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September 15, 2023

CRC Program Manager Coral Abbott
California Strategic Growth Council
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group Letter of Support: City of Oakland Implementation Grant Application (Community Resilience Center at Lincoln Square Park, Oakland Chinatown) and City of Oakland Planning Grant application (Community Resilience Center in West Oakland).

To Program Manager Abbott and the CRC Grant Application Review Committee,

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) was established by Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015. The 11-member group meets several times a year to review California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission clean energy programs and policies to determine whether those programs will be effective and useful in environmental justice communities. Group members are either from or represent disadvantaged communities.

Members of the DACAG recently visited Lincoln Square Park in Oakland, California and learned of plans for future Community Resilience Centers in Oakland. The members of the DACAG were impressed by the public/private partnership and collaboration apparent during the site visit and appreciated hearing directly from community members who conveyed the importance of Community Resilience Centers.

The DACAG supports Community Resilience Centers as critical interventions to mitigate the effects of pollution, extreme weather, power disruptions and earthquakes through facility improvements that provide cleaner air, heating, cooling, opportunities for respite centers, and backup power.

As the DACAG is invested in the well-being of disadvantaged communities, including increasing the benefits of clean energy in those communities, it enthusiastically supports the City of Oakland's Implementation Grant application for a Community Resilience Center in Oakland's Chinatown community. The proposed Community Resilience Center is sited in a census tract in the 91st percentile of CalEnviroScreen, has a low median income (about \$28,000), an elderly population (about 40% over age 65), a large population with access and functional needs (about 28% of the tract) and a language barrier (100% linguistic isolation on CalEnviroScreen).

The DACAG also enthusiastically supports the City of Oakland's Planning Grant application for a Community Resilience Center in West Oakland. This historically

African American community has suffered the joint impacts of redlining, poverty and severe exposure to pollution as it is surrounded by freeways on four sides and is impacted by freight traffic originating from the Port of Oakland and other locations. This Community Resilience Center is planned for a site in a census tract that scores in the 91st percentile on CalEnviroScreen and has very high asthma (99th percentile) and high rates of pollution (91% for diesel particulate matter).

If awarded, these grants have the potential to have a significant and positive impact on the Oakland Chinatown and West Oakland communities for many years to come as the effects of climate change continue to compound. We greatly appreciate the consideration of these proposals to create more resilient and connected communities. Please do not hesitate to contact our group through the California Energy Commission's Public Advisor, Mona Badie (mona.badie@energy.ca.gov) should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group