



June 2, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3
State Capitol, Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Pro Tem, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review
Committee
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 2
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Funding Request for Transformative Climate Communities (\$500 M) and Regional Climate Collaboratives (\$35 M)

Dear Speaker Rendon, Pro Tem Atkins, Assemblymember Ting, Assemblymember Bloom, Senator Skinner, and Senator Wieckowski,

On behalf of the Greenlining Institute and the undersigned organizations, we respectfully write to urge priority funding for the Regional Climate Collaboratives program and the Transformative Climate Communities program to ensure communities hit hardest by climate change have the resources, infrastructure, capacity and leadership to cope with the cumulative climate, health and economic crises they are experiencing. In the wake of the COVID-19, the ongoing climate crisis, and increasing levels of economic inequality, we must prioritize climate equity programs that meet the needs of communities hit first and worst by these multiple threats.

The **Regional Climate Collaborative (RCC) program** would establish the capacity building and technical assistance infrastructure needed in California's most impacted and least resourced communities. RCC will serve as local hubs to convene local stakeholders, foster partnerships and support the development of community plans and projects to advance local climate action. The program will select collaboratives to build community-driven leadership, knowledge, skills, experience, and resources to identify and access public funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.

The **Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program** delivers multiple emission-reducing strategies – like affordable solar-powered housing with access to clean public transit and active transportation – in a coordinated way that can transform communities into models of economic and environmental sustainability. Moreover, TCC directly connects investments to residents impacted by multiple sources of pollution and vulnerable to the anticipated impacts of climate change, and requires robust community engagement in all phases of project development and implementation.

While the Governor's May Budget Revision included funding for these two priorities, the Senate's May 25 Budget proposal completely zeroed out these critical climate equity programs.

We specifically urge you to consider the following requests:

- \$35M to the Strategic Growth Council for the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program (SB 1072, Leyva)
- \$500M to the Strategic Growth Council for the Transformative Climate Communities Program

Together, the Regional Climate Collaboratives program and the Transformative Climate Communities program builds the capacity of under-resourced communities, and then makes the catalytic investments needed in our most impacted neighborhoods.

In order for the State to meet its commitment to our most vulnerable areas and reach our climate goals, every community, small and large, must have equitable opportunity and access to the resources that lead to local transformations. Working class communities of color not only bear the brunt of climate inequities, but are also the very same communities with the least resources and capacity to compete for climate action funding. The Regional Climate Collaboratives program builds the capacity of impacted communities to make the investments necessary to transition all of California to a climate resilient future.

The Transformative Climate Communities program then offers a model for fighting climate change, building economic prosperity and redressing the historic oppression of our most under-resourced neighborhoods. The program fosters an integrative, collaborative approach to comprehensively address the needs of communities impacted by environmental pollution, and could be one of California's most effective tools in supporting climate resilience in communities throughout the state – rural and urban, incorporated and unincorporated, north and south, east and west.

We respectfully ask for your support of this budget request.

Sincerely,

Emi Wang
Greenlining Institute

Kirsten Liske
Ecology Action

Jason Barbose
Union of Concerned Scientists

Julia Hatton
Rising Sun Center For Opportunity

Maria Patiño Gutierrez
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)

Matt Armsby
Resources Legacy Fund

Rebekah Casey
GRID Alternatives North Valley

Chuck Mills
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Harold Goldstein
Public Health Advocates

Amee Raval
Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)

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Little Manila Rising

Tori Kjer
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Susan Silber
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Gavin Raders
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TreePeople

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Climate Action Campaign

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Greenbelt Alliance

Fatima Malik
Del Paso Heights Growers' Alliance

Juliana Gonzalez
The Watershed Project

Ilonka Zlatar
350 Sacramento

Colin Parent
Circulate San Diego

Nancy Faulstich
Regeneración - Pajaro Valley Climate Action

Matthew Baker
Planning and Conservation League

Katherine McNenny
Industrial District Green (a project of Community Partners)

Ector Olivares
Catholic Charities

Lauren Weston
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet

Agustin Cabrera
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy