

Dear South Bay Legislators:

Request

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) respectfully submits this request for a \$2 million allocation from the State's FY 2023-24 budget to implement adopted South Bay strategies for helping our cities become more sustainable and resilient.

Purpose Overview

Implement an innovative comprehensive/multi-dimension strategy that will equip our cities to reduce carbon emissions and air pollutants through zero emission mobility; to provide resources that will protect from expected extreme climate events, and to support small business and remote workers in their residential neighborhood.

We are leading a coordinated program that provides synergistic and tangible steps to address climate change challenges at the sub-regional level. Its goal is a model for other sub-regions across the state. Because of the diversity of sub-regions, the specific strategies will need to be customized, but to have any global impact, the implementation must knit local climate adaptation strategies across jurisdictional borders.

Problems

State funding programs tend to stay narrowly defined within bureaucratic silos. Comprehensive programs are not responsive to funding opportunities and innovation falls into the cracks.

While the State has reduced critical funding for large sustainability and resilience programs due to low revenue projections in FY 2023-24 budget, targeted spending at the local level will allow for faster implementation of projects that meet state goals.

Time is short for reducing carbon emissions to avoid further climate catastrophes. We are ready to move expeditiously with the South Bay cities scoping projects that reduce ghg emissions

Opportunity

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.

Plans for strategies to reduce carbon emissions from transportation and to provide resources for recovery from ongoing extreme climate events have been adopted by the SBCCOG Board and are ready for implementation.

- South Bay Climate Action Plan (for carbon reduction, adopted January, 2019)
- South Bay Climate Resilience Plan (for climate adaptation, adopted July 2020)

The common theme running through those plans is that single project implementation is not nearly as successful as combining several projects and jurisdictions into comprehensive mutually reinforcing suite of actions. The comprehensive approach delivers more benefits at lowest cost.

Multi-Dimensional Program

The requested funds will support the following programs:

- Accelerating ZEV deployment by promoting a micro-mobility ecosystem throughout the South Bay – the Local Travel Network
- Establishing a digital culture through a program of universal *access* (complementary to universal service), especially in senior communities and disadvantaged communities (both covered in the California Digital Equity Plan), and key to transitioning the economy from *wheels to wires*
- Developing a physical center at the neighborhood scale anchored by places that offer resources to help adjust to extreme weather events, access the internet, and access to a range of zero emission, low cost mobility options and services
- Fostering self-sufficient neighborhoods, including electricity security, food security, growth of neighborhood-based small business – all within the carrying capacity of the South Bay
- Developing a template for cities to site housing so as to make walking and cycling realistic mobility choices for residents.

This “bundled” approach will be demonstrated in projects which will be designed in conjunction with our cities and available for replication elsewhere.

Institutional Readiness

These programs will expand the portfolio of the high performing South Bay Environmental Services Center on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

The “environmental “needs of cities have evolved from municipal water, electricity and natural gas efficiency/conservation programs which the South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) has facilitated over the past two decades in partnership with SoCal Regional Energy Network, Southern California Edison, SoCal Gas, LA Department of Water and Power, West Basin Municipal Water District, and others.

The SBESC is prepared to meet those needs, including dramatically reducing carbon emissions and adjusting to and recovering from extreme climate events. Finding additional partners consistent with the expanded carbon reduction and climate resilience programs will be a top priority.

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.

Sincerely,

John Cruikshank, SBCCOG Chair
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Rancho Palos Verdes