

EL CONCILIO OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

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ORTENSIA LOPEZ

September 14, 2018

Re; Support for California Air Resources Board (CARB) on the Draft Third Investment Plan

El Concilio of San Mateo County (ECSMC) supports the Comments filed by the California Emerging Technology Fund and urges the California Air Resources Board 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.

El Concilio of San Mateo County knows first-hand the importance of closing the Digital Divide. We work to get disadvantaged communities connected and low-income households online. El Concilio of San Mateo County, Inc. (ECSMC) is a 501(c)(3) community based organization committed to increasing education, employment and access to quality of life services for underserved communities of San Mateo County. As part of our services, beginning in 2008 our Wi-Fi 101 program focused on closing the gap in access to technology among low income/underserved residents. Most recently, in January 2018 we advocated and got San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution to address the digital divide.

Over a 3 year period, this program: 1) registered 4,375 home for internet service, 2) connected 3,000 home with broadband internet service, and 3) trained 112 individuals to become East Palo Alto Technicians. The program also provided 550 laptops to 6th and 7th grades students. Our long range goal was to create a sustainable social enterprise by training East Palo Alto Techs to refurbish computers and provide technical support to local non-profits on a sliding fee scale. Thus, we commend and endorse your focus on disadvantaged communities and low-income households.

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,



Ortensia Lopez
Executive Director

