



**Inland Empire
Regional Broadband Consortium**

September 13, 2018

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

Subject: Input for the Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Third Investment Plan

The Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium (IERBC) supports the Comments filed by the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) and urges the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to optimize Digital Inclusion in funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Broadband is a green strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shrink the carbon footprint of major infrastructure systems.

IERBC knows first-hand the importance of closing the Digital Divide. We work to get disadvantaged and unserved and underserved communities connected, as well as low-income households online.

IERBC was created through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and our consortium includes the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, cities, regional transportation, planning and economic development organizations, engineers, technology providers, non-profits, community-based organizations, health care providers, educators and businesses committed to improving broadband access and technology opportunities in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Our Consortium brings regional leadership together and provides technical assistance to help improve broadband infrastructure and access in the Inland Empire. This includes advocating and recommending policy at the local, regional, statewide and national level that will promote broadband as a “green strategy.” Telecommuting, online conferencing/webinars, and online learning at all levels of education can significantly reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in our region and throughout California.

Closing the digital divide improves our environment and helps create a more sustainable community.

We commend and endorse your focus on disadvantaged communities and low-income households.

IERBC supports and encourages that Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) should be used for Digital Inclusion projects and programs.

We also know that collaboration among stakeholders can produce powerful partnerships. We stand ready to assist you in implementing the Third Investment Plan and helping meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the State of California.

Sincerely,

Martha van Rooijen

Executive Director

Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium

www.iebroadband.com