



March 30, 2017

Mr. Mark Williams
Mailstop 3E Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812

Re: Los Angeles Deserves a VW Green City in First Funding Round

Dear Mr. Williams:

On behalf of Tenemos que Reclamar y Unidos Salvar la Tierra (T.R.U.S.T. South LA), I would like to express our strong support for Los Angeles to receive one of the two Green City designations from Volkswagen in this first funding round. T.R.U.S.T. South LA's mission is to work with community residents to transform the built environment and social conditions in both gentrifying and disinvested neighborhoods of South Los Angeles by: serving as a steward for community-controlled land; being a catalyst for and shepherding community-serving development; building awareness and community leadership in issues of housing, transportation and recreation; and developing programs that encourage community building, healthy living, and economic opportunity.

The lawsuit that brought forth the settlement with Volkswagen stemmed from vehicular diesel pollution; and no place in the nation, let alone the state, has been hit harder from diesel pollution than Los Angeles. When you combine the disproportionate impact felt within our communities from diesel pollution with other CalEnviroScreen factors, LA County represents over half of the state's disadvantaged communities. No other part of the state comes close to that kind of a pollution burden.

We recognize CARB's concern about having this investment be "transformative" by choosing a location that is not too large to enable impact to be achieved, and it is for this reason that LA submitted a proposal that would concentrate investment in communities that need it the most within LA: Downtown; South LA; Boyle Heights; Wilmington; Pacoima; and LAX. By focusing in on specific areas within an otherwise large city, the investment can leverage a large market with significant existing investment to achieve a smaller subarea impact in parts of the city that could be transformative for ZEV deployment and infrastructure.

While we appreciate the opportunity to be one of the five metro areas selected for infrastructure investment in this VW plan, we believe an investment in LA should be more significant than infrastructure alone. Selecting Los Angeles as one of the first Green Cities will enable VW to achieve maximum impact by leveraging hundreds of millions in public and private funding (more than any other single location in the state) and mitigating diesel emissions in communities that need it the most through accelerated ZEV deployment and infrastructure buildout.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to include Los Angeles as one of the two Green Cities as part of the ZEV investment. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 233-4118 or via email at Sandra@trustsouthla.org.

Sincerely,

Sandra McNeill

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