



October 19, 2022

Mitch Weiss
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Weiss,

On behalf of the Bay Area Council, representing over 300 major employers across the San Francisco Bay Area, I am writing in support of the joint application submitted by the Port of Oakland (Port), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the California Department of Transportation requesting SB 1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program grant funding for a transformative Green Power Microgrid Project (Project) at the Oakland seaport. This Project will create an enhanced and sustainable renewable energy utility infrastructure network at the Port to support the growing base of zero emissions freight equipment users and significantly advance sustainable transportation initiatives in the goods movement sector in the Bay Area.

This Project improves the resiliency of the Port's utility operations and supports the continued development and integration of zero emission vehicles and equipment into the Port's maritime operations, in addition to enhancing renewable energy generation throughout the seaport. The \$60 million Project consists of six substation upgrades for the modernization of the Port's electric grid, solar infrastructure and battery storage capacity, and installation of heavy-duty electric vehicle (EV) chargers at multiple locations throughout the seaport to support zero emissions on-road vehicles and other clean cargo handling equipment at the marine terminals.

The Port adopted the *Seaport 2020 and Beyond Air Quality Plan* which seeks to reduce the emissions' impact from its activities and transition into zero and near-zero emissions cargo operations. The plan also elevates initiatives which lower the carbon footprint of seaport operations and supports the state's greenhouse gas goals. The Port is advancing numerous programs that are demonstrating the reliability and market competitiveness of zero emissions cargo handling, drayage trucking, and related port equipment and is eager to support additional opportunities to ensure a wider adoption of this equipment throughout the entire freight community.

Furthermore, the deployment of heavy-duty EV charging infrastructure serving seaport trucking and maritime terminal users is also among the highest priorities identified by West Oakland community stakeholders, including community leaders that have served as the co-chairs of the Port's Air Quality planning efforts. Heavy-duty EV charging was identified as a top near-term priority implementation item in the West Oakland Community Air Action Plan, which was developed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, and as a part of which the Port also served on the Steering Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this important Project. Should there be any questions or need for more information, please contact Laura Hill, Bay Area Council Policy Director, at Lhill@bayareacouncil.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Hill'.

Laura Hill
Public Policy Director
Bay Area Council