



October 25, 2022

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

RE: Support for Port of Oakland Green Microgrid Project – Trade Corridor Enhancement Program

Dear Director Weiss:

On behalf of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA), we are writing to express our strong support for the joint application submitted by the Port of Oakland (Port), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) for a transformative Green Power Microgrid 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. Through the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP), the state of California can continue to partner and significantly advance sustainable transportation initiatives in the goods movement sector in the San Francisco Bay Area.

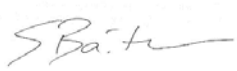
This project improves the resiliency of the Port's utility operations and supports the continued development and integration of zero emissions vehicles and equipment into the Port of Oakland's maritime operations, in addition to supporting renewable energy generation throughout the seaport. The \$60 million total project consists of six substation upgrades for the modernization and of the Port's electric grid, solar infrastructure and battery storage capacity, and installation of heavy-duty electric vehicle 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 need to invest in locally generated renewable power and enhanced local energy distribution capacity for critical transportation infrastructure has been heightened with multiple extreme heat events and wildfires and the corresponding threats to the state's power grid over the past several years.

The Port of Oakland has adopted an ambitious *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. This air quality plan also supports initiatives which lower the carbon footprint of seaport operations and support the state's ambitious greenhouse gas goals. The Port of Oakland 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 of Oakland'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 ("*Owning Our Air*"), 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 of Oakland also served on the Steering Committee.

East Bay EDA appreciates your continued commitment to an efficient and sustainable transportation network and thanks you in advance for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (510) 272-3874 or stephen@eastbayeda.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Baiter", written in a cursive style.

Stephen Baiter
Executive Director