

*June 15, 2020*

**Subject:** Transformative Climate Communities Program: Round 3 Planning Grant Recommendations

**Reporting Period:** June 2020

**Staff Lead:** Saharnaz Mirzazad, TCC Program Manager

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## **Recommended Action**

Staff recommend the Council award \$600,000 of FY 2019-2020 GGRF funding to the top three (3) scoring proposals for the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Planning Grant Program.

## **Summary**

This Staff Report summarizes California Strategic Growth Council's TCC Planning Grant Program, the Round 3 Application Process, and staff recommendations for awards. Attachments include final scores, proposal summaries, maps, and deliberation summaries.

In Round 3, the TCC Planning Grant Program received 10 applications from the Central Valley, Southern California, Coastal, and Inland Regions. Of the 10 applications, TCC Program Staff (Program Staff) recommend that three (3) jurisdictions receive planning grants of \$200,000 each. Grantees will complete two-year grant terms.

SGC will require the awarded applicants to address issues identified during the application review and post-award consultation process prior to executing grant agreements.

## **Background**

The purpose of the TCC Planning Grant program is to prepare communities to apply for future TCC Implementation Grants or funding from other programs that align with the TCC Program's objectives. Planning activities should focus on responding to planning issues or priorities that directly benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities per CalEnviroScreen 3.0. This may

include evaluating or updating local policies or codes; completing fiscal impact analyses; preparing climate action and adaptation plans; conducting community engagement; or planning for workforce development and economic opportunities. Planning activities must also be consistent with the State's Planning Priorities, identified in Section 65041.1 of the Government Code. Planning Priorities focus on promoting infill development and equity by rehabilitating, maintaining, and improving existing infrastructure; protecting, preserving, and enhancing environmental and agricultural lands and natural and recreational resources; and encouraging location and resource efficient new development.

### **Round 3 Application and Review Process**

The Council adopted the Round 3 TCC Program Guidelines (Guidelines) on October 31, 2019. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) released on November 4, 2019 called for applicants to submit planning grant applications by February 28, 2020. The NOFA also indicated that \$600,000 was available for up to three (3) planning grant awards of \$200,000 each. TCC Program Staff hosted Round 3 Guidelines and Application Workshops and provided technical assistance to applicants as needed.

Program Staff received a total of 10 planning grant applications in response to the Round 3 solicitation. A complete list of applicants appears in Attachment A, Application Summaries and Maps.

All applications underwent the following review process:

- **Completeness Check:** Program Staff reviewed the applications for any missing or incomplete materials.
- **Interagency Panel Review:** Interagency reviewers scored proposals according to a common scoring rubric developed by Program staff. Each application was reviewed by at least three reviewers.
- **Review Deliberations:** Following the application review, Program Staff and Interagency Review Panel members presented a high-level overview of each application during deliberation. After deliberation, the individual Interagency Review Panel members' scores were averaged to determine the final score for each application out of a possible 100 points.

**Table 1:** Final Round 3 TCC Planning Grant Application Scores

<b>Jurisdiction</b> (Lead Applicant, if different from jurisdiction)	<b>Final Average Score</b>
<b>City of Porterville</b> (Porterville Unified School District)	86.3
<b>City of San Diego</b> (Environmental Health Coalition)	84.0
<b>City of Pomona</b>	78.5
<b>City of San Diego</b> (Groundwork San Diego)	74.9
<b>City of Corcoran</b>	73.3
<b>City of Parlier</b>	72.7
<b>City of South Gate</b>	69.2
<b>Gateway Cities Council of Governments</b>	67.7
<b>City of Allensworth</b> (Cal Poly Corporation)	46.0
<b>City of Brawley</b> (Comite Civico del Valle)	42.0

## Recommended Awards

TCC Program Staff recommends that the Council approve the top three scoring applications for funding at \$200,000 each. Each of the selected applications includes strong partnerships with local community groups and applicants clearly explained how those groups would be involved in the funded planning activities. The recommended applicants also explained how they would use the TCC Planning Grant funds to prepare for a TCC Implementation Grant (or similar funding programs) and why their project area would be an ideal candidate for transformation with the support of implementation dollars.

### Award Recommendation 1

#### ***Porterville Unified School District: “Climate Action Plan for Porterville Schools – Creating Opportunities: Changing Lives”***

- Recommended Award: \$200,000
- Summary: The Porterville Unified School District (PUSD) will partner with several local government and nonprofit partners to develop a 10-year ‘Climate Action Plan for Porterville Schools.’ The Plan will include the development of a climate action program to reduce pollution and GHG emissions by 80% from school buildings, transport, and

operations (based on 1990 emissions baseline). The proposal includes strong institutional commitment and educational components, including paid high school interns to lead the community engagement plan.

### **Award Recommendation 2**

#### ***Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego: “Tierra, Cultura y Salud: A Plan to Protect and Preserve Our Barrio Logan”***

- Recommended Award: \$200,000
- Summary: In San Diego, the Environmental Health Coalition, a local nonprofit, will work with residents, nonprofits, and the City to conduct community engagement and planning for the Barrio Logan and Logan Heights neighborhoods. Planning efforts will focus on affordable housing, including site feasibility studies and community land trust discussions; urban greening plans throughout the project area; and climate-resilience education and engagement through local cultural centers.

### **Award Recommendation 3**

#### ***City of Pomona: “Pomona ACTS (Activated for Community Transformation & Sustainability)”***

- Recommended Award: \$200,000
- Summary: The City of Pomona and local partners will facilitate planning activities around expanding clean, convenient, and affordable transportation options and affordable housing. Planning for future projects will also include feasibility of clean energy options such as community based solar, single family and multifamily solar installation, and power purchase agreements. Future projects will be consistent with Pomona’s General Plan, Specific Plans for its major corridors and historic downtown, an Active Transportation Plan, and a Green Plan.

Appendix A includes a summary of the deliberation discussion for each application, including those not recommended for award.

### **Next Steps**

Following approval by the Council, TCC Program Staff will enter a Post-award Consultation phase with each awardee. During this phase, Program Staff will work with the awardee to refine

the submitted application materials to ensure they follow all statutory, administrative, and TCC Program requirements. Awarded applications are subject to modifications based on input from the Council and/or application reviewers. Program Staff will work with awardees during this phase to develop a grant agreement and review grant administration procedures.

### **Council Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Council award \$600,000 of FY 2019-2020 GGRF funding to the top three (3) scoring proposals for the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Planning Grant Program.

Should the Council agree with staff's recommendation, the following language is proposed:

**“I move that the Council approve Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Transformative Climate Communities Program Planning Grants pursuant to TCC Staff recommendations, making awards of \$200,000 each to Porterville Unified School District, Environmental Health Coalition, and the City of Pomona. Approval of this motion directs TCC Staff to begin the post-award consultation period with awardees to finalize project requirements pursuant to this staff report and TCC Program policies.”**

### **Attachments**

Attachment A: Application Summaries and Maps

## Attachment A: Application Summaries and Maps

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Applicant: Porterville Unified School District

Planning Grant Application Name: “Climate Action Plan for Porterville Schools – Creating Opportunities: Changing Lives”

Co-Applicants: City of Porterville, Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), Porterville Pathways Foundation, Porterville P8 Initiative, Porterville College, Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE), Climate Action Pathways for Schools (CAPS), Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI), and Safe Routes Partnership

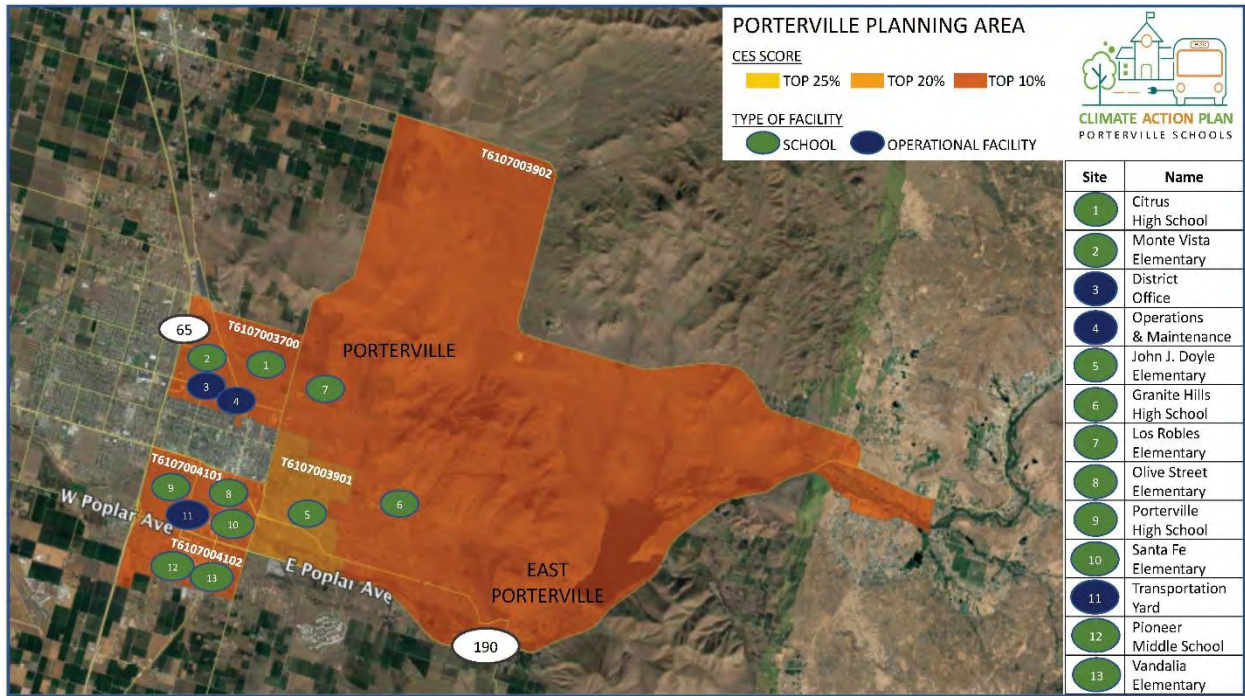
Total Request: \$200,000

Summary of Proposal: The Porterville Unified School District (PUSD) is seeking a planning grant to develop a 10-year Climate Action Plan (Plan) for Porterville Schools. The Plan will generate a roadmap for the school communities to reduce pollution, improve local environmental health, and tackle the challenge of climate change. Specifically, the Plan will include the development of a climate action program to reduce pollution and GHG emissions by 80% from school buildings, transport, and operations (based on 1990 emissions baseline). This includes the goal that every student will get an opportunity to get to and from school with zero-pollution and/or zero-GHG emissions transportation. The Plan will also focus on engaging students through the already established “Pathways Program”. The planning area encompasses five census tracts (within the top 25% DAC), ten schools (7,796 students), and three PUSD sites (1,475 employees). The proposed planning grant will focus on:

- *Community Engagement:* To influence Plan development, a survey of the school communities will be led by high school students, employing eight student interns, four from their Academy of Engineering and Multimedia, and four from their Technology Academy.
- *Leverage Funding:* Expectations are that the Plan will help identify between \$10 and \$25 million in leverage to help meet the emissions reductions, public health and educational goals.
- *Workforce Development and Economic Opportunities:* Involvement in Plan development will provide work-based learning opportunities for students.

Summary of Deliberation Discussion: The proposal features strong partnerships and a unique approach to understand and address community needs through a Climate Action Plan for Porterville Schools. The proposal comprehensively addresses energy and transportation while integrating student education and workforce development. The Interagency Review Panel concluded the applicant demonstrated a well-organized planning process and high capacity to implement the grant.

### Porterville Planning Area Map



Applicant: Environmental Health Coalition

Planning Grant Application Name: “Tierra, Cultura y Salud: A Plan to Protect and Preserve Our Barrio Logan”

Co-Applicants: City of San Diego, Chicano Federation (CF), Logan Avenue Consortium (LAC), Barrio Logan Association (BLA), Chicano Park Museum & Cultural Center (CPMCC), and the Urban Corps of San Diego (Urban Corps).

Total Request: \$200,000

Summary of Proposal: The Environmental Health Coalition is applying for a planning grant to fund community engagement and plan development for the San Diego neighborhoods of Barrio Logan and Logan Heights. The planning efforts will focus on:

- *Affordable Housing:* Development feasibility of affordable housing at the Metro Theater and Chicano Federation buildings. Partners will also research the feasibility of a community land trust for the area to create new rental and ownership opportunities for vulnerable residents.
- *Green Spaces:* Development of an urban greening vision for tree plantings throughout the planning area, particularly focusing on the development of a linear park on Boston Avenue. This is anticipated to help meet air quality goals, mitigate the heat island effect, and provide public health benefits to residents.
- *Environmental Health:* Development of an environmental justice program for the new Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center that will educate families on climate-resiliency opportunities.

Planning activities will also include research by project partners on other potential funding sources to complement future project implementation.

Summary of Deliberation Discussion: The proposal will develop a coordinated environmental health planning initiative with diverse, grassroots community representation. The plan emphasizes community visioning around affordable housing, green space, and environmental health to preserve local culture while improving the built and natural environment. The Interagency Review Panel scored this application high due to clear vision presented for planning process and implemented by strong partnership of local community-based organizations.



### Environmental Health Coalition Planning Area Map



Applicant: City of Pomona

Planning Grant Application Name: “Pomona ACTS (Activated for Community Transformation & Sustainability)”

Co-Applicants: CHERP Locally Grown Power, GRID Alternatives, Clean and Green Pomona

Total Request: \$200,000

Summary of Proposal: The Pomona ACTS proposal was developed through a working group of community-based organizations, city officials and public agency representatives. The proposed planning area encompasses the historic downtown and transit center, three mixed-use corridors, ten parks, and several diverse neighborhoods. Pomona ACTS has four main goals: 1) increasing renewable energy production; 2) decreasing reliance on automobiles; 3) enhancing ecosystem services through urban greening; and 4) creating living-wage work opportunities for project area families.

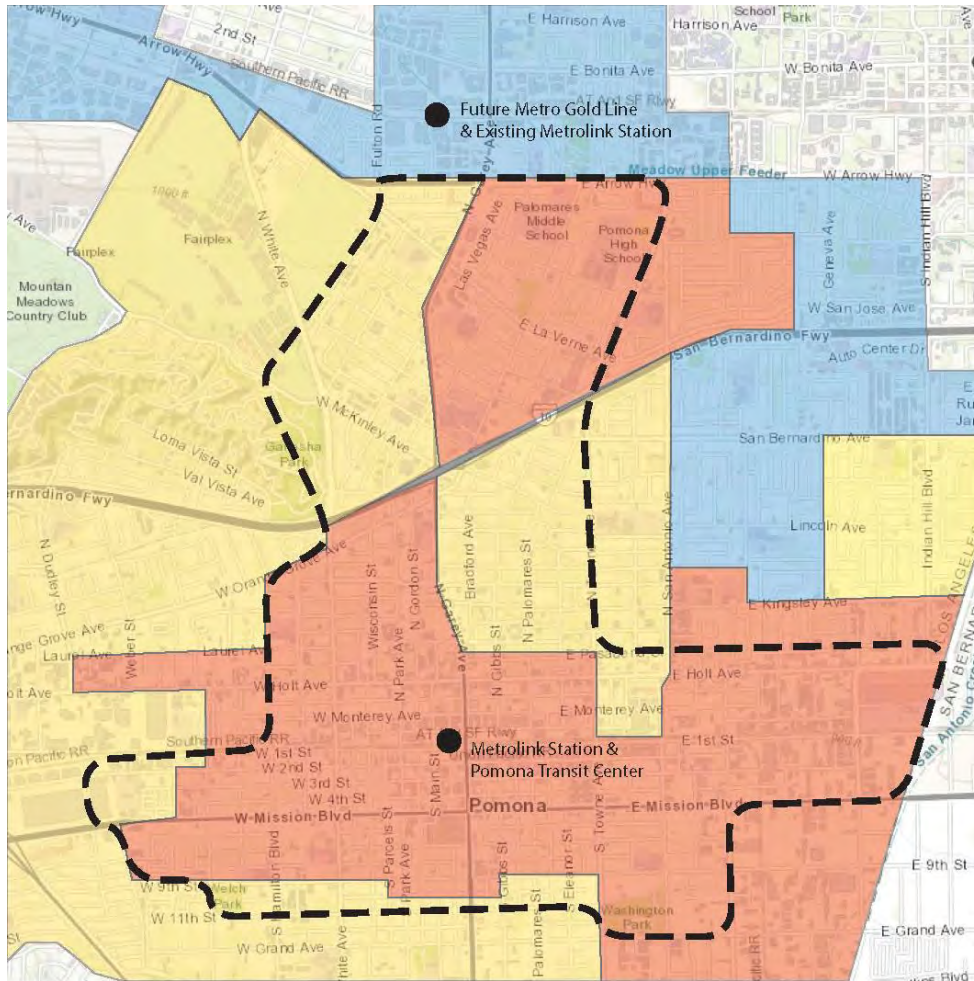
To achieve those goals, planning activities will focus around expanding clean, convenient, and affordable transportation options and affordable housing. Planning for future projects will also include feasibility of clean energy options such as community based solar, single family and multifamily solar installation, and power purchase agreements. In addition to identifying potential projects, Pomona ACTS targets three transformative elements:

- *Community Engagement:* Conducting four community workshops, and prioritizing youth engagement and translation for local residents
- *Workforce Development and Economic Opportunities:* Developing training opportunities for solar panel assembly and solar array installation
- *Leverage Funding:* Securing additional funds for affordable housing and transportation infrastructure

Beyond the City and Co-Applicants, other partner organizations include Day One, and San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corp.

Summary of Deliberation Discussion: The proposal will lead a comprehensive community engagement process to identify greenhouse gas-reducing projects that provide local economic benefits. The project was preparing for an implementation grant application, but their revision to a planning grant application resulted in a well-organized and prepared proposal that will position the applicant for further funding opportunities.

### Pomona Planning Area Map



Pomona TCC Planning Grant Project Area

- Top 10% DAC
- Top 25% DAC
- Low-Income (AB 1550)



Applicant: Groundwork San Diego

Planning Grant Application Name: “The Green Initiative in Southeastern San Diego”

Co-Applicants: City of San Diego, Bayview Community Development Corporation, Grid Alternatives, Project New Village, and San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition

Total Request: \$199,998.60

Summary of Proposal: Groundwork San Diego’s proposal focuses on Southeastern San Diego and seeks to create a resident-driven plan for climate-ready transformation. Engagement will occur through community events, presentations to Planning Area organizations, including neighborhood planning groups and faith-based institutions, and a door-to-door canvassing campaign. Three analysis’ will be conducted in order to develop the climate-ready plan:

- *The Good Food District (GFD) Analysis:* The Applicant will conduct a project analysis and design for a grocery store with a community garden, workforce development/education center, and affordable housing to address food dessert concerns.
- *Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study:* The Applicant will conduct an EV rideshare and infrastructure study, virtual power plant feasibility study, workforce development study, alternative transportation study and energy retrofit analysis of existing affordable housing units in the Planning Area.
- *Community Needs Assessment:* The Applicant will conduct a community needs assessment to gather input from residents and determine the top priority projects for the neighborhoods, through community meetings, community surveys, and the expansion of a Climate Ambassador’s Program.

Summary of Deliberation Discussion: This proposal would help develop partnerships with community-based organizations to engage residents in creative planning processes for environmental health. The applicant clearly understands the community and the connection between built environment and health outcomes. However, the Interagency Review Panel was not clear about how the proposed analysis directly responds to the community needs. The application could be strengthened by partnering with additional grassroots organizations to support the Community Needs Assessment and better integration of proposed planning activities.



Applicant: City of Corcoran

Planning Grant Application Name: “Corcoran Empowered”

Co-Applicants: Corcoran Joint Unified School District and Kings Area Rural Transit Agency

Total Request: \$200,000

Summary of Proposal: The City of Corcoran proposes to lay the foundation for future infrastructure projects and facility improvements in the Southwest and Northeast portions of the City. The City states that these areas are currently undergoing growth and are also the most pollution-burdened communities, according to CalEnviroScreen.

The City will develop a preliminary list of potential projects that focus on creating a more sustainable public transportation system; creating safer options for pedestrians and cyclists; reducing the urban heat island effect and minimizing water loss by evaporation; and promoting outdoor recreation. Potential projects will be consistent with the local Climate Action Plan, General Plan, and multiple Regional Plans (Transportation, Bicycle, and Electric Vehicle). They may include:

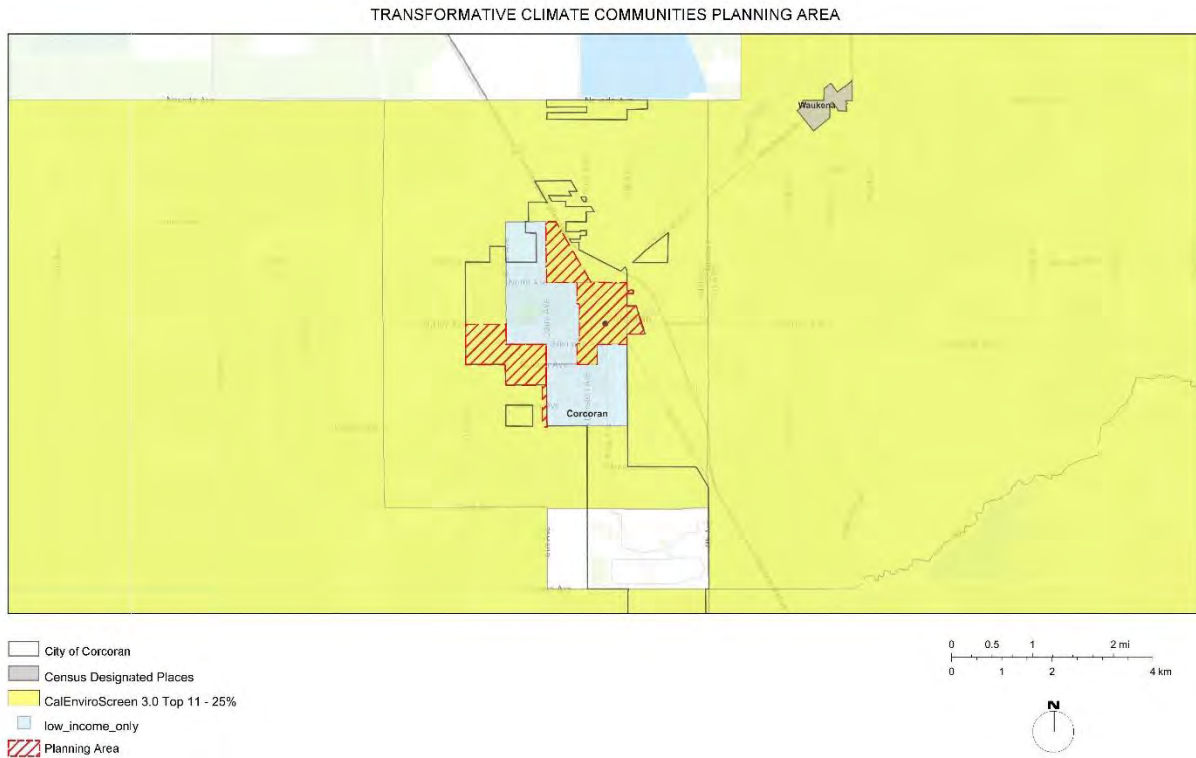
- Installing solar panels and free EV charging stations in publicly owned facilities/ROW;
- Revitalizing existing parks and expanding the urban canopy;
- Constructing a complete sidewalk network coupled with bike lanes, where feasible; and
- Undergrounding of the canal along Sherman Avenue and constructing a Class 1 shared-use path.

Projects will then be ranked based on feedback from two rounds of public outreach and a feasibility study from a third-party subcontractor.

In addition to increasing Community Engagement, the City will focus on securing additional Leverage Funds, and improving Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.

Summary of Deliberation Discussion: This proposal presents a clear planning process and specific community engagement activities to solicit feedback on sustainable transportation and planning projects. However, the engagement process described is somewhat passive and there is limited meaningful involvement from CBOs or residents in the proposal. Reviewers were also concerned with the planning area, which is non-contiguous and located in areas identified for planned growth, but that are currently vacant. This raised questions of planning area eligibility and whether the planning grant would adequately serve priority populations and current residents.

### Corcoran Planning Area Map



Applicant: City of Parlier

Planning Grant Application Name: “Parlier Forward”

Co-Applicants: Parlier Unified School District, Central Valley Communities That Care, Parlier Downtown, United Health Centers, Cops Building Bridges

Total Request: \$200,000

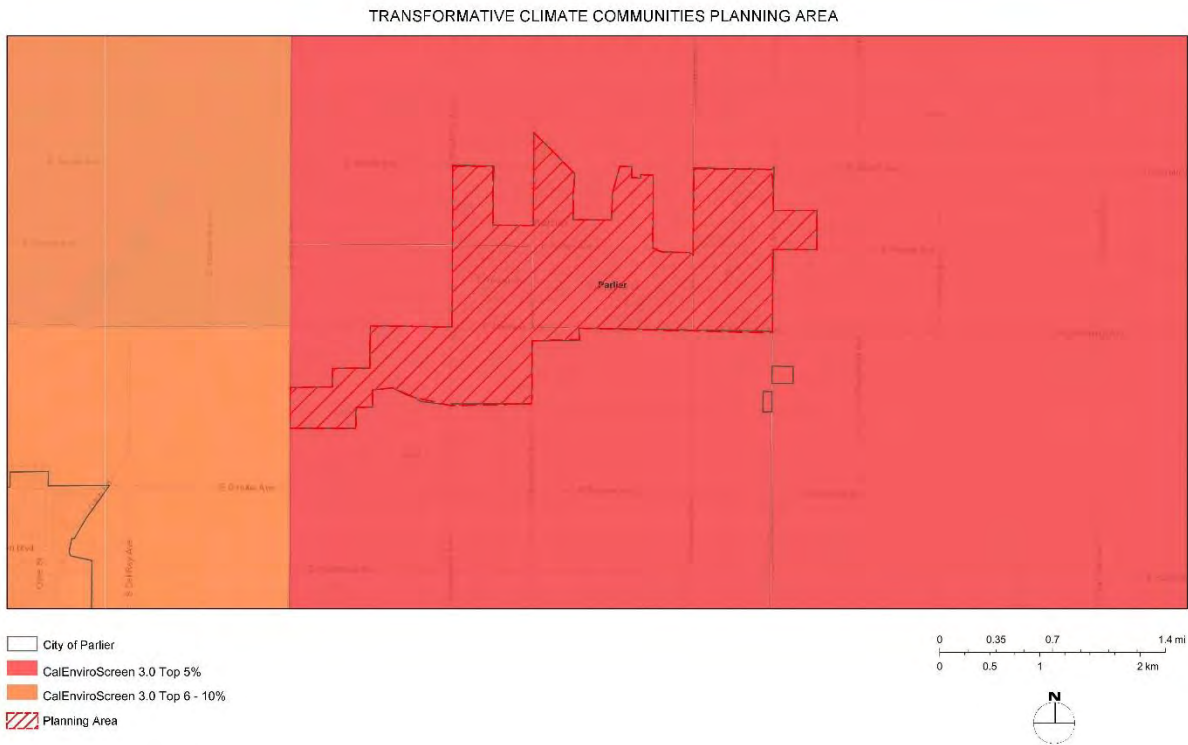
Summary of Proposal: The “Parlier Forward” project proposal is mainly based on community planning around the development of a shared-use path in the growing north-central area of the City. The goal is for the path to provide recreational space and a safe route for children to take to school. The proposal presents this shared-use path as a physical and conceptual center for urban greening and multimodal transportation in Parlier, as it would connect with existing shared-use paths in the City and be developed as part of a broader planning effort for low-carbon transportation systems.

The proposal builds upon the City’s Downtown Revitalization Plan attempts to improve existing infrastructure downtown and create a more livable neighborhood. This project aims to engage the community around those efforts and to integrate climate considerations, such as urban greening and solar shading, into the community visioning process. The plan proposes to focus on reaching populations not typically engaged in these efforts by holding public meetings and workshops at various times and locations to be accessible to different populations, as well as in-person and digital community outreach and resident surveys.

Summary of Deliberation Discussion: The proposal would provide clear community engagement mechanisms around multimodal transportation through community input on a shared-use path. The proposal includes good partnerships and a focus on environmental health and safe transportation for residents. However, the Interagency Review Panel concluded the application lacks clarity on how the project advances other TCC goals or if the planning process would leave room for further projects or activities beyond the shared-use path.



### Parlier Planning Area Map



Applicant: City of South Gate

Planning Grant Application Name: “Micro Transit & Mobility Study”

Co-Applicants: Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Total Request: \$157,000

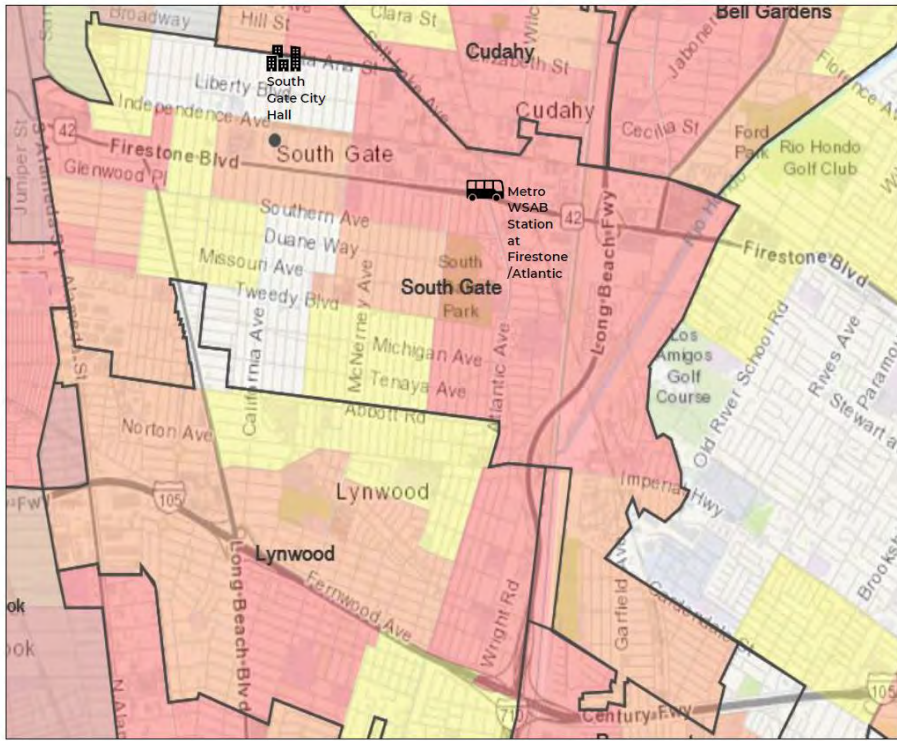
Summary of Proposal: The City of South Gate proposes a micro transit and mobility study with the goal of creating a Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Local Transit Connectivity Implementation Plan. The proposed study would analyze City bike lane connectivity to local transit systems and the development of first and last-mile strategies, with an emphasis on connectivity to the future Metro West Santa Ana Branch transit station in the planning area. The study would take place over 6 months and include a review of traffic, multimodal, land use, and health and equity conditions, and will include community engagement workshops.

The project aims to develop strategies that would improve user experience of multi-modal transportation options and community assets such as City parks and the LA River. Increasing alternative modes of transportation would aid residents with transit access and improved recreational and exercise opportunities, and reduce air pollution and carbon emissions by reducing the use of cars. In addition, the study will examine the alternative transportation infrastructure improvements needed to improve economic opportunity for residents: to attract businesses and visitors to the City, increase job opportunities and access for current residents, and foster a shared economic development between South Gate and surrounding cities.

Summary of Deliberation Discussion: The proposal would provide key transportation planning activities in the City of South Gate in the greater Los Angeles region. The project would allow applicants to identify transit and mobility projects for future funding. However, the Interagency Review Panel was concerned about the limited scope of the proposal to only focus active transportation and did not fully address the TCC transformative elements.

### South Gate Planning Area Map

South Gate Planning Area Map



- Incorporated Places
- CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Top 11 - 25%
- Census Designated Places
- CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Top 5%
- CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Top 5%
- CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Top 25%
- CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Top 6 - 10%
- AB1550 Low Income Communities

Applicant: Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Planning Grant Application Name: “Complete Streets Community Engagement Process: Artesia and Lakewood/Rosemead Corridors”

Co-Applicants: Los Angeles County

Total Request: \$200,000

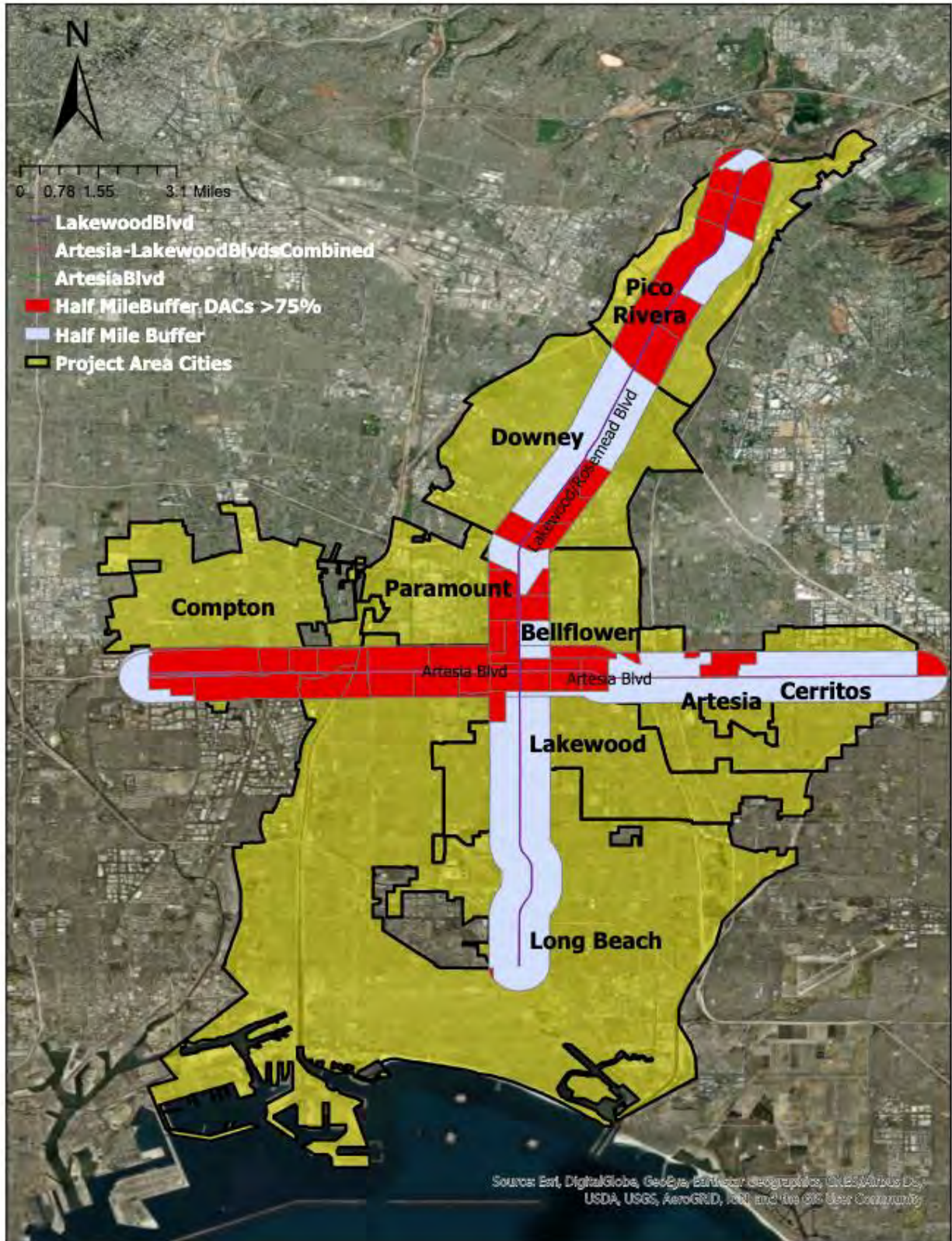
Summary of Proposal: Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG) proposes a community engagement process and feasibility analysis to identify the priority complete streets improvements along two contiguous transit corridors. The study would further develop the corridors’ existing master plans:

1. *Lakewood/Rosemead Boulevard Master Plan and Complete Streets Evaluation (2019)*
2. *Artesia Boulevard Complete Street Master Plan Evaluation Report (2017)*

The community engagement process would use the GCCCOG Public Engagement Toolkit that has been used in previous climate planning efforts, such as the Climate Action Plan Framework. A community outreach specialist would conduct a total of 21 workshops (3 engagement events each in 7 focus areas) to hear community priorities. Complete streets improvements included in the existing master plans include multimodal connectivity, greening improvements, compact land use, and natural infrastructure. The project would culminate in final recommendation reports to the cities on the priority complete streets improvements to implement for each focus area.

Summary of Deliberation Discussion: The proposal would engage residents along key routes to envision complete streets projects aligned with local plans and initiatives. The plan would be led by a Council of Governments with the unique position to coordinate the project with local governments and residents. However, the Interagency Review Panel would recommend stronger involvement of community-based organizations in future applications. Additionally, the TCC Program Staff and Interagency Review Panel found the proposed planning area to be ineligible, as it included census tracts that were not ranked in the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen rankings.

### Gateway Cities COG Planning Area Map



Applicant: Cal Poly Corporation (on behalf of California Polytechnic State University)

Planning Grant Application Name: “Climate Change, Capacity Building, and Strategic Planning in Allensworth, CA”

Co-Applicants: Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

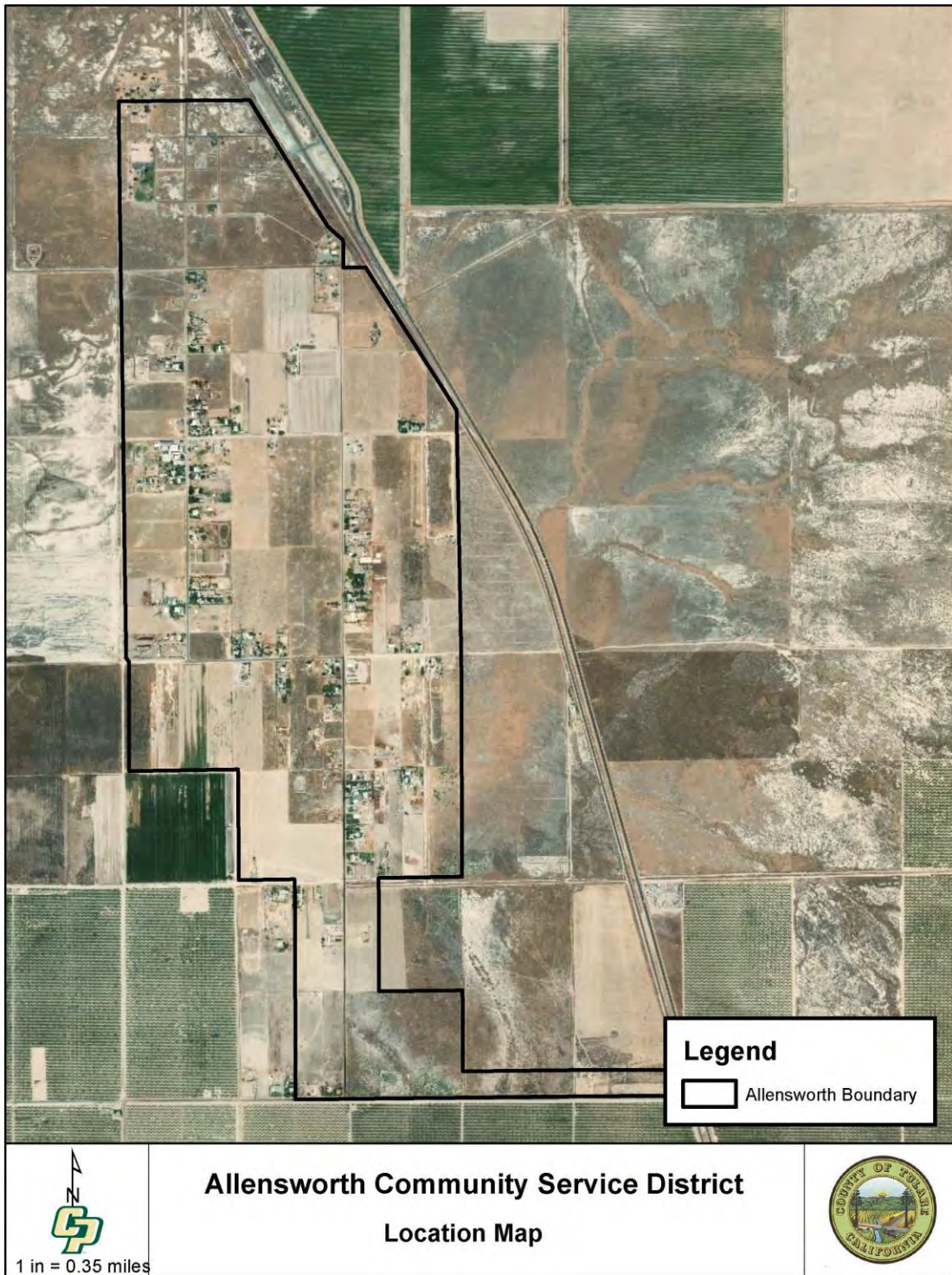
Total Request: \$196,325.00

Summary of Proposal: This project proposes to develop a strategic plan for the Allensworth Community Services District (CSD) in Tulare county. The Allensworth CSD project area has 513 residents. Of these residents, one third of are not US citizens, only 173 are 18 or over, and 44.6% live below the poverty line. The proposed planning process would consist of 19 community meetings over two years for the planning team to learn the residents’ lived experiences with climate and to help the community identify and prioritize its planning needs. The plan would include an “Initiation” phase for the project team would seek to build trust the Allensworth community, and key stakeholders, a 15-month “formulation” phase for community meetings and identification of issues, culminating in a “Plan Development” phase.

However, as the project is proposed by the Cal Poly Corporation, a nonprofit organization representing the California Polytechnic State University, and the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, the proposal does not meet applicant eligibility requirements. Though a contact for the Lead Applicant has suggested the University might qualify as a ‘public’ institution, this application does provide any evidence of jurisdictional agency in the proposed project area or interest from the community in the development of the proposal.

Summary of Deliberation Discussion: This proposal was found to be an ineligible application with no public agency with land use authority among its applicants.

### Allensworth Planning Area Map



Applicant: Comite Civico del Valle, Inc.

Planning Grant Application Name: “Clean Brawley Initiative”

Co-Applicants: Imperial Air Pollution Control District

Total Request: \$199,867.46

Summary of Proposal: Proposed planning activities build upon models currently being used by Comite Civico del Valle and the Imperial Air Pollution Control District who are currently working collaboratively to implement an Assembly Bill (AB) 617 grant in the designated Imperial communities. The Planning grant seeks to find solutions for some community-identified concerns such as idling of heavy-duty vehicles in residential areas and issues of toxic sites.

The Planning Grant proposal focuses on community engagement through holding public workshops and input on plan design. The Applicant is seeking community input to establish a report and develop a community consensus on the best available solutions.

Summary of Deliberation Discussion: This proposal would engage the community around air quality and environmental health concerns. However, the proposal did not demonstrate a clear vision and the exact activities being proposed are unclear. The Interagency Review Panel thought this proposal lacked clarity and connectivity with TCC program objectives.



### Brawley Planning Area Map

