



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President Pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0029

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0046

RE: Protect Dedicated Regional Early Action Planning Grants (REAP 2.0) Program Funding

Dear President Pro Tempore McGuire, Speaker Rivas, and Budget Chairs Wiener and Gabriel:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to respectfully request the Legislature to reject the \$300 million cut to the Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP 2.0) included in Governor Newsom's proposed Fiscal Year 2025 State Budget.

REAP 2.0 is a \$600 million program intended to accelerate progress toward California's climate and housing goals through strengthened partnerships between regional, local, county, and tribal governments. REAP 2.0 is the only program specifically and exclusively designed to implement the region's Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS), as required by SB 375 (2008). For this reason, regions were empowered to develop programs that accelerate infill housing, support efforts for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

REAP 2.0 is a key part of the state's strategic investments toward a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future. REAP 2.0 builds on the success of REAP 2019, but expands the program focus by integrating housing and climate goals, and allowing for broader planning and implementation investments including infrastructural investments that support infill development, which facilitates housing supply, choice, and affordability. The City was awarded REAP 2.0 funding from SCAG to support efforts to expand the City's Inclusionary Housing Policy, a commitment in the City's Housing Element to help address documented fair housing issues. However, due to the state facing a significant budget deficit, funding has been suspended while the state budget is being finalized.

The City is committed to supporting policies and funding that promote the development of affordable and accessible housing. REAP 2.0 plays a critical role in increasing housing supply in the near term while also piloting innovative solutions that can be scaled across the region. The City recognizes the state's current budget challenges and the difficult choices facing the Legislature as it grapples with a significant deficit. However, as California's housing and climate crises continue to worsen, I respectfully urge the Legislature to reject proposed cuts to the REAP 2.0 program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District