won't take too much time, because I think many
8 of you know the story of what we've been doing here in the
9 City of Fresno. But I think Keith Bergthold said it well
10 when he said we're about a decade into community-driven
11 planning and really charting a new and a different course
12 for the people of Fresno and the City of Fresno, focusing
13 on neighborhoods that have been left behind for far too
14 long and really reversing the course of the sprawl of
15 development that has been predominant over the last 60
16 years.

17 It's been interesting that we've really had to
18 struggle to change our minds as a community. We've had a
19 lot of pressure to continue with what we've always known.
20 And to continue to just annex and expand, expand, expand.
21 But we have, with the adoption of our General Plan and then
22 most recently with the Downtown Neighborhood Community
23 Plan, the Fulton Corridor Specific Plan, a citywide rezone
24 as well as a completely new development code that enables
25 us to do the sorts of investment in development that would

1 revitalize our inner city core, in Fresno.

2 We have finally broken through. And we've made
3 up our minds as to what we're going to be, "when we grow
4 up." And it's very much in alignment with what we see out
5 of Sacramento and with the Brown Administration.

6 And we're anxious to have access to resources
7 that allows us to be creative and transformative, that
8 allows us to look at things in a holistic fashion and not
9 just project-by-project, but really look at how we invest
10 in a manner that creates a catalytic effect that results in
11 additional private dollars and public dollars being spent.
12 And we see the Transformative Climate Communities Program
13 as being really a great fit for where we are as a city.

14 The last point I want to make is that we really
15 want to find a way to use these dollars for workforce
16 development and connect people to jobs and opportunities
17 that we see happening with high-speed rail. If we don't
18 find a way to use these dollars in that manner I think we
19 will have missed a big opportunity to really connect
20 people, not just with sidewalks and transit and bike paths,
21 which certainly we want to do that. But also to the job
22 training and the skills upgrades needed to make sure
23 they're connected to the economic opportunity that we trust
24 and believe will be coming as a result of the high-speed
25 rail investment.

1 That, I think, will require some doing. It will
2 require some flexibility on behalf of CARB, and others are
3 going to have to work on seeing the path to greenhouse gas
4 reductions for people being close to training, close to
5 jobs, improving their skills and then having access to
6 economic opportunities.

7 So we think there's an argument and a model that
8 works there. And we want to work with you to make sure
9 that these dollars can help provide for some of those needs
10 as well.

11 So with that, let me also recognize our Assembly
12 Member, Joaquin Arambula. Thank you so much for your work
13 in jumping in with both feet and really making the case
14 that Fresno is investment worthy and investment ready. And
15 we know that if it wasn't for you being in the right place
16 at the right time, we likely wouldn't be here today, so my
17 congratulations and appreciation to Dr. Joaquin. I mean
18 he's got so many titles, Assembly Member, Dr. Joaquin
19 Arambula -- Doc, I call him.

20 All right, with that I'll step aside. Thank you
21 so much.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you so much,
23 Mayor.

24 Amparo Cid.

25 MS. CID: Hi, I'm Amparo Cid. I'm the Program

1 Officer for the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund. And it
2 truly is a pleasure to be here amongst colleagues and as a
3 resident of Fresno. Thank you to the representatives from
4 the Strategic Growth Council for being here.

5 I think that it's very important to note what
6 community residents have been saying. And community
7 residents who have been presenting here today have been
8 talking about the need to invest in the southeast, in the
9 southwest. And unfortunately during one of the translation
10 process, something beautiful that one of the residents said
11 that wasn't noted, was she talked about being connected to
12 other areas and reducing driving time, because of emissions
13 and so forth, really wanting to be connected.

14 And today I really want to elevate the voice of
15 community residents that I formally had the pleasure of
16 working with in my role as a pro-bono attorney for
17 California Rural Legal Systems Foundation.

18 As the public process continues to go forward, I
19 think it's incredibly important to continue to bring
20 forward the voices and perspectives of Spanish speakers, of
21 the Hmong community, of so many other folks that are
22 represented. And that have not seen investments happening
23 in their community. So let's seize this opportunity of the
24 70 million.

25 Our communities are not one issue communities.

1 The communities that we work alongside do not live in the
2 Downtown core. While it is wonderful to provide
3 investments in the Downtown core, let's remember our farm
4 workers are the lowest wage workers that are living in the
5 southeast and southwest. And that have for many years been
6 asking for these co-benefits for making sure that their
7 communities are not receiving toxics, right? Let's not
8 have industry placed in places where community residents
9 that are low-income are living. Let's have connectivity
10 that is reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

11 And also I just have to say that today it's been
12 an absolute pleasure to sit here. I had the honor of being
13 on the Downtown Neighborhoods Committee, which was the Plan
14 that was recently cited as being passed. And today I have
15 seen more comments from Spanish speakers, community
16 residents, than I saw during that entire process. So once
17 again, thank you so much.

18 It's important to plan these co-benefits, to
19 really invest in the communities that have been hit hard
20 for so long. And let's really transform and build upon the
21 amazing work that has been happening through building,
22 helping communities, through community residents elevating
23 their voices, because communities want environmental
24 justice. They also want healthy communities. And they
25 want their children to not be impacted by being in a zip

1 code that winds up impacting how many years they will live.

2 So thank you once again for listening to those
3 comments. And thank you for investing in Fresno. The 70
4 million will go a long way in the future.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

6 COUNCILMEMBER SORIA: Good morning. I also just
7 want to share my gratitude to SGC for coming to Fresno and
8 also for the Rulemaking. I'm in strong support of setting
9 aside 50 percent for the City of Fresno. I think not only
10 as a Council Member, but as someone that was an advocate
11 and has been a strong advocate always for the Valley and
12 particularly now for the City of Fresno, really seeing
13 these types of investments for the first time is very, very
14 exciting. I think for a long time the Central Valley, and
15 in particular the fifth largest city, had been overlooked.
16 So I want to thank you guys for those investments.

17 I do want to say thanks to Mayor Swearingin and
18 also my Assembly Member for the hard work that they put in
19 this last legislative session in making this happen. And
20 so I know that they put in a lot of work.

21 I do want to recognize -- I know that there's
22 been a lot of talk in terms of the investments going to
23 Downtown. And I think that a number of folks today have
24 made some great comments about what it is that they want to
25 see also as residents. And I'm glad that people are here

1 to voice those concerns. I too, echo some of the concerns
2 or some of the comments made by Amparo Cid who just said
3 that as we're looking at the Guidelines -- because this is
4 just the Rulemaking -- but looking at the Guidelines, that
5 we truly have community involvement. Not only in terms of
6 the Guidelines, but also as the projects are happening.

7 I think that for me is something that I've always
8 advocated, not only as an outside advocate, but also now as
9 a Council Member. Community engagement is very, very
10 important to me, because it is those residents that are the
11 ones that are impacted by the land use decisions and
12 different projects that we'll make happen.

13 I know just recently we actually voted to include
14 a Displacement Task Force as part of our Downtown
15 Neighborhoods Community Plan, something that we worked with
16 the Administration. Because we do know that if significant
17 of these funds are invested in the Downtown, the reality is
18 gentrification will happen. That's no secret. We've seen
19 it in other downtowns.

20 So what are we doing to create policies that are
21 really going to protect the most vulnerable? How are we
22 going to make sure that we're not dealing with the same
23 problems that San Francisco, that Oakland, where people
24 were getting priced out? Our affordable housing issues may
25 be our prices don't seem as exorbitant as some of these

1 other metros, but remember a lot of our workers actually
2 make a lot more depressed wages. And so it's all relative.
3 So I think that we need to really take that into account.

4 As a Council Member I know that I'm going to be
5 charting to make sure that we're creating policies, so I
6 don't want to really see a top down affect. You know,
7 where we make these investments and then we expect it to
8 help. I think that we need to be very -- we need to be
9 thinking about those issues. I think that folks made very
10 clear that we need to be looking at how we connect these
11 adjacent neighborhoods, how these adjacent neighborhoods
12 really will benefit from the investments if they all go to
13 Downtown? I think that we have to be very intentional
14 about the policies that we create.

15 If there is -- I know that in conversations if
16 there is an increase in property value, that tax increment,
17 how is it that maybe we can take those tax increments so
18 that we do invest in some of these adjacent neighborhoods
19 so that we're connecting them? I think that's what's
20 important. We can't miss the ball and just say, "Yes,
21 we're focusing here. And then we're going to expect to
22 spread." We need to think about policies that are going to
23 be very intentional to make sure that we are connecting the
24 Downtown area.

25 I support what has been said in terms of the

1 workforce development. I know that that's very important.
2 We need to make sure that people have access to economic
3 opportunity. And I hope that really it is those people
4 that live in the southwest and southeast that are very
5 burdened by a lot of these environmental justice issues.
6 These are the people that are burdened.

7 I think someone mentioned we don't have as many
8 people living Downtown. I support Downtown. I want people
9 to come Downtown. But we need to make sure that we're
10 creating those policies that are going to bring everyone.
11 That it's just not bringing folks from the higher incomes,
12 but that we're also looking, so that lower income folks can
13 also have the opportunities for these same types of
14 benefits that will come from these types of investments.

15 So fully supportive of making sure that the City
16 of Fresno gets the 50 percent, so I want to thank you guys
17 again. But again, I want to make sure that as we're
18 looking at these investments -- I represent part of the
19 Tower District, which is an adjacent community -- I
20 represent 93728, which is the zip code that my Assembly
21 Member spoke to. There are many challenges there. And as
22 we're talking about these funds, I want to make sure that
23 the residents that I represent too, see those direct
24 benefits, not just indirectly. Thank you.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

1 Venise Curry?

2 MS. CURRY: Good morning. My name is Venise Curry.
3 I am a resident, a long-time resident of West Fresno. I am
4 the Regional Director for Communities for New California
5 Education Fund. And I'm very much in support of this
6 investment in West Fresno, in Southwest Fresno.

7 We just spent 16 months looking at a plan to
8 develop Southwest Fresno. It was a long time in the
9 making. It was a diverse group of stakeholders. But let
10 me tell you the overwhelming priorities were land use,
11 quality of life, and health. And people recognize in West
12 Fresno, as they do all over, that land use really impacts
13 how long you live, how well you live, and what you leave to
14 your children. Whether or not you're leaving a legacy of
15 genetic problems, whether or not you're leaving a legacy of
16 health, or whether or not you're leaving your next
17 generation to continue to fight the battles that have
18 created poor health and differences in longevity between
19 North and South Fresno.

20 So as a person who lives in one of the most
21 impacted zip codes, 93706, and also as a person who has
22 experience in health and in prevention, this is an
23 investment that truly can be transformative. And as you've
24 highlighted, it's Transformative Climate Community Program.
25 It has to go to communities that have been most impacted.

1 It has to go where there has been the greatest need to
2 invest in cleaning the air and reducing the number of toxic
3 industries that impact people's health. And it has to go
4 to create real opportunities for young people to grow and
5 develop healthy, for them to have an educational
6 opportunity that allows them to grow and reach their full
7 potential. But it also has to give parents a sense of
8 safety and value that when they are no longer around that
9 their children are not going to have to fight and re-
10 litigate the same issues that we have fought for decades.

11 So I just want to share with you that my mom has
12 been fighting this battle for over 50 years. And I am
13 proud to say that my dad practiced medicine for over 50
14 years in West Fresno. So I grew up looking at the two of
15 them working hand-in-hand to make West Fresno a better
16 place to live in. Perhaps it was only natural that I was
17 going to follow in their footsteps, which I humbly hope
18 that I'm trying to do.

19 But I am a physician. I do believe in
20 prevention. And I do believe in investing in people. This
21 opportunity is an investment in people. From before people
22 are born, impacting their ability to deliver healthy
23 children, to the length of their lives. I am grateful that
24 my parents are still alive. But my mom suffers from
25 asthma, which is one of the leading causes of disease in

1 West Fresno. More children are out of school, because of
2 asthma attacks. More emergency rooms occur because
3 children have asthma attacks. And even more infants are
4 being hospitalized for asthma. So this is a serious issue
5 that impacts the quality of health all along the spectrum.

6 And this is an opportunity for us to make some
7 serious changes and to commit some serious dollars.

8 Because we have just done the work in planning for the
9 Southwest Development Plan, this is an opportune time to
10 marry that planning and the stakeholders that have already
11 identified the priorities, with the resources. And I just
12 see this as a tremendous opportunity. I am tentatively
13 excited about what can happen, but I encourage you to
14 invest in people.

15 And although the Downtown area is growing, West
16 Fresno has existed without investment for decades. And
17 this is our opportunity, and this is the time that we can
18 commit to making that change. So I implore you to make
19 sure that these resources, which unfortunately are --
20 they're targeted to us, because we are so impacted. It
21 would be criminal. It would be inappropriate for the
22 resources to go to someone else who has not withstood, not
23 endured poor air quality, lack of affordable housing, lack
24 of job opportunities and minimized and marginalized
25 educational opportunities.

1 It would be wrong not to invest where there is
2 the greatest need. Thank you.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you for those
4 comments as well.

5 I'll call up the next set of speakers here:
6 Yolanda Randles with West Fresno Family Resource Center;
7 Josh Candalaria with the County of San Bernardino: Lilia
8 Becerril, a resident of Southeast Fresno and Lucio Avila
9 who's a community organizer.

10 MS. RANGLES: Good morning, everyone. My name is
11 Yolanda Randles. And I'm the Director of the West Fresno
12 Family Resource Center. I'm also a member of the Voice-
13 Gladiator Trustee organization.

14 I first of all want to thank our Mayor and
15 Dr. Arambula for your hard work and dedication to the City
16 of Fresno. And I also want to thank the SGC team for
17 coming here today. And we strongly support the efforts
18 with the draft Rulemaking. I'm very proud to say that I
19 actually grew up in West Fresno. And I'm proud to say that
20 I see work in that community.

21 You know, every month, our agency we provide a
22 monthly food giveaway. And the food giveaway starts at
23 about 1:00 o'clock. But we have folks lined up around 9:00
24 o'clock in the morning, because it's just evident and so
25 clear that there is just so much work that's needed in our

1 community. Just getting food, just something as simple as
2 food, has an impact in our community. So this
3 transformation funds that's coming to our community is just
4 going to have this great impact in our community.

5 We also see -- and I think Dr. Arambula said it
6 clearly -- that we need to create a pathway out of poverty.
7 And one way that we can do that is through workforce.
8 Folks in our community, they've been unemployed for quite
9 some time now. And so I think an opportunity to have some
10 type of job training, job readiness program, is just also
11 clearly needed in our community.

12 And I'd like to thank Venise for her comments.
13 You know, her dad, Dr. Curry, actually saved my life and so
14 I was just sitting here, just so proud to listen to her as
15 she speaks.

16 There's lot of folks in our community -- our
17 youth, for example -- they say if all the time, "No place
18 to go, nothing to do. No place to go, nothing to do." So
19 with these transformation funds I think it will be a great
20 opportunity to bring something to our community, to bring
21 jobs, to bring housing, to bring a place where our
22 community can have a sense of pride and work. And have
23 housing and have just a place, again, for our youth to go
24 and something for them to do. So again, I just want to say
25 I'm just very supportive of this opportunity.

1 And I think Fresno is ready. Our community is
2 ready to be transformed into a great city that I know that
3 it can be. Thank you.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

5 Josh.

6 MR. CANDELARIA: Good morning. First of all, I
7 want to thank the Member and the Mayor for their comments,
8 and obviously for Randall and his staff. We want to really
9 acknowledge and take the time -- you've spent a
10 considerable amount of time traveling the state to become
11 familiar with different opportunities. But more
12 importantly, I think the values of each part of the state.

13 And it's specifically those values I think that
14 compel us to come here this morning. So on behalf of the
15 County of San Bernardino, I just want to articulate and
16 really underscore that we have the capacity I think, to
17 manage a program similar to this as well as I think the
18 political will and the effort. And so as you take in
19 consideration, I think the third allocation, please keep us
20 in mind.

21 I think you're familiar with our partnerships, I
22 think with the programs, and the County's commitment to
23 address public health planning as well as growing the
24 economy at the same time. So thank you.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Great. Thank you,

1 Josh.

2 Lilia Becerril.

3 MS. BECERRIL: (Interpreter translating) Good
4 morning everybody. My name is Lilia Becerril. I represent
5 District 5 and an entire community. We're here today, so
6 we can look into our needs that exist in our communities,
7 not just in District 5 that unfortunately is in really bad
8 condition. District 7 is in the same state and District 3
9 also.

10 We are tired of living with garbage in our
11 streets and our alleys, dogs everywhere. I'm going to tell
12 you a short story. Approximately six years ago my family
13 witnessed a dog attack.

14 At 6:00 in the morning a child from Sunnyside
15 School was attacked by three pit bulls. At that time my
16 family was asleep. The cries of the child yelling help
17 were what woke us up. One of the dogs had the child by the
18 head, another one by one hand, and the other one by a foot.
19 My husband and two children came out with two bats, they
20 attacked those pit bulls. What are we waiting for? Are we
21 waiting for somebody to die, because of these stray dogs?

22 I want to reiterate that I'm tired of it.
23 There's funds at this time, at this moment. I wish they
24 could be used in our communities.

25 We have a recycling station in our community.

1 Two years ago, at Sal Quintero, I told them to help us with
2 that recycling station. That besides leaving our houses
3 abandoned, our houses in that area abandoned, most of those
4 belonged to JV Homes. All of them are unoccupied. The
5 area is infested with mice, roaches, and without offending
6 anybody, homeless.

7 Our area, also I worry a lot about the education
8 of our children. Not just in schools, I also work with
9 communities. We ask for lighting for crosswalks, thank
10 you. We're also asking for stop signs. Our children need
11 to be safe when they go to school and not just have a safe
12 class.

13 And we have to ensure that we have a safe route
14 also. We look at the north side, a cycling area for
15 bicycles looks like a parking lot. Our area has a very
16 minimal space for bicycles with the risk of them being run
17 over.

18 I work for the Roosevelt Community, for over 22
19 years my work has been voluntary. Nothing is paid.

20 At this moment I want to thank the Mayor,
21 Dr. Joaquin Arambula, and Esmeralda Soria. I wish this
22 Panel was ready and full, so they can listen to our needs
23 as a community and not just from Esmeralda Soria. I think
24 this affects all of them and not just her.

25 And now I'm asking that for all of these funds

1 that are coming, that it be truly be used for our community
2 needs. We are in a drought, our trees are falling. They
3 can be on the street damaging the road for days. We don't
4 have to have roads that are being blocked by fallen trees.
5 Please invest well these funds throughout Fresno, because
6 all of Fresno needs it, especially the south side and the
7 west side.

8 Thank you very much for your attention.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

10 Lucio Avila.

11 MR. AVILA: Hello. My name is Lucio Avila with
12 Centro La Familia Advocacy Services. And I'm also a
13 partner with Building Healthy Communities.

14 Well, first of all thank you so much for all this
15 money coming into Fresno. It's really needed. But I want
16 to just make sure that this money is going to be used for
17 the very community that needs it most, which is West
18 Fresno, Southwest Fresno.

19 For decades, they've been fighting to eliminate
20 industrial sitings from their communities. Finally a plan,
21 Southwest Specific Plan has passed -- the Planning
22 Commission passed -- that eliminates industrial sitings in
23 that community, better parks, better housing and
24 revitalization. And that tells them that they're finally
25 listening to the community members that have fought so hard

1 for this.

2 And so it's amazing that this money could be used
3 for that community that they fought for, like I said, over
4 50 years I've heard. And that Plan is a great guiding tool
5 for you guys to know exactly what the community wants and
6 how you guys can invest in that community. And I really
7 hope you guys take a look at that.

8 And yeah just to end it please, please invest in
9 those residents, please, and in the future generations, you
10 know? Those are the folks that are going be really
11 impacted from this end. And thank you so much. Thank you.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

13 I'll now call up the next set of speakers: Sandra
14 Celedon, Maria Del Carmen Padron, and Francisco Mendez.

15 MS. CELEDON: Good morning, Sandra Celedon with
16 Fresno Building Healthy Communities. I'm also a resident
17 of Calwa, which is a small community at the very southern
18 tip of the City of Fresno. A portion of it is
19 unincorporated. The other portion is part of the City and
20 is also one of the top five most impacted communities based
21 on the CalEnviro tool; it follows closely the number one
22 impacted community of 93706, which is Southwest Fresno.

23 So today, I just want to take some time to thank
24 the Strategic Growth Council for being here in Fresno. And
25 all of the folks that have worked really hard to make sure

1 that there's funding directed to the City of Fresno to
2 address some of the issues and challenges that we've been
3 facing for decades.

4 I want to also thank Dr. Joaquin Arambula and the
5 Mayor for their leadership. And I also want to thank
6 Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability along
7 with our partners from -- statewide partners from CEJA, who
8 have been working to direct investments to impacted
9 communities since 2012 with SB 535. So we know that this
10 work has been a long time coming and I'm excited that we're
11 getting closer.

12 I do want to make sure and support the
13 allocations being presented today. I want to make sure
14 that the funds are utilized for their intended purpose to
15 address poverty and pollution via greenhouse gas reductions
16 and social environmental benefits in communities that are
17 overburdened by pollution. And in Fresno, that community
18 is unequivocally 93706. And so we really can't talk about
19 transformation in our city without addressing the many
20 issues that have plagued this community for decades.

21 You've heard from residents, and I'm encouraged
22 to hear from residents, about the needs in their
23 communities. And most of the residents that have spoken
24 today are representing Southwest Fresno from 93706 or
25 Southeast. I know that there's been some discussion or a

1 lot of discussion around our Downtown. And I absolutely
2 support a robust Downtown, but we also recognize that the
3 people are already in Southwest Fresno and so these dollars
4 really should go to where people are.

5 Part of the challenges in Southwest Fresno is
6 that we have completely disconnected that area from the
7 rest of our city. And so if we're serious about creating
8 economic opportunity we have to make sure that people in
9 Southwest Fresno can connect to the rest of our city.

10 And so we know also that greenhouse gas emissions
11 from facilities that are located and concentrated in 93706
12 are not substantially dropping. We were very proud to be
13 part of the General Plan Update in our city, which is very
14 monumental in addressing infill and really setting a
15 community standard for engagement in land use planning.
16 And Fresno Building Healthy Communities really led that
17 effort with our partners to make sure that residents had a
18 voice in the General Plan.

19 But there's one thing that the General Plan did
20 not address and that is the over-concentration of heavy
21 industrial uses in Southwest Fresno and in Calwa. If you
22 look at our Land Use Plan all of those uses are still
23 heavily concentrated in those communities. And so that was
24 one of the things that we could have done better.

25 But I'm encouraged because of the Southwest

1 Specific Plan that was -- heavily community involvement and
2 was presented to the Fresno Planning Commission just this
3 last week and was unanimously approved by the Planning
4 Commission -- I'm actually very encouraged. And so we now
5 anticipate the City going for it, to go to the City Council
6 on November 17th. And I hope that the City Council will
7 actually support this community-driven plan to begin to
8 address those heavy industrial uses in that community.

9 We know also, and folks that have mentioned that
10 in Fresno, how environmental uses and how greenhouse gas
11 actually impacts health. Not only does it cut our life
12 spans by more than 20 years in South Fresno compared to our
13 North Fresno counterparts, but it's actually killing our
14 babies. And in fact 15 percent of black infants here die
15 in their first year, but African-Americans are only 5.3 of
16 our total population. And that was actually a research
17 that was published just last year, in 2015.

18 And so we have to be able to address the built
19 environment, which we know is impacting the lives, the
20 quality of lives, and the length of life in our city.

21 I also want to talk about the fact that as we
22 move to connect the rest of our city we have to start
23 relying on vehicles. And part of the challenge for
24 Southwest Fresno is the lack of opportunities for
25 groceries, access to quality education. I mean this is --

1 we just built a brand-new middle school, Gaston, a middle
2 school in Southwest Fresno.

3 This is an historical community that has been
4 around since the city was established in 1872. And so we
5 know that folks are struggling to connect to resources that
6 they need in order to carry on a quality and healthy life.
7 And so I hope that these funds truly address those needs.

8 I also want to make sure that there has been a
9 standard set in our community of heavy community engagement
10 around land use in our decisions. And so I want to
11 encourage this body to ensure that there is robust
12 community engagement. As we saw, through the Southwest
13 Specific Plan residents in that process have engaged in
14 that Plan for over 16 months and so the community is
15 absolutely invested. And we want to make sure that their
16 voice is reflected in any strategy, and any investments
17 that we make in our community.

18 So again, I thank you. And I invite you to stay
19 tuned, because I believe that the true indicator of
20 Fresno's readiness to implement transformative changes will
21 be with the adoption and implementation of the Southwest
22 Specific Plan as presented, so please stay tuned on
23 November 17th. Thank you.

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

25 Maria Del Carmen Padron.

1 MS. PADRON: (Interpreter translating.) Good
2 morning. My name is Maria Del Carmen Padron. I come from
3 District 3. I am a mother. I have a family. I'm sad,
4 because I don't see Oliver here, I just see Ms. Soria. I
5 work for an organization called Familia Addams for a Better
6 Future.

7 I'm here because I worry about my children's
8 future. I have three children and I don't want them
9 growing up in an area that's polluted, such as it is right
10 now. I share the opinion of many, who have spoken before
11 me, that the funds need to be used in areas where are most
12 needed.

13 We need parks in our community. The only park
14 that we have, there's people using drugs. We don't have a
15 park for our children, like somebody already mentioned.
16 And it's far from our homes. There isn't an area to walk.
17 There is no lighting. There's a lot of things that are
18 needed, but we do have a lot of pollution.

19 It's very simple. Just take us into account when
20 the funds are being allocated. Thank you very much.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

22 Mr. Francisco Mendez.

23 MR. MENDEZ: Okay. I'm here. Thank you very much
24 for being here with us, to help us. And I appreciate that
25 you are here with everybody to hear about our problems. I

1 don't speak English very well, but I'm going to try.

2 Okay. First of all my name is Francisco Mendez.
3 I live on the west side for about 22 years, 24 years
4 already. I'm coming from Habitat for Humanity Community.
5 I am a President there in my community. I started with
6 about 100 homes, having a meeting with them about hearing
7 their problems, because since I am disabled I don't work.
8 But I'm volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and also for
9 two other organizations.

10 And we have all these problems in the west side.
11 And they told us every time, every time, we don't have
12 money, we don't have money. Now I can see that we're going
13 to have like 50 percent of the \$7 million. I hope this
14 money is not going to be invested in the north side. We
15 don't have sidewalks, there is one problem there.

16 I am in the public bus all the time. I don't
17 drive anymore, because I have an accident at work. The
18 last bus from my house I have to walk three or four blocks
19 to Jensen and Walnut Street. In the winter time, every
20 year, we have the same problem about the foggy days. They
21 don't send any buses to our area. We are not in Puerto
22 Rico. We are not in Cuba. They keep us outside from
23 public buses. We are waiting for the bus in those streets.
24 And we call the bus, we are there for three or four hours,
25 when we call they hang up on us.

1 Or I take Handy Ride. There is no place, there
2 is no room for us in Handy Ride. All the buses are broken.
3 The drivers are not polite, are not good with us. When I
4 ask for an appointment to pick me up at 9:00 in the morning
5 to go to my classes for City College they say, "We don't
6 have time at 9:00 in the morning." It has to be 7:00 in
7 the morning, two hours before, or 11:00 or 12:00 noon.

8 So many people are losing their jobs. So many
9 people are missing their classes or their doctor's
10 appointment. Public transportation is worse here is
11 Fresno. I am using every time the public buses.

12 Cynthia Sterling was the Council Member for
13 District 3. Before Cynthia -- she was reelected a few
14 times -- finally she got sick and she retired. And now
15 it's only Oliver Baines, but they don't listen to us. They
16 say in public when we dedicate a Habit for Humanity home --
17 on TV, on the media, on Fresno TV -- they say, "We're
18 willing to help west side." They never help us. We don't
19 say nothing -- so we don't say nothing -- they talk in
20 public, but they don't say nothing about public.

21 I bring a popsicle. Isn't that funny? But one
22 of my neighbors told me, "Those people representing in City
23 Hall are giving us candy, so we don't talk." I hope this
24 time I'm talking about Southwest Fresno, because we need
25 trees, we need a park, there is a lot of pollution.

1 Drivers park their trucks behind our house on the brick
2 wall on Jensen and Fourth. Those trucks are coming from
3 Foster Farms, a killing chickens place. Something worse,
4 there is another factory on Jensen and Church. They pick
5 up the dead cows from the dairy farms to make a dog food,
6 called Darling. Darling, it's hard to move them away from
7 there, because they were there about 40 or 50 years, I
8 don't know.

9 But we moved in Habitat for Humanity, we build
10 the first five homes from 1994 to 1996. We moved on 1996,
11 November before Thanksgiving Day. They say they're going
12 to put pavement between Arthur, on Grover Street one block
13 only, to Walnut Street 22 years ago. It's the same. They
14 don't put pavement anymore. It's a one-way street. There
15 is no sidewalks.

16 We have the high school near my house, Edison
17 High School, California and Walnut. The kids don't have
18 sidewalks. They don't have any place to ride a bike or to
19 walk to high school. They are walking like myself or
20 people with wheelchairs, next to my house in wheelchairs;
21 we have to walk on the pavement.

22 Well, when I called the bus service, "Why you
23 guys are not here on Jensen and Walnut?" They say, "Go all
24 the way to Jensen and Martin Lutheran King to take the Bus
25 32." But the problem is no sidewalks. I told them about.

1 They told me go to Hinton Center on Church and Fairview.
2 We have to walk about two or three blocks. The problem is
3 we cannot go to Hinton Center, there are no sidewalks. How
4 do they expect us to survive? We live ourselves.

5 Okay. Now, that we're going to have money we
6 want to spend it please, on the West Side Fresno and not in
7 the north. I see some paperwork according to
8 CalEnviroScreen, the jobs in Northwest Fresno up 6 percent
9 last year or two years ago. They don't need industries.
10 In Southwest Fresno they want to put more industries. But
11 the jobs are reduced on Southwest, so we don't need any
12 more contamination in the Southwest.

13 And we won, about the Southwest Specific Plan, we
14 won this case right here with the members of the Specific
15 Plan passed nine to zero. The next meeting about this Plan
16 is going to be November 17th, right here. I hope you help
17 us to do good with us on November 17th, because they're
18 going to give us problems.

19 Thank you very much to hear me about it. Thank
20 you.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

22 So another last set of folks who have signed up
23 to give comments. Again, for those who have not and would
24 like to sign up, please you can do so with Mr. Sam Diaz,
25 right there in the room.

1 Ashley Werner with Leadership Counsel; Jeanie
2 Ward-Waller, California Bicycle Coalition; Lee Brand with
3 the City of Fresno and Mrs. Mary Curry, a resident of West
4 Fresno.

5 MS. WERNER: Good morning, everyone. I'm Ashley
6 Werner with Leadership Counsel for Justice and
7 Accountability. As many of you know we work throughout the
8 Central Valley and Coachella Valley, alongside of residents
9 of the most disadvantaged communities in the state, to see
10 fundamental transformation in those communities.

11 And in particular in the City of Fresno we work
12 in West Fresno, in the Jane Addams neighborhood, in the
13 southeast neighborhood, Calwa and Downtown with residents
14 to identify what their priorities are and work alongside
15 them to see transformation, as you've heard from many of
16 them today.

17 I want to start by saying that we cosponsored AB
18 2722. And we're very happy to start to see the fruits of
19 that work with this public process today. We really look
20 forward to continue to work with the state and the city and
21 our many partners who are here today in this process as it
22 moves forward.

23 And I also want to say thank you to the City of
24 Fresno, as well as to the Strategic Growth Council for
25 engaging in dialogue with us, so that we can really ensure

1 that these funds are spent in a way that are going to
2 transform the most impacted communities as this legislation
3 intended, and that we see this program funded going
4 forward, because of this effectiveness.

5 I want to make a few comments specifically about
6 the Southwest Specific Plan process. I am a Steering
7 Committee Member for the Southwest Specific Plan. I've
8 been engaged in the process since the start, over 16 months
9 ago. And as many people here have testified today that
10 process has been really unique in the amount of community
11 engagement that it's had and support in the communities.

12 So to start with about 16 months ago there was
13 community workshops, over 100 residents from this very
14 diverse community came and participated. And through those
15 workshops, key themes emerged. Themes that we've heard
16 today, that this community is impacted in a way that no
17 other community in Fresno is impacted, by industrial uses
18 and that residents in the community want to see a different
19 future.

20 That this community lacks adequate housing
21 opportunities and housing opportunities that are necessary
22 to see the infill development that is possible with the
23 huge amount of vacant land that exists. And the infill
24 opportunities that are really necessary to see the retail,
25 the business, the commercial opportunities realized, that

1 are possibilities for the community, but that we really
2 need rooftops in order to support.

3 And the residents, there's a great need for green
4 space and environmental greening to both address the lack
5 of spaces for kids to play, lack of healthy spaces for kids
6 to play, and address the really severe pollution that
7 exists.

8 As we know, and as has been said multiple times
9 today, the top three census tracks for CalEnviroScreen in
10 the whole state of California are in West Fresno. We know
11 the top 15 of 20 are in Fresno and that's why Fresno has
12 been chosen for the allocation of this funding. But we
13 have to be very clear that the place that is at the heart
14 of the most impacted in California is West Fresno.

15 And so the Committee Members realized this in
16 shaping the Plan. So did the residents who attended the
17 multiple community workshops. As I said, hundreds of
18 residents came out. The Steering Committee held at least
19 11 meetings that each were between three to four hours.
20 There was extensive dialogue and debate and discussion.
21 The Committee Members have been extremely diligent in
22 asking staff for information to really inform themselves
23 about the impacts, and what are the possibilities going
24 forward.

25 And I want to say one key theme of this process

1 has been, and the dialogue that the Committee has had and
2 the residents have had, is West Fresno is the most
3 disadvantaged place in Fresno. And I think that there has
4 been a trend to give up on it. We have the worst pollution
5 in California. How can we ever get past that? We have the
6 worst concentrated poverty in the country, literally in
7 West Fresno. The Brookings Institution has reported on
8 that multiple times. What can we do about it?

9 In Fresno, we've grown North. We've left the
10 problem behind. And this community decided we don't want
11 to leave West Fresno behind. We want to see a fundamental
12 transformation. And so instead of just planning for a
13 future that they could see very soon, that other people
14 would say, "Yeah. That's possible. We can do that." They
15 decided to plan for the future that they wanted despite
16 what people said could be a possibility.

17 And that includes transformation of industrial
18 uses. We're no longer going to put our industrial uses
19 next door to where people live. We're no longer going to
20 allow unpermitted industrial uses that don't have permits
21 to operate, and that create incredible odors such that
22 people can't even open their windows, to come into our
23 neighborhood. We're not going to let industrial uses come
24 that are going to have diesel-emitting trucks driving by
25 residents' houses in a neighborhood where many people have

1 asthma. And I would say among the highest levels in the
2 state.

3 We're going to invest in good park spaces. Right
4 now in West Fresno as many of you know, the two significant
5 parks, Hyde Park and the Regional Sports Complex, are
6 patches of grass over former landfills. We want to invest
7 in parks on healthy spaces that are not on landfills.
8 That are equal to the parks we see in other areas of the
9 community like Woodward Park, that have amenities, and that
10 we can feel proud to play in.

11 And another unique thing that this Committee
12 focused on was the need for connectivity. This area is
13 incredibly disadvantaged and they lack access to really
14 basic resources to meet their daily needs. They lack
15 access to big grocery stores. They lack access to gyms, to
16 banking facilities, so they have to be connected.

17 As Francisco was just mentioning there's a really
18 severe deficit of good transit service. This Committee
19 said we really want to see Bus Rapid Transit realized in
20 our community. Right now we have plans for Bus Rapid
21 Transit along Shaw Avenue and Blackstone Avenue and Kings
22 Canyon, but we don't have plans in place to realize it in
23 West Fresno. So the Committee intentionally planned for a
24 mixed-use corridor with a variety of housing types and
25 options, both market rate and subsidized, to meet the needs

1 of the whole community along California Avenue and Elm
2 Avenue.

3 So all of these things that the community came
4 out with, with extensive public participation I would say
5 this is the perfect opportunity that has come up with the
6 Transformative Climate Communities Program, to realize this
7 vision of the community that many people would say is
8 impossible. And I think we know it is possible. And we
9 have a responsibility to use these funds in a way that
10 benefits the residents that for so long have been
11 neglected.

12 So we really thank you for your time and
13 attention, for listening to residents, for listening to the
14 community. And we really look forward to working together
15 going forward to making a strong plan that's going to see
16 transformation. Thank you.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

18 And just for as folks look to submit public
19 comments -- one moment, Jeannie if you can give me a second
20 here -- I wanted to just read off the email address to
21 which to submit comments. I'm not sure if it's available
22 for everyone who's on the Webcast. That is
23 tccpubliccomments@sgc.ca.gov. And again, this is for
24 submission of public commitments, the deadline for which is
25 today at 5:00 o'clock p.m., tccpubliccomments@sgc.ca.gov.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. WARD-WALLER: Good morning, Jeanie Ward-Waller
3 with the California Bicycle Coalition. Thank you to SGC
4 staff for being here and also all of the passionate
5 speakers that we've heard from this morning. It's really
6 been very moving.

7 Well, as a statewide organization we're really
8 here to support our partners. So I want to just support
9 the comments that are made by CCAEJ specifically about
10 investing in the Inland Valley with that remaining 25
11 percent. And with the range of transportation impacts and
12 investments that we could see across the state, it really
13 seems like a good balance to invest in Los Angeles, Fresno
14 and the Inland Valley. And particularly a region that's
15 being really shaped by the goods movement, industry needs
16 transformative transportation investments that are really
17 designed to benefit the community residents themselves.

18 I also want to support the comments made by
19 Leadership Counsel and by CEJA in terms of supporting
20 investment in the City of Fresno, not just in the Downtown
21 core, which we agree and appreciate is really important,
22 but also in Southeast and Southwest Fresno, beyond the
23 Downtown. We certainly heard a lot from folks today about
24 the need for safer streets, ability for kids to be able to
25 walk and bike in their neighborhoods. And safety issues

1 that go beyond just infrastructure investments, but also
2 loose dogs, street lights, the type of investments that
3 really make communities livable and promote well-being for
4 the residents.

5 We certainly, as we look toward the Guidelines,
6 look forward to working with all of you on that piece. So
7 in opportunities to really transform the way people get
8 around in their communities, transportation just presents a
9 huge opportunity to improve communities, and also to reduce
10 greenhouse gas emissions.

11 And then lastly, I just want to echo many
12 speakers that have said today that we need to ensure that
13 community residents and the organizations that are working
14 with communities in these high-need areas are really the
15 ones driving this process. And are determining where these
16 investments go and what they're invested in. Thank you.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

18 Lee Brand of the City.

19 COUNCILMEMBER BRAND: Good morning, I'm usually
20 sitting over there. It's unusual being up here. Thank you
21 for coming to Fresno.

22 And for someone who's been on the Council for
23 eight years, and I've seen a lot of change to one of the
24 most perilous times in our history with the great
25 recession, and a lot of needs in this community. And

1 somebody who was a proponent of the 2035 General Plan,
2 which was transformative for the City -- it the first
3 General Plan in over 50 years -- that abated this constant
4 urban sprawl. We did no expand the sphere and the primary
5 focus was on revitalization and infill.

6 And it's good to talk about it. It's another
7 challenge altogether to implement it. So I did what I
8 could over the last eight years to try to find the means to
9 implement it. It's a community with a lot of needs. And
10 I've been on a -- as a mayoral candidate -- been on a
11 gauntlet of forums for, god it seems like 10 years, it's
12 been about 8 months. And have discussed many issues in the
13 community and the list of needs for this community is long.
14 And the funds are short. We've always been a poor
15 community that needs to do whatever we can to grow our
16 economy and to look to the state and the federal government
17 for assistance.

18 And as a long-term resident who many, many years
19 ago lived in Southeast Fresno, on McKenzie Street as a
20 young man growing up -- and I where I go back at least a
21 couple time a year and revisit where I used to live -- and
22 it's changed dramatically. And it's almost like this is
23 ground zero in Fresno's battle to restore its
24 neighborhoods.

25 And we passed a Bus Rapid Transit a few years ago

1 to implement the transportation. And of all the speakers
2 today I've heard I'd embrace many things they say. We
3 don't always agree upon the means, but I think we agree
4 upon the goals of restoring the City of Fresno.

5 And on the Cap and Trade money there's so many --
6 and I'll follow the dialogue and the public discussion --
7 but to really get the maximum impact, to really be
8 catalytic, we need to invest the money in a way that
9 leverages private sector dollars 3 or 4 to 1, because if we
10 can do that, you're talking about a quarter billion dollar
11 investment.

12 And one of the major obstacles to development,
13 and particularly in Downtown and revitalized areas, there's
14 not a business model. There's no market-driven forces that
15 make it work. And one of the major obstacles is the
16 infrastructure and having the capability to address the
17 infrastructure on a large basis of street alignments. And
18 an antiquated 100-year-old plus underground will not only
19 make a huge development impact on our Downtown area, in
20 terms of generating and lifting the tax base, because
21 there's really a two-step process.

22 One is maximizing the investment, figuring out in
23 a democratic way and a fair way, how to allocate the
24 resources. But leveraging private sector dollars will put
25 a huge impact on raising our tax base. And this expanded

1 tax base can be used to address the numerous issues out
2 there from parks and trails, revitalized neighborhoods,
3 zoning inequities and so on.

4 And I'll just conclude that after tomorrow night
5 I'm either going to be an ex-Council Member or the Mayor-
6 Elect of Fresno. And my commitment, if I am the latter and
7 the Mayor-Elect for Fresno, is to continue the work of
8 Mayor Swearingin on implementation of the General Plan, the
9 restoration of our neighborhoods, and the social justice
10 needs that have been prevalent for years in this city that
11 are manifesting themselves now to finally put these into
12 action and transform the City of Fresno. Thank you.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you,
14 Councilmember.

15 Mrs. Mary Curry.

16 MS. CURRY: Good morning, everyone. It's my
17 pleasure to be here. By the way I'm not running for any
18 office. I just want to tell you about my community that
19 has such great needs.

20 I am Mary Curry. I'm the Chair Person of
21 Concerned Citizens of West Fresno. I've lived in the West
22 Fresno community for over 60 years, raised five adult
23 children in West Fresno.

24 I have observed many changes since I moved to
25 West Fresno. We used to have grocery stores and some

1 businesses. As time went by, they deteriorated, they left.
2 I observed that when we came to Fresno Fig Garden really
3 was Fig Garden. There were figs out there. There aren't
4 any more. And I've observed a lot of changes in West
5 Fresno, in the total community of Fresno, that has not been
6 productive for Southwest Fresno.

7 I served for 16 months on the Steering Committee
8 for the West Fresno community. We had discovered and
9 observed many, many issues that faced our community, some
10 of which are still there and have been there for years.
11 And I kind of look at a community and I look at our city
12 leadership and I say, "You're the parents of all of this
13 community. So you don't leave one child behind. You bring
14 them all along." I have five. And I know that for a fact,
15 you bring all of them along. You don't leave one behind
16 while you look at all of the others.

17 And that's what Fresno has done to West Fresno;
18 they have left us behind and taken themselves all the way
19 north. So I want you to be aware that we're not angry,
20 we're just concerned. And we don't want any more
21 industrial sites in our community. We've lived with that
22 for years. I can generally wake up and tell you what kind
23 of air quality we're going to have, because I'm an
24 asthmatic. And I can tell you if I'm going to be able to
25 breathe well that day or not. And that's just the reality

1 of life in West Fresno.

2 I served on this Committee for 16 months. And we
3 determined that what West Fresno needs is a catch up.
4 We've been left behind for so long, that we need to play
5 catch up. And then we don't need any more industrial
6 sites. We don't need any more pollution. We need green
7 space. We need parks. We need facilities. We need
8 commercial.

9 We need all the things that everybody else needs.
10 Our needs are no different from those in North Fresno. We
11 all need to be loved, cared about, and taken care of. And
12 that's the same needs that West Fresno has, to love, to be
13 loved, to be cared about and respected.

14 And that's what we're asking you today. This is
15 sort of a windfall for Fresno to get this kind of
16 resources. And we think the right thing to do would be to
17 bring along those whom you've left behind for so many years
18 and do something positive. And say to those in your
19 family, because we are a family of Fresno, "You belong to
20 the family. We're not going to leave you behind anymore.
21 We're bringing you right up where we are, because you
22 deserve the same kind of amenities, the same kind of
23 opportunities that we all enjoy." Don't take it for
24 granted. We don't all have those. Okay?

25 So let's be fair and let's be concerned about the

1 wellbeing of all of our city members.

2 For 60 plus years I've lived in this community.
3 And I watch things go downhill. I watch people leave. I
4 watch businesses leave. I, for one point in history, had
5 to drive halfway across town to get to a grocery store.

6 And those issues are still there. Transportation
7 is bad. The school situation has left us behind. If you
8 take a look at all the high schools in the City and then
9 come over and look at Edison you'll see that it's been a
10 stepchild of the School District, and still is. And until
11 we have representation that speaks for all of us, that
12 cares for all of us, we're going to always be playing catch
13 up. And I don't think that is appropriate. And nor is it
14 expected. Nor is it acceptable.

15 West Fresno residents are just as important as
16 any other residents in the city. We think you should take
17 some of these funds and come over and do what we did. We
18 took a bus tour through West Fresno on this Steering
19 Committee. And we looked at all the areas. And at one
20 point in time the City, whoever was in charge said, "Oh,
21 that's and industrial site, agricultural and industrial."
22 That's all that ever came to West Fresno.

23 And now we know that people live in West Fresno,
24 the City and our leadership has allowed people to put
25 things in the community that are detrimental to our health.

1 They've allowed them to trample on our rights as human
2 beings and as citizens. And I ask you today to take
3 another look at this. It's simply not fair. It simply is
4 not fair.

5 And if Fresno wants to do the right thing, Fresno
6 will say, "Okay. We've got a little bit of a windfall
7 here. Let's take it and let's bring those people, who have
8 been left behind, let's bring them foreword.

9 And I'll say one other thing to you before I take
10 my seat. If ever you're in doubt about how to treat
11 somebody just reverse the position. How would you like it?
12 The great rule says do unto others as you have them do unto
13 you. It's not complicated. We've made life complicated
14 when it didn't have to be. So just do unto others as you
15 have them do unto you and we'll all be better off. And I
16 thank you for the time.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Thank you.

18 And with that, those are the remainder of public
19 comments that we have folks signed up for. But I'll ask
20 are there any other public comments at this time?

21 (No audible response.)

22 And my colleague, Suzanne, do we have any public
23 comments coming through online? Okay.

24 (No audible response.)

25 All right, ladies and gentlemen, thank you again

1 so much for your time today. Just one other quick
2 announcement, I'll repeat what I had mentioned earlier on,
3 about the Rulemaking and the receipt of public comment
4 until 5:00 o'clock p.m. today, to be submitted
5 electronically online.

6 And I will repeat the address one more time,
7 again for those who might be on the Webcast and unable to
8 view the address, it is tccpubliccomments@sgc.ca.gov. The
9 deadline for submission of comments is today at 5:00
10 o'clock p.m. for online submission; and if those comments
11 are to be mailed in, postmark deadline, today.

12 Thank you again, ladies and gentlemen, for your
13 time. And we look forward to reviewing all of the public
14 comments received, both today, and certainly through email
15 and the mail. And later on this month, as mentioned
16 beforehand, additional information will be released about
17 the timeline for the program, and developing the next
18 stage, but we appreciate everyone's thoughts. Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, at 11:20 a.m., the hearing
20 was adjourned)

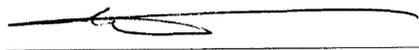
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I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of November, 2016.



PETER PETTY
CER**D-493
Notary Public

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I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of November, 2016.



Myra Severtson
Certified Transcriber
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