



# Green Together: Northeast San Fernando Valley

Transformative Climate Communities



## PACOIMA AND SUN VALLEY TODAY

Nestled in the Northeast San Fernando Valley, Pacoima and Sun Valley are diverse, urban, post-war era neighborhoods in the City of Los Angeles. Situated among many busy free-ways and multiple factories, these communities experience among the highest levels of air pollution in California. Area residents lack access to parks as well as to infrastructure to support active transportation – many must walk on unlit and dangerous streets without sidewalks or crosswalks. For decades, residents here have expressed concerns about the safety of their communities and the need for investment there.



The Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) funds community-led development and infrastructure projects that achieve major environmental, health and economic benefits in California's most disadvantaged communities. TCC empowers the communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies and projects to enact transformational change – all with data driven milestones and measurable outcomes. California Strategic Growth Council awards TCC grants and partners with California Department of Conservation to implement them. TCC is part of California Climate Investments – cap-and-trade dollars at work.

Through the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) process, stakeholders from the northeast San Fernando Valley collaborated to create a proposal to directly address community needs. In 2018, they won a \$23 million TCC grant to implement their plan.

*“I am the third of five generations who have lived in Pacoima, so this is very heartfelt for me. I’m looking forward to this being our legacy for our future, for my children, my grandchildren, and my great-grandchildren.”*

– EMILY PETITO, THIRD GENERATION PACOIMA RESIDENT

## GREEN TOGETHER

Pacoima and Sun Valley community members and organizations had long advocated for safer, healthier, and more resilient neighborhoods. Their organizing enabled community-based organization Pacoima Beautiful to expand and deepen its collaborative approach, leading to the 2016 launch of the Green Together Coalition, which includes The Trust for Public Land, GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Los Angeles Business Council, UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (“Metro”), and the City of Los Angeles Departments of Transportation, Water and Power, Sanitation, and Environment. With the support of fiscal sponsor, Community Partners, members of the Green Together Coalition worked together to apply for a TCC grant based on a deep engagement process that included input from more than 415 participants.

This engagement revealed residents’ concerns around community safety and highlighted a need for improved

pedestrian rights-of-way, urban greening, and street improvements. Reflecting community priorities, Pacoima’s plan will invest in urban greening, active transportation improvements, and job training with the goal of creating a socially inclusive and climate-resilient neighborhood for the 50,000 residents of the Green Together project area.

## TCC GREEN TOGETHER COMPONENTS:

- » **Pedestrian Mobility:** 2.4 miles of street enhancements and 900 feet of new sidewalks
- » **Transit & Shared Mobility:** 14 new battery-electric buses and 7 electric chargers
- » **EV Charging Stations:** Four mobility hubs
- » **Renewable Energy:** 175 single-family solar installations
- » **Urban Greening:** David M. Gonzales Park Renovation – 6.8-acre park including 95 new trees and over an acre of new stormwater management landscapes
- » **Street Tree Planting:** 2,000 new trees
- » **Resource Center:** New community outreach and workforce development recruitment center
- » **Workforce Development:** 96 solar installation and 50 urban forestry trainees
- » **Displacement Avoidance:** Community Land Trust feasibility study, Accessory Dwelling Unit legalization guidelines, annual tenants’ rights workshops, in-home legal *charlas* (chats) about tenants’ rights, technical assistance workshop for local artist community

## BY THE NUMBERS:

- » **Project area:** 4.36 sq. mi.
- » **Partners:** The Trust for Public Land, Pacoima Beautiful, Community Partners, GRID Alternatives LA, Los Angeles Business Council, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“Metro”), City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), and City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.
- » **TCC grant:** \$23 million
- » **Leveraged funds:** \$47.7 million