

July 27, 2021

Measure X Community Advisory Board
1025 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Measure X Climate Equity and Resilience Investment

Dear Members of the Measure X Community Advisory Board,

I write on behalf of Greenbelt Alliance in support of the recommendation to allocate \$500,000 of Measure X funds towards climate equity and resilience initiatives on an ongoing annual basis. Contra Costa County communities are at risk of flood impacts, wildfire, and extreme heat - all of which will threaten lives, ecosystems, and property in the upcoming decades and further exacerbate existing public health and affordable housing challenges. **The time to act is now.** The County needs greater staff capacity dedicated to bolstering climate resilience. Without this capacity, the County will remain limited in its ability to receive outside funding, assess climate adaptation needs, and partner with cities, public agencies, and NGOs that are motivated to support this crucial work.

The need for support for climate equity and resilience is especially important when considering sea level rise. Adapting to Rising Tides (ART Bay Area) data indicates that at 48" Total Water Level (TWL) (equivalent to 6" of SLR and a 100-year storm surge, or 24" of SLR and a 5-year storm surge) in the Bay Area, there would be 80,040 acres flooded, 7,800 buildings destroyed, and 12,780 existing residential units impacted, which doesn't include any units constructed in flood prone areas in the future ([ART Bay Area](#)). **This level of permanent sea level rise will likely occur in the time frame from 2060 to 2100, and the most recent data indicates that it is not a question of if, but when.** The impacts of sea level rise will be far reaching and will drastically shape the ways our society functions in the County and the wider Bay Area if no action is taken. At 48" TWL, 104,000 existing job spaces will be lost, over 5 million daily highway trips will need to be diverted, and over 20,000 acres of the Bay's habitat will be severely damaged and no longer able to function as habitats, recreational areas, and shoreline protection. We must protect Contra Costa County's unique environmental resources, economic assets, and vibrant communities from these impending threats.

Rising water levels will severely impact many communities that already experience environmental injustices due to their location next to power plants, landfills, water treatment sites, and other industrial users that are associated with high contamination potential as a result of SLR. **Immediate action is needed to avoid environmental disaster that could severely impact our County's most vulnerable populations.**

For over 60 years, Greenbelt Alliance has worked towards a vision of a Bay Area made up of healthy, thriving, resilient communities where all members are given equal protection from climate risks and equal

opportunities to enjoy the benefits of the environment and other nature-based infrastructure. We urge the Measure X Community Advisory Committee to recommend annual allocations of \$500,000 to climate equity and resilience as a powerful step towards investing in a healthy and equitable future for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sadie Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sadie" and last name "Wilson" clearly distinguishable.

Sadie Wilson
Resilience Fellow
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