



June 7, 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: Prioritize Funding for Community Resilience Hubs in 2021-22 State Budget

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

On behalf of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, California Environmental Justice Alliance, and the undersigned organizations, we respectfully write to urge to request priority funding for community resilience hubs that enables investment in the construction and rehabilitation of neighborhood-based community facilities to address the growing needs of working class communities of color in the face of the converging climate, economic, public health crises.

Community resilience hubs are spaces where communities gather, organize, and access social services not only during disasters, but on a daily basis. The transformation of trusted community spaces into resilience hubs ensures that those most impacted by climate change have access to critical services to cope with ongoing and future climate disasters in the immediate term while simultaneously stabilizing communities for the long haul. The specified investments would collectively enable community-driven building and property upgrades in order to provide integrated delivery of emergency response services including clean backup power, clean air respite, cooling, food storage and distribution, shelter, economic assistance, internet services, and other public health measures.

Our groups support a holistic approach in the creation of community resilience centers at neighborhood-based institutions. Given the unprecedented budget surplus, we would like to see increased funding for frontline-led solutions that enable everyday economic, health, and social resilience in addition to crisis response during climate disasters.

We specifically urge you to consider the following requests:

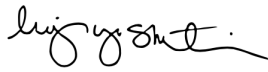
- Direct additional \$350M for a SGC grant program that supports the construction and rehabilitation of community facilities (complementing CDFA and CalOES approach in May Revise)
- Allocate \$500M for the CPUC EJ Community Resilience Hubs Program as proposed by AB 1087 (Chiu, 2021-22)

The Governor's May Revise proposal focuses on CDFA funding for fairground improvements and CalOES funding for community hardening. While these investments are important, on their own, they will fail to address key resiliency needs for our most underserved and vulnerable communities. Investments in resilience hubs can build ongoing economic, health, and social resilience alongside responding to climate disasters (e.g., extreme heat, wildfires, smoke waves, power shutoffs, and flooding).

It is time to change course: California must be proactive by scaling and resourcing community-driven solutions. Community resilience hubs make possible the simultaneous investment in a wide range of resilience upgrades including improved insulation for extreme heat protection, clean energy installations for backup power during grid outages, or air filtration systems to combat wildfire smoke. By enabling these improvements, this solution offers immense potential to achieve a multitude of economic, health, and social benefits for the communities who need it the most.

We respectfully ask for your support of this budget request.

Sincerely,



Miya Yoshitani, Executive Director
Asian Pacific Environmental Network



Gladys Limón, Executive Director
California Environmental Justice Alliance



Al Weinrub, Coordinator
Local Clean Energy Alliance



Alice Sung, Principal
Greenbank Associates



Alma Marquez, Executive Director
Center for Community Action and
Environmental Justice



Anne Kelsey Lamb, Director
Regional Asthma Management and
Prevention



Ashel Eldridge, Founder and Co-Director
Essential Food and Medicine



Bill Allayaud, Calif. Director of Government
Affairs
Environmental Working Group



Caleb Baker-Gordon, Special Operations
Re-Up Refill Shop



Caro Jauregui, Co-Executive Director
California Walks



Catherine Dodd RN, Policy Director
CA-Alliance of Nurses for Healthy
Environments



Chione Flegel, Managing Director
PolicyLink



Crystal Huang, CEO and Worker Owner
People Power Solar Cooperative




Daniel Barad, Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California



Daniel Ress, Staff Attorney
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment



David Diaz, Executive Director
ActiveSGV



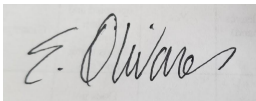
Deborah Silvey, Board Member
Fossil Free California



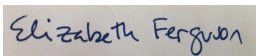
Debra Gore-Mann, President & CEO
The Greenlining Institute



Dillon Delvo, Executive Director
Little Manila Rising



Ector Olivares, Environmental Justice
Program Manager
Catholic Charities



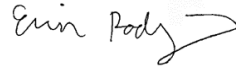
Elizabeth Ferguson, Founder
Climate Compassion



Ellie Cohen, CEO
The Climate Center



Erika Morgan, Operations Coordinator
California Alliance for Community Energy



Erin Rodriguez, CA Policy Advocate
Union of Concerned Scientists



Esmeralda Marquez, Architect
Consultant



Gabby Trejo, Executive Director
Sacramento Area Congregations Together



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Sunrise Bay Area



Jennifer Clary, California Director
Clean Water Action



Jennifer Helfrich, State Policy West Senior
Manager
Ceres



Jennifer Savage, California Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation



Jonathan Matz, California Senior Policy
Manager
Safe Routes to School National Partnership



Julia Hatton, President & CEO
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity



Julia Kim, Climate & Energy Program Director
Local Government Commission



Katherine J McNenny, Core member
Converging Storms Action Network



Katherine J McNenny, Co-founder
Industrial District Green



Kenneth Wells Brown, Director of Youth
Programs, Rising Sun Center for Opportunity



Lauren Randall, Director of Policy & Market
Development
Sunrun



Lauren Weston, Executive Director
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet



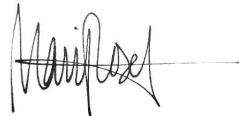
Leah Louis-Prescott, Senior Associate
Rocky Mountain Institute



Linda Rudolph, Senior Advisor
Center for Climate Change and Health



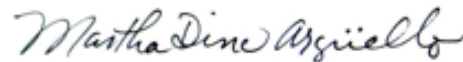
Lucia Marquez, Policy Advocate
Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable
Economy



Mari Rose Taruc, Coordinator
Reclaim Our Power: Utility Justice Campaign



Mariela Ruacho Policy & Educations Strategy,
Program Manager
CA ReLeaf



Martha Dina Arguello, Executive Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles



Mary Kay Benson, Steering Council Manager
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Matt Vander Sluis, Director of Policy and
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BARHII - Bay Area Regional Health Inequities
Initiative




Melissa Romero, Legislative Affairs Manager
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Michele Knab Hasson, CA Energy Efficiency
for All Lead
Natural Resources Defense Council



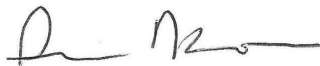
Miriam Gordon, Policy Director
UPSTREAM



Nehemiah Stone, Principal
Stone Energy Associates



Oscar Mogollon Maticorena, Program
Coordinator, Disaster Response and Community
Resilience Cooperation Humboldt



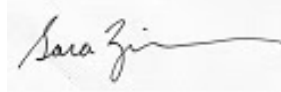
Raquel Parra, Policy and Partnerships Manager
Courage California



Sabrina Miller, Program Coordinator
Cooperation Humboldt



Sara Nelson, Executive Director
Romero Institute



Sara Zimmerman, Director
Climate Equity Policy Center



Sean Bothwell, Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance



Sean Graham Armstrong, Managing Principal
Redwood Energy



Shana Lazerow, Legal Director
Communities for a Better Environment



Solange Gould, Co-Director
Human Impact Partners



Stanley Greschner, Chief Policy Officer
GRID Alternatives



Stuart Wood, Executive Director
Sustainable Claremont

Susan Silber

Susan Silber, Founder and Director
NorCal Resilience Network



Susannah Churchill, Senior Regional Director
West, Vote Solar



Tara Hammond, Founder
Hammond Climate Solutions

Terilyn Chen

Terilyn Chen
Coalition for a California Green New Deal

Tiffany Wong

Tiffany Wong, Policy and Research Associate
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy
Education

Torri J. Estrada

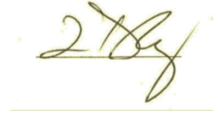
Torri Estrada, Executive Director
Carbon Cycle Institute



Tori Kjer, Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust



Zoe Siegel, Director of Climate Resilience
Greenbelt Alliance



Dr. Tracy Delaney, Executive Director
Public Health Alliance of Southern California