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\$140 Million Awarded to Transform Communities across California

First Round of Community-Led Initiatives to Combat Climate Change in the State's Most Disadvantaged Communities

SACRAMENTO—The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) today unanimously approved \$140 million in competitive grants to transform three cities through community-led development and infrastructure projects.

The Council allocated \$70 million to the City of Fresno, \$35 million to the Watts neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles, and \$35 million to the City of Ontario. These investments will fund 45 unique climate projects, reducing an estimated 117,412 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions—the equivalent of taking 25,142 cars off the road for one year. The projects will leverage over \$280 million and touch the lives of close to 750,000 Californians.

SGC Chair and Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Ken Alex said, "The level of community engagement and the quality of the proposals in all three cities is inspiring. This substantial investment in disadvantaged communities will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide environmental, economic and health benefits in ways that will have a profound impact on the quality of life of local residents."

These awards are part of the first year of the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, which invests in projects that achieve major environmental, health and economic benefits in California's most disadvantaged communities. Funded by California's Cap-and-Trade Program, TCC empowers the communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies and projects to enact transformational change—all with data-driven milestones and measurable outcomes. The Program is administered by the Strategic Growth Council, in coordination with the Department of Conservation and other State agencies and departments.

SGC Councilmember and CalEPA Secretary Matt Rodriquez said: "Our cap-and-trade investments are having a positive impact on disadvantaged communities throughout California. What makes TCC special is that it concentrates resources on our most disadvantaged communities, and combines a variety of approaches into one integrated, community-led program with the potential for truly transformative impact."

Robust community engagement is central to the TCC Program, with each proposal heavily involving local community groups and stakeholders from the area. In Fresno for example, a Community Steering Committee comprised of over 160 residents and local business owners participated in a series of community meetings to design the city's proposal. Residents of Southwest Fresno, one of the State's most disadvantaged neighborhoods, played a key role in the decision-making process. Fresno's \$70 million award will support the development of affordable homes near the high-speed rail station; a new Community College Campus; electric vehicle, vanpool and bike sharing programs; and urban greening projects in the City's most historically disadvantaged communities.

Fresno Mayor Lee Brand said, "This \$70 million will lead to triple the investment in economic development – and that will mean more jobs and better services for everyone. It will not only transform communities, it will transform lives. This funding will be the catalyst for further investment that will help Fresno bring new life to our most vulnerable communities."

Jenny Scanlin, Director of Development Services at the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, which was the lead applicant on the proposal by the Watts neighborhood in Los Angeles said, "The TCC grant created bridges between organizations where there were none before and initiated conversations in the community that led to organic and natural collaborations. We are already a stronger community because of TCC and look forward to the next phase of implementation."

The \$35 million grant for the Watts neighborhood will fund the construction of affordable homes as part of the Jordan Downs redevelopment, numerous new green spaces and plans to improve home energy efficiency and renewable energy use. It will also support local workforce development and an expansion of the "Safe Passage Program" which will improve safety for children walking to school.

The City of Ontario's \$35 million grant is focused on its historic downtown core and builds upon six years of planning and engagement work to revitalize this neighborhood. This award will improve public transportation, bike lanes and sidewalks, build affordable homes, promote energy efficiency, enhance food security, and provide new green spaces to improve health and quality of life for Ontario residents.

Senator Connie Leyva, who represents California's 20th State Senate District said, "This important investment will truly help to transform Ontario's downtown and surrounding area, while also helping to improve the region's air quality and quality of life. I appreciate the Strategic Growth Council's continued commitment to empowering local communities such as Ontario so that they too can benefit from the cap-and-trade proceeds at a local and neighborhood level, as well as remarkable community engagement that helped to propel this process forward toward this transformative community-led goal."

Randall Winston, SGC's Executive Director said, "These proposals offer groundbreaking models for public investment that center community engagement in building healthier, more equitable neighborhoods. This is at the core of the Strategic Growth Council's work, and we are proud to support these communities in catalyzing and sustaining transformative development."

SGC Councilmember and Director of the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity Manuel Pastor said, "The Transformative Climate Communities has already done part of what it was tasked to do: create an unprecedented level of collaboration to promote resiliency in some of the most vulnerable and overexposed communities in California. While having to choose between such strong applications was a necessary challenge, the hope is that this sets a model for future climate work and ripples beyond TCC itself."

The SGC also approved \$1.6 million in competitive Planning Grants to ten recipients across the State to help local jurisdictions plan strategies to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and build resiliency in the face of a changing climate, with a focus on low-income and disadvantaged communities. Grant recipients include the communities of East Oakland, the Franklin neighborhood of Sacramento, East Los Angeles, Riverside, Richmond, Stockton, West Oakland, the East Coachella Valley, Moreno Valley, and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments.

A complete list of selected projects can be found at: http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/docs/20180129-TCCFY16-17_Awards.pdf

The TCC Program contributes to a larger statewide commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emission levels to 40% of 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% of 1990 levels by 2050. It is part of the California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work—reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment—with a specific focus on disadvantaged communities.

For more information on California's Climate Investments visit:
<http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/>

The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) brings together State agencies and departments to coordinate activities that support sustainable communities, emphasizing strong economies, social equity and environmental stewardship. More information on the SGC can be found at www.sgc.ca.gov. More information on the Transformative Climate Communities Program can be found at <http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/>.

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