

January 16, 2024

California Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation Planning

Re: Fiscal Year 2024-25 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program (Climate Adaptation) – Port of Oakland Application – Rising Seas and Oakland’s Infrastructure and Frontline Communities: Climate Adaptation Planning for Neighborhood-led Resiliency

Dear Sir/Madam:

This document serves as the Ninth Root Letter of Support for the Port of Oakland’s grant application, in partnership with the City of Oakland, for Climate Adaptation Planning under the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program.

As a frontline community, the Port and City are especially vulnerable to sea-level rise (SLR), future extreme weather events, and groundwater intrusion (GWI). The proposed Project involves conducting a vulnerability assessment that focuses on modeling projected SLR and GWI levels for the entire Port of Oakland property, including the Seaport, Airport, and Commercial Real Estate, and adjacent underserved and historically disadvantaged communities.

Based on the findings from the vulnerability assessment modeling, the Port and City will work with the local communities to develop and prioritize strategies to mitigate tidal inundation and groundwater impact in an Adaptation Plan. By better understanding the threats of SLR and GWI, the Port and City of Oakland will be more prepared to prevent and respond to these concerns, preserving transportation and other infrastructure and facilities from flooding and contamination, and safeguarding lives. The State, region, and local communities will benefit from safe resilient infrastructure, reduced economic and financial losses from destruction to infrastructure and property, and improved public health.

The project's comprehensive approach addresses the unique needs of the community, promotes a sense of belonging, and fosters connections with cultural heritage, the environment, and mental wellness. It offers a blend of direct experiences, resources, and education to create a lasting impact.

Sincerely,

Ninth Root

Author *Shy Walker*
Title *Director*