

# Strategic Growth Council Expenditure Record for Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program



TO: Greenhouse Gas Reduction  
Fund Program

FROM: Lynn Von Koch-Liebert  
Executive Director Strategic  
Growth Council

DATE: June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

SUBJECT: GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND:  
Strategic Growth Council  
EXPENDITURE RECORD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24  
Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program (CACE)

This Attestation Memorandum documents that the Strategic Growth Council completed the attached Expenditure Record on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, for the Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program (CACE) Program.

The Expenditure Record was prepared according to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) requirements under Government Code Section 16428.9 and is consistent with CARB's 2018 Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments to support expenditures from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

This Attestation Memorandum and Expenditure Record will be submitted to CARB for public posting on CARB's website at: [www.arb.ca.gov/caclimateinvestments](http://www.arb.ca.gov/caclimateinvestments). Questions on this Attestation Memorandum or Expenditure Record may be directed to Ena Lupine at [ena.lupine@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:ena.lupine@sgc.ca.gov), (916)-758-0666.

Attachment: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Expenditure Record Fiscal Year:  
2021-22 Strategic Growth Council  
Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program

*Lynn M. von Koch-Liebert*

Lynn Von Koch-Liebert

Executive Director

## **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Expenditure Record**

**Fiscal Year:** 2023 – 24

Strategic Growth Council

Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program (CACE)

**Authorizing legislation:** The California Climate Investments Technical Assistance Program supports communities in building capacity, applying to, and implementing the California Climate Investments (CCI) funding programs. The program aims to improve applicants' capacity to access these funds successfully, particularly those that live in the state's most disadvantaged communities.

Senate Bill 862 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014) created the Affordable Housing and Communities (AHSC) Program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through projects that implement land use, housing, transportation, and agricultural land preservation projects to support infill and compact development, and that support related and coordinated public policy objectives.

Per Health and Safety Code 39719 (b)(1)(c), 20 percent of the annual proceeds of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) are continuously appropriated to the SGC under the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for the AHSC Program. In addition, current CCI Funding Guidelines allow for the use of GGRF funds for technical assistance.

Critical to ensuring access to AHSC as well as increasing the deployment of projects that support infill and compact development in disadvantaged communities is the provision of technical assistance and capacity building services. SGC's Community Assistance for Climate Equity program coordinates organizational strategies to provide technical assistance resources and build capacity within disadvantaged and under-resourced communities in coordination with the overarching goals of AHSC.

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, SGC unanimously approved the expenditure of \$2 million for technical assistance to local communities and agencies to assist with their participation in CCI programs.<sup>1</sup>

### **Element (1) A description of each expenditure proposed to be made by the administering agency pursuant to the appropriation.**

#### **Agency that will administer funding:**

- California Strategic Growth Council

#### **Amount of proposed expenditure and appropriation reference:**

- The total expenditure is \$2 million: \$2 million as approved by SGC for technical assistance expenditure from FY 19-20 AHSC continuously appropriated funds.

#### **Estimated amount of expenditures for administering agency administrative costs**

- There is no anticipated expenditure for administrative costs

#### **If applicable, identify laws or regulations that govern how funds will be used.**

AB 1532 (Pérez, Chapter 807, Statutes of 2012), Senate Bill (SB) 535 (de León, Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012), SB 1018 (Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, Chapter 39, Statutes of 2012), SB 862 (Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014), and AB 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016) provide the general framework for how the auction proceeds will be administered to further the purposes of AB 32.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings/council/2020/docs/20200826-CACE\\_Staff\\_Report.pdf](https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings/council/2020/docs/20200826-CACE_Staff_Report.pdf)

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Funding Guidelines from the California Air Resources Board allow for program funds to be used for the provision of technical assistance directed to disadvantaged and low-income communities. All funds will be allocated and managed in accordance with these funding guidelines.

### Continuation of existing Expenditure Record

- This is an update to an existing Expenditure Record submitted on July 21, 2020. The purpose of this update is to add the expenditure of the \$2 million approved by the SGC Council for technical assistance from FY 19-20 AHSC continuously appropriated funds.

### Project Type(s)

- Technical Assistance
- Capacity Building

### Describe the projects and/or measures that will be eligible for funding

SGC's Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE) program provides a variety of technical assistance and capacity building support to communities. CACE supports communities in building capacity and applying to the California Climate Investments (CCI) funding programs. The program aims to improve applicants' capacity to access these funds successfully, particularly those that live in the state's most disadvantaged communities. Under this expenditure, the following TA programs will be made available:

- Tribal Capacity Building Program (Pilot Round)
  - The Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program is a new pilot program that will provide funding and tailored technical assistance to California Native American Tribes to build capacity to develop, apply to, and implement climate related projects. Administered by the Strategic Growth Council, the goal of the pilot program is to assist tribes in developing long-term capacity to secure state climate investment funding and implement tribal-led climate solutions.
- Partners Advancing Climate Equity, PACE (Round 2)
  - PACE is a capacity-building program for frontline community leaders to advance climate resilience and social equity, form and sustain cross-sector partnerships, create data driven assessments and action plans, and successfully navigate state investment programs and policies to catalyze action at the local level.
- BOOST (Round 3)
  - The BOOST program provides under-resourced local governments with tailored support to help advance their climate and equity goals. This capacity building program provides services to help build local capacity, develop community-led plans, identify meaningful projects, and secure adequate climate investment funding to advance climate action and address community needs.
- CDFA Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Partnership
  - The purpose of this partnership is to grow the adoption of science-based climate smart farming and ranching practices through a partnership between SGC, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources (UC ANR) to focus on implementing on-farm solutions to mitigate climate change impacts. The partnership supports a cohort of UC ANR Community Engagement Specialists to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers on CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture Programs.
- SALC Technical Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

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The goal of this Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) technical assistance program is advance equitable access to agricultural lands by connecting eligible grantees with socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and working with them to develop viable projects and submit funding applications for SALC agricultural land conservation acquisition and capacity grants.

### Intended recipients:

- Technical assistance providers
  - Technical assistance contractors including SB and DVBE
  - Non-profit organizations
  - University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources Community Education Specialists
- Technical Assistance Recipients
  - Local, and regional public agencies
  - Community based organizations
  - Local transit agencies
  - Farmers and Ranchers
  - Land trusts
  - California Native American Tribes

### Program structure and process for selecting projects for funding

- SGC plans to release Request for Proposals (RFP) for TA providers for BOOST and the PACE Cohort.
- The Tribal Capacity Building Program will be structured as a capacity building grant program to tribes and SGC will release an RFP for TA provider.

**Element (2) A description of how a proposed expenditure will further the regulatory purposes of Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code, including, but not limited to, the limit established under Part 3 (commencing with Section 38550) and other applicable requirements of law.**

### How the expenditure is consistent with the Investment Plan and the Scoping Plan

- AB 1532 (Chapter 807, Statutes of 2012) requires that monies from the Fund be appropriated in a manner that is consistent with the three-year Investment Plan.
- The “Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Third Investment Plan: Fiscal Years 2019-20 through 2021-22” recommends support for “technical assistance and capacity building to help priority populations overcome challenges with accessing funds and become active participants in the transition to a low carbon economy.” In addition, the Investment Plan specifically describes and encourages agencies to direct resources towards technical assistance. Therefore, the expenditures covered by this record are consistent with the Investment Plan and align with the priorities expressed in the Plan.
- California’s 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan identified key strategies and recommendations to continue reducing GHG emissions and achieve the goals and purposes of AB 32 and related statutes. The Scoping Plan specifically references the need to invest in technical assistance resources for the California communities that are most disadvantaged by environmental and socio-economic burdens. These TA programs are therefore consistent with the Scoping Plan.

**Element (3) A description of how a proposed expenditure will contribute to achieving**

**and maintaining greenhouse gas emission reductions pursuant to Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code.**

**Describe how expenditures will facilitate the achievement of GHG emission reductions in the State**

- The expenditure will facilitate GHG emissions reductions by providing technical assistance to disadvantaged and low-income communities that increases their participation in CCI's other funding programs which are designed to help California reach its GHG emission reduction goals.

**Explain when GHG emission reductions and/or co benefits are expected to occur and how they will be maintained**

- GHG emission reductions and co-benefits will occur through CACE programs for which disadvantaged communities will receive technical assistance to participate in and will vary according to the guidelines, methodologies, and timelines of those programs.

**Element (4) A description of how the administering agency considered the applicability and feasibility of other non-greenhouse gas reduction objectives of Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code.**

**Expected co-benefits, particularly environmental, economic, public health and safety, and climate resiliency.**

- This expenditure will fund a suite of technical assistance and capacity building programs that support communities in planning for and implementing projects that not only address GHG reductions (mitigation) but support climate adaptation and resilience. Capacity building work is focused on addressing multi-benefit initiatives that both advance local climate action while addressing public health, economic resilience, and environmental protection. The TA is geared toward communities applying to CCI grant programs that themselves are designed to produce co-benefits including environmental, economic, public health and safety, and climate resiliency.

**How the project will support other objectives of AB 32 and related statutes**

- Projects will support AB 32 objectives by providing technical assistance to disadvantaged communities to participate in CCI Programs that will maximize additional environmental and economic co-benefits for California, complement the State's efforts to improve air quality, and provide opportunities for local agencies and community institutions to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce GHG emissions. In addition, these CCI TA projects will support other objectives of AB 32, including the reduction of GHG emissions in a manner that:
  - Maximizes additional environmental and economic co-benefits for California;
  - Complements the State's efforts to improve air quality;
  - Directs public and private investment toward the most disadvantaged communities in California; and
  - Creates an opportunity for small businesses, schools, affordable housing associations, and other community institutions to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

**Percentage of total funding that will be expended for projects that are located in and benefit priority populations per CARB guidance.**

- 80%

**Describe the benefits to priority populations per CARB guidance**

- This suite of TA and capacity building programs are specifically designed to maximize benefits to priority populations including disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and California Native American Tribes by increasing capacity and technical ability to facilitate community-based planning, apply for public funds, and implement equitable climate initiatives. More specifically:
  - BOOST will provide direct TA and capacity building support to jurisdictions serving disadvantaged communities to develop and align community priorities and local and state climate goals in an effort to maximize competitiveness for funding. BOOST supports communities in planning for intersectional projects and initiatives that not only reduce GHG emissions but improve access to quality transportation, affordable housing, and healthy community amenities. This expenditure will build on the previous two rounds of BOOST.
  - PACE works with community leaders from disadvantaged and low-income communities throughout California to better understand State climate policies and funding opportunities, apply tools like CalEnviroScreen and Healthy Places Index to evaluating community needs, and supporting applications to CCI and other public funds. PACE works with community-based organizations that are already deeply committed to supporting community health and resilience to engage in State climate initiatives more effectively. This expenditure will build on the previous round of PACE.
  - The Tribal Capacity Building program is a new pilot capacity building program that mirrors the BOOST program in many ways. This program will provide grants directly to tribes to support planning for projects that further climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, apply for CCI and other public funds, and implement community-led projects. The Tribal Capacity Building Program will specifically focus on TA related to intersectional projects that maximize benefit to communities through improvements to air quality, transportation access, jobs, energy resilience, addressing extreme heat, and public health.
  - The CDFA Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Partnership and the SALC Technical Assistance Program both focus on providing technical assistance to help Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers apply for CCI grant funding through CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture programs, including the Healthy Soils Program and the Sustainable Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, and through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.

**Explain strategies the administering agency will use to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities**

- SGC will build on previously successful rounds of programs like BOOST and PACE to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities.
  - Each of the three programs under this expenditure will utilize local trusted partners to promote the programs and engage communities in participating in each of the three programs.
  - The programs are structured in a way that meets the needs of the various TA recipients as either contracts with trusted third-party TA providers and/or through direct grants to tribes.
  - TA providers will be selected based on their experience and ability to work with disadvantaged communities, Tribes, and lower-resourced community-based organizations.
  - SGC has or will conduct robust public engagement to inform the Tribal Capacity Building program to ensure that it is effectively structured to meet the needs of tribes.
  - SGC will facilitate connections between TA recipients and other State programs to help build relationships between communities and state funders.

- SGC's CDFA and SALC TA partnerships will help Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers apply to receive CCI funding.

**Explain how the administering agency will avoid potential substantial burdens to disadvantaged communities and low-income communities or, if unknown, explain the process for identifying and avoiding potential substantial burdens**

- SGC will consult directly with communities and tribes through various means including workshops and public comments on program guidelines to identify potential burdens. SGC will make programmatic adjustments to eligibility criteria, and ultimately funding decisions, as necessary to avoid potential substantial burdens to disadvantaged and low-income communities.
- SGC will select TA providers based on their experience, established trust, and ability to effectively work with disadvantaged communities.
- In selecting TA recipients, SGC will strive for geographic diversity to ensure that no one region of the state receives a disproportionate amount of TA over others.

**Element (5) A description of how the administering agency will document the result achieved from the expenditure to comply with Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 35800) of the Health and Safety Code.**

**How the administering agency will track / report progress to make sure projects are implemented per requirements in statute and CARB guidance**

- SGC will require funding recipients to maintain records and provide quarterly status reports if they fall more than one month behind on any given task, in accordance with the workplan attached to the contract agreement. In addition, SGC will meet with both TA providers and TA recipients on an ongoing basis to track project implementation and make refinements to approach where necessary.
- If a funding recipient does not perform in accordance with program requirements, the recipient will be subject to remedies for non-performance, as identified in the program guidelines or contract.
- Progress will be reported pursuant to CARB's Funding Guidelines for capacity projects

**Describe the approach that will be used to document GHG emission reductions and/or other benefits before and after project completion**

- These funds have been approved for expenditure by the SGC Council for TA and capacity building services. These kinds of projects do not result in direct GHG emission reductions and are dependent on the projects that are implemented as a result of TA. As such, SGC will track and report on the kinds of projects and initiatives that are addressed as part of these three programs.
- Additionally, SGC reports annually on the TA recipients, the TA providers, the communities in which TA is provided, and jobs created.

**Type of information that will be collected to document results, consistent with CARB guidance**

SGC will collect any necessary data to document GHG emission reductions in accordance with CARB's Funding Guidelines, quantification methodology and other guidance. This may include but is not limited to information on:

- Project geographic area;

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- Recipients of the TA;
- TA provider teams;
- Projects and initiatives that receive TA;
- Applications to the CCI program and other public funds as a result of the TA provided;
- Other project benefits or results; and
- Project accomplishments, including benefits to disadvantaged communities.

### **How the administering agency will report on program status**

- SGC will provide regular updates on expenditures, project status, project location, and benefits in reports prepared according to CARB's 2018 Funding Guidelines. At a minimum, the reports will include expenditure amounts, current estimates of GHG emission reductions, and information on other applicable co-benefits.