

August 20, 2021

Honorable Clint Lorimore
President, Regional Council
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: SoCal Greenprint Initiative

Dear SCAG President Lorimore,

Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) is pleased to submit this letter of support for the completion of the SoCal Greenprint. CBE is a nationally recognized environmental justice (EJ) organization that works to defend the rights of low-income communities of color most impacted by environmental contamination and pollution in California. For more than three decades CBE has organized families from the Harbor Area, South East Los Angeles, East Oakland and Richmond communities to ensure that local and state agencies address efforts in pollution prevention-reduction and building green sustainable communities. CBE provides technical, legal, storytelling, civic engagement, and organizing resources to fully equip community members to create policy and long-lasting change.

We support the SoCal Greenprint and applaud the Southern California Association of Governments for developing a free, interactive, and easy-to-use resource for constituents like ourselves. The SoCal Greenprint is an important project that will help Southern California continue to be a leader and develop a vision for the future of the region that is committed to both economic vibrancy and environmental stewardship. We strongly urge SCAG to keep the project on track for a Fall 2021 launch.

Access to data and information is essential in making smart decisions about the future of our communities. As potential users of the SoCal Greenprint, we applaud SCAG's leadership for taking more than 100 sources of already publicly-available data and converting them into a useful tool that helps stakeholders visualize how to build healthier communities. As extreme weather, air quality, wildfires and drought become increasingly daily challenges, we expect our local leaders to seek the best tools to ensure that Southern California is prepared and resilient for the challenges that we know lie ahead. The SoCal Greenprint can be one of those crucial tools to help us prepare for these challenges.

We especially find value in the addition of an equity section that will allow us to understand how to best plan for growth that addresses the environmental injustices certain communities have disproportionately faced for far too long, such as challenges that threaten health and safety. A vibrant future for these communities is coupled with our ability to prepare for the effects of climate change. The SoCal Greenprint can help us do so in a way that makes it possible for every Southern Californian to thrive.

We want to reiterate our support for the completion of the SoCal Greenprint. We encourage SCAG to continue its leadership in demonstrating that growth and sustainability are not incompatible, but essential for a vibrant future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a small dot at the top right.

Milton Nimatuj
Southern California Program Director