

# The Unity Council (Chris Iglesias)

RE: Public Comment Opposing Proposed Amendments to the Cap-and-Invest Program  
Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the Board,

On behalf of The Unity Council, we respectfully urge the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to pause and revisit the proposed amendments to the Cap-and-Invest Program currently scheduled for consideration at the May 28–29, 2026 Board meeting.

The Unity Council is a social equity community development organization that has served Oakland and the East Bay for over 60 years. Our mission is to promote social equity and improve quality of life by building vibrant communities where everyone can work, learn, and thrive. Through affordable housing development, workforce development, early childhood education, senior services, and economic opportunity programs, we work every day alongside low-income residents, immigrants, and communities of color who are disproportionately impacted by climate change, housing instability, and inequitable access to transportation.

We are deeply concerned that the proposed amendments would significantly reduce Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) investments that support critical affordable housing and transit programs, including the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program, the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), and the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP).

These programs are essential to advancing California's climate and equity goals. They support the production of affordable transit-oriented housing, improve public transit access, expand zero emission transportation infrastructure, and reduce barriers for low-income communities. These investments are particularly important in the East Bay, where many working families already face rising housing costs, transportation burdens, and environmental inequities.

The Unity Council recently partnered with AC Transit on an AHSC application because we recognize the importance of integrating affordable housing, public transit, and climate resilience strategies to create healthier and more equitable communities. Reducing funding for these programs would undermine efforts already underway across California to increase affordable housing opportunities while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We are especially concerned about the disproportionate impact these funding reductions would have on disadvantaged communities. Historically, these programs have directed the majority of funding toward low-income communities and communities of color, the same communities that continue to experience the greatest barriers to economic mobility, clean transportation access, and housing stability.

California cannot achieve its climate goals without sustained investments in equitable transit and affordable housing infrastructure. We respectfully urge CARB to maintain robust funding for AHSC, TIRCP, and LCTOP and to pause and reconsider any proposal that would weaken these essential programs.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to advancing climate equity

throughout California.



May 26, 2026

Chair Lauren Sanchez and Members of the California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to advancing climate equity throughout California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Iglesias".

Chris Iglesias  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Unity Council

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