



**SOUTH BAY CITIES**  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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July 25, 2022

The Honorable Ben Allen  
Senator, 26<sup>th</sup> District  
1021 O Street, Suite 6610  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: SBCCOG State Budget Funding Request For Clean-up Bills - \$4 million

Dear Senator Allen:

As the Legislature considers budget clean-up bills, the SBCCOG respectfully submits this request for a \$4 million allocation from the state’s historic \$100 billion budget surplus to aid our subregion in meeting local and state sustainability and housing goals. We are requesting \$3 million to aid in the establishment of the **South Bay Regional Housing Trust** which will facilitate the development of affordable housing. We are also requesting \$1 million to create a **South Bay Center for Sustainable and Resilient Neighborhoods**. This Center’s mission would be to expeditiously deploy all tools available to our cities to implement the strategies that they have identified in their adopted Climate Action Plans to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to create more equitable, sustainable and resilient neighborhoods in the South Bay. We have identified no other funding source for either of these requests.

The SBCCOG is currently sponsoring SB 1444 (Allen) which would create the South Bay Regional Housing Trust. The trust would provide South Bay cities funding to develop and build affordable housing. SB 1444 is currently awaiting a vote on the Assembly floor. Without the requested \$3 million in seed funding from the state there is no funding to establish the trust this year and begin as soon as possible to evaluate and create projects that would boost affordable housing production in the South Bay. We don’t want to wait another year when we all know that the crisis is now!

The SBCCOG is also requesting \$1 million to create a South Bay Center for Sustainable and Resilient Neighborhoods. Dramatically reducing GHG emission over the next five years is critical to avoiding climate change “tipping points.” The SBCCOG would utilize the state budget allocation within that time period to implement various programs and projects that reduce GHG emissions, as well as develop partnerships to leverage state funding.

We envision the Center implementing programs that are currently unfunded that would reduce carbon in a variety of ways across the diverse communities of the South Bay cities. These programs will include:

- **Developing renewable energy and electric storage programs** – Municipal roof top solar generation and electric storage systems will be critical to adapting to this future, as communities transition from natural gas appliances to electric, use high levels of A/C to combat extended heat waves and ramp up electric vehicle charging. South Bay cities have expressed interest in roof top solar projects that could not only reduce GHG emissions but also increase the resilience of critical city services. Funding could be leveraged to bring in other partners.
- **Implementing a Local Use Vehicle Ecosystem, which will provide a scalable option for zero emission mobility in support of the hyper-local travel patterns in the South Bay** – SBCCOG research shows that 70% of trips in the South Bay are within 3 miles of home and 90% within 10

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita  
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills  
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles District #15 Los Angeles County

miles. Additionally, public transit mode share is less than 3% in the subregion, largely due to inefficient or infrequent service for the noted travel patterns. This means most South Bay residents use internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles to make short trips. To reduce transportation related GHG emissions, the South Bay must transition from ICE to EV modes. Prioritizing the least expensive segment of the market – Local Use Vehicles – will speed the transition by getting zero emission vehicles into the hands of drivers from all economic backgrounds—not just those who can afford a full-sized EV. The SBCCOG is working with our cities to implement their respective segments of the South Bay Local Travel Network for all Local Use Vehicles. Success will depend on funding to implement public education, ride and drive events, and other tools to help residents “right size” their ride. These supportive initiatives are ready for implementation but require funding.

- **Implementing a pilot of our innovative land use-technology strategy to develop a “digital hub” and revitalize a neighborhood center in three disadvantaged neighborhoods to advance digital equity while also reducing carbon emissions** – One of the most effective methods of reducing transportation related GHG emissions is by creating destinations that are closer to home. The SBCCOG is pioneering an innovative strategy that establishes neighborhood business districts, initially in disadvantaged and working-class communities. Districts are centered around a public facility dedicated to providing high-speed internet access combined with technology and training. The SBCCOG’s award-winning South Bay Fiber Network project is currently operating a middle-mile network ready to extend to commercial areas in equity-focused communities as well as to additional public facilities. These centers would provide a variety of services, including telemedicine, distance education, workforce training, e-government, and opportunities for local entrepreneurial enterprises with the presence of 3D printing. When coupled with the SBCCOG’s Local Use Vehicle Network, these neighborhood centers would allow South Bay residents to close the “mobility divide” by reaching most of their destinations with little to no GHG emissions.

The SBCCOG is an agile organization with a record of accomplishing successful environmental and social justice projects in partnership with the cities and county areas of the South Bay. We have programs supported by years of research and demonstration that are ready for implementation. The SBCCOG will build on our proven history of success in the region in the areas of mobility, technology, water and energy efficiency with seed funding from the state.

Our cities are poised to move forward with implementation of the programs described above that are currently unfunded. The historic state budget surplus will ensure that together, they can do so in collaboration facilitated by the SBCCOG. This funding will allow the South Bay to demonstrate to the state that strategically placed resources can make a positive impact to develop affordable housing, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and advance the state’s goals.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Should you have any questions, please contact SBCCOG Executive Director, Jacki Bacharach, at (310) 371-7222 or [Jacki@southbaycities.org](mailto:Jacki@southbaycities.org).

Sincerely,

John Cruikshank, SBCCOG Chair  
Councilmember, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

Cc: South Bay Senators: Bradford, Kamlager  
South Bay Assemblymembers: Muratsuchi, Gipson, O’Donnell, McKinnor