

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 2023-24 budget to implement adopted South Bay strategies for helping our cities become more sustainable and resilient.

Purpose: Implement a multi-factor strategy that will equip our cities for zero emission mobility and protection from expected extreme climate events by rebranding and expanding the portfolio of the high performing South Bay Environmental Services Center on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

The funds will be used to position the rebranded SBESC as the *South Bay Center for Sustainability and Resilience (SBCSR)* to attract a wider group of private and non-profit supporters and collaborators.

The “environmental “needs of cities have evolved from municipal water, electricity and natural gas efficiency programs which the ESC facilitated 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 current needs have expanded in response to climate change. The COG/ESC has prepared to meet those needs, including dramatically reducing carbon emissions and adjusting to and recovering from extreme climate events

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 factor implementations are not nearly as successful as combining several into comprehensive mutually reinforcing suite of actions. Funding for plan implementation is most defined in terms of a single factor.

The multiple factors that would be the work plan for the Center’s work include:

- Promoting a micro-mobility ecosystem throughout the South Bay
- Establishing a digital culture through a program of universal *access* (complementary to universal service), especially in disadvantaged communities, key to transitioning 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 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

This “bundled” approach will be demonstrated in a few pilot projects which will be designed in conjunction with our cities.

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. This budget funding will allow the South Bay to demonstrate how strategically placed resources can make a positive impact to local communities while also reducing GHG emissions and advancing 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.

Sincerely,

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