



El Concilio de San Mateo County



Ceres



March 23, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #2
State Capitol, Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

RE: Request for California State Budget to Prioritize Investing in Healthy & Resilient Homes and Communities FY 2022-23 and 2023-24

On behalf of a broad coalition of environmental justice, labor, tenants, environmental, manufacturer, and clean energy organizations, **we write to express our support for the \$922 million proposed in the January budget for a statewide low-income building retrofit and upgrade program. In addition, we are requesting \$1 billion for the construction of and holistic upgrades to community resilience centers, including neighborhood based facilities such as community centers, schools, libraries, health clinics, and other public institutions in communities.** This combined \$2 billion infrastructure investment will help reduce climate pollution, mitigate the impacts of worsening extreme heat, address historic burdens and structural inequities in working-class communities of color, spur economic growth by creating good jobs, and build climate resilience in households and communities.

Working-class communities of color, disabled people, the elderly, and other vulnerable communities face disproportionate harms from a multitude of climate disasters (e.g., extreme heat, wildfire smoke, power outages) alongside impacts from increasing energy burden and economic insecurity. The State must correct years of underinvestment and ensure communities hit hardest have the resources, infrastructure, and capacity to adequately respond to the cumulative climate, health, and economic crises they are experiencing every day.

At the same time, California must also address the need to rapidly decarbonize the economy to meet ambitious, yet achievable, greenhouse gas emission reduction targets to avoid further exacerbating extreme heat events and other climate disasters. The complex nature of these tasks calls for parallel

efforts to maximize equitable climate and economic benefits while employing zero-emission technologies.

To that end, we support the \$922 million proposed in the January budget for a statewide low-income building retrofit and upgrade program. In addition, we request \$1 billion for the construction of and holistic upgrades to community resilience centers as outlined below:

- **CEC Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Towards Healthy & Resilient Homes -- \$922 million to establish new CEC program in coordination with CSD & CDPH**

We strongly support the \$922 million proposed in the Governor's January budget for incentives and a direct install program targeted toward low-income residents to provide heat pumps for cooling, energy efficiency, necessary panel upgrades, and building insulation and sealing. We also appreciate the Administration's intent to ensure equitable access to these clean energy technologies, and we look forward to working with the Administration and the Legislature to ensure that the proposed program enables holistic building upgrades, offers inclusive household eligibility by prioritizing those most vulnerable, engages in community partnerships and effective state and local coordination, and includes strong tenant protections and anti-displacement measures.

Furthermore, mobile homes and manufactured homes without adequate cooling and weatherization must be eligible for this program. This funding would complement statutory changes necessary to fill gaps in current state law, specifically, the lack of any requirement to ensure safe and habitable temperatures in areas of the state that are experiencing and will experience extreme heat.

For more info: Merrian Borgeson (mborgeson@nrdc.org)

- **SGC Community Resilience Centers – \$1 billion to SGC to bolster this program**

We urge bolstering the newly-created SGC Community Resilience Centers program with an additional \$1 billion. The SGC Community Resilience Program is a critically needed program that, with adequate funding, can address a foundational gap in climate resilience investments in communities and neighborhoods throughout the state. This program would leverage a skilled and trained workforce to construct and rehabilitate neighborhood-based community facilities such as health clinics, community centers, libraries, schools, and other public and community facilities to serve as community resilience centers that address the growing needs of working class communities of color in the face of the converging climate, economic, and public health crises (e.g., extreme heat, wildfires, power outages, smoke waves, and evacuations). Importantly, these resources must also enable SGC to have sufficient resources to administer the program to ensure its success. The need for community resilience centers is rapidly increasing as climate disasters grow in frequency and intensity, and, therefore, a deeper investment is needed to protect communities in California.

For more info: Amee Raval (amee@apen4ej.org)

The recommendations outlined above will help build resilience and safety at both the community and household levels through infrastructure investments, while prioritizing climate and economic equity benefits in communities most impacted. By fully funding these programs, California has a critical opportunity to support the state's most vulnerable workers, communities, and households as they face intensifying effects from climate change.

We look forward to hearing from you, and continuing to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Amee Raval
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Veronica Garibay
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Alexis Sutterman
California Environmental Justice Alliance

Merrian Borgeson
Natural Resources Defense Council

Ellie Cohen
The Climate Center

Jose Torres
Building Decarbonization Coalition

Mike Hartley
California State Pipe Trades Council

David Calabrese
Daikin U.S. Corporation

Brandon Dawson
Sierra Club California

Andrew Brooks, Senior Director
Association for Energy Affordability (West Coast)

Michael Colvin
Environmental Defense Fund

Colleen FitzSimons, Executive Director
San Diego Green Building Council

Rami Moussa, PE, Principal
Point Energy Innovations

Dennis Osmer
Central Coast Energy Services, Inc.

Hafsa Burt, AIA, LEED AP, BD+C
hb+a Architects

Heidi Harmon
Let's Green CA!

Diane Bailey
Menlo Spark

Laura Feinstein
SPUR

Steve Adams
Ferguson Ent.

Steve Auld
Ferguson Ent.

Craig Perkins, President and Executive Director
The Energy Coalition

Robert M. Gould, MD
Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco Bay

Annie Stuart
350 Petaluma

Stephanie Tsai
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

Laurence Gathy
Climate Reality Project, Silicon Valley

Tom Graly
Berkeley Electrification Working Group, Berkeley Climate Action Coalition

Michael Psihoules
Fujitsu

Rick Brown, PhD, Chair
TerraVerde Energy, LLC

Matt Vepsa
Earthjustice

David Diaz, Executive Director
Active San Gabriel Valley

Kyle Gilley
Carrier

Charles Cormany
Efficiency First California

Daniel Tahara
San Francisco Climate Emergency Coalition

Jennifer Thompson
Sustainable Silicon Valley

Andrea Vidaurre
People's Collective for Environmental Justice

Faraz Rizvi
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

Karen Meyers
Rheem

Leah Louis-Prescott
RMI

Lillian Mirviss
Center for Sustainable Energy

Dan Ress
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

Ortensia Lopez
El Concilio of San Mateo County

Bena Chang
Silicon Valley Clean Energy

Cynthia Strathmann
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy

Zach Lou
California Green New Deal Coalition

Cynthia Castillo
Western Center on Law & Poverty

Melissa Romero
California Environmental Voters (formerly CLCV)

Christopher Chavez
Coalition for Clean Air

Sam Appel
BlueGreen Alliance

Nancy Chaires Espinoza
School Energy Coalition

Jan Dietrick
350 Ventura County Climate Hub

Lisa Swanson
Climate Reality Project, Orange County

Erin Rodriguez
Union of Concerned Scientists

Nayamin Martinez
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Kevin Hamilton
Central California Asthma Collaborative

Sarait Martinez
Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indigena Oaxaqueño

Dillon Delvo
Little Manila Rising

Lauren Ahkiam
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy

Agustin Cabrera
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)

Sona Mohnot
The Greenlining Institute

Mary Luevano
PACENation

Spencer Harrison
NeoCharge

Jennifer Helfrich
Ceres

Avni Jamdar
Emerald Cities San Francisco Bay Area

Arnold Sowell, Jr.
NextGen California

Matthew Vasilakis
Climate Action Campaign