

Dear Mayor Schaaf and Members of the Oakland City Council:

For over a year, the ECAP Ad Hoc Community Advisory Committee has had the pleasure of working with City staff on development of the Equitable Climate Action Plan (ECAP). The City has employed a community-driven process for assessing priorities, and paid particular attention to engaging diverse voices and viewpoints. Particularly noteworthy has been the engagement of the equity facilitator, a group which led meetings across the city, analyzed the ECAP for equity opportunities and impacts, and serves as an example for other jurisdictions. We encourage you to use and meaningfully apply the priorities and feedback you have received through this ECAP development process.

The ECAP is an actionable roadmap for equitably and cost-effectively reducing Oakland's local climate emissions by a minimum of 56% from 2005 levels. The ECAP will help Oakland to transition away from fossil fuel dependence, and help to ensure that all of Oakland's communities are resilient to the foreseeable impacts of climate change by 2030, starting by investing in frontline communities. We are especially proud of the Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) developed by the equity facilitator team. The REIA is a groundbreaking analytical framework that provides clear guidance for implementation of the ECAP in specific, actionable, and measurable ways to direct resources and benefits to frontline communities in Oakland who are first and worst impacted by poverty, pollution, COVID-19 and climate change.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ad Hoc Committee enthusiastically supports ECAP adoption without delay, with the Racial Equity Impact Assessment as a companion guide for implementation.

As you adopt the ECAP, we ask you to be mindful of community priorities and direct City staff to prioritize the following items in order to help the City achieve its goals of advancing a just transition:

- **Adopt the Racial Equity Impact Assessment & Implementation Guide (REIA).** We ask that Council require City staff to use the results of the equity facilitation process as a mandatory guide to implementing the ECAP. This includes the: Racial Equity Impact Assessment and Implementation Guide and the associated foundational documents – the 2030 ECAP Community Workshops Findings Report, which included the Top Community Recommendations and aggregated materials. The findings are the result of a tremendous amount of work and listening to the priorities of Oakland's communities. We urge City Council to direct staff to keep these reports close at hand as important resources to guide implementation of the ECAP and add adoption of the REIA in a "therefore" clause in the resolution.
- **Prioritize establishing the Equity Oversight Commission.** Throughout the ECAP development process, we've witnessed the importance of community engagement and leadership in creating the plan. Within the ECAP, Action City Leadership-5 calls for the City to support residents of the City's frontline communities to develop better capacity to engage on climate, sustainability, and equity issues. This is extremely important and we encourage the City to implement this action as soon as possible and follow the best practices in the REIA. The Ad Hoc Committee appreciates the diverse perspectives and expertise from across the City that comprise our group, all with a focus on ensuring that all residents of our City participate in and benefit as we transition to a low-carbon economy. These voices can be amplified and increased through this body.
- **Dedicate a funding source for ECAP Implementation.** Prior to passing a Resolution authorizing development of the 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan, City Council passed a Resolution

declaring a Climate Emergency and committing “to a citywide just transition and urgent climate mobilization effort.” As the City’s roadmap for equitable climate action, the ECAP must be a top priority for allocation of City resources. We urge City Council Members to fully fund ECAP implementation and create a dedicated funding source to ensure effective ECAP implementation.

- **Prioritize City Leadership 4.** Creation of a public bank that serves frontline communities was a key request and the most popular climate action voted on by Oaklanders in the community workshops, community survey, and at meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee. We encourage the City to prioritize implementation of City Leadership 4: Explore Creation of Public or Green Bank, by coordinating with other East Bay cities and regional partners early in the ECAP implementation process for the purposes of fossil fuel divestment in City investments and local equitable and climate-friendly reinvestment. Identify options and potential for using this mechanism or others to fund climate action activities. It will contribute to the building of a resilient, regional economy.

We know that the ECAP includes ambitious goals congruent with Oakland’s commitment to mitigating the climate crisis, grounded in a rigorous analysis. We encourage the city to remain ambitious and rigorous, particularly with respect to ensuring racial equity. Too often, the charge of reaching a metric-driven outcome comes at the expense of frontline communities - we expect that the city will keep its sights on clear equity goals and enforce these with all new development and reforms aligned with the ECAP.

The Port of Oakland is capable of making greater contributions. The Ad Hoc Committee appreciates the steps the Port has taken in recent years to reduce its air pollution emissions. There is still significant room for the Port to do more to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases that have a disproportionate impact on the residents of West Oakland, near the maritime operation, and East Oakland, near the airport. The ECAP recommends two actions for the Port:

- Reduce Emissions from Port Vehicles and Equipment
- Reduce Emissions from Electricity

The Port of Oakland should be one of the bright spots of the ECAP. Zero-emission port equipment and heavy-duty trucks are making some of the fastest-growing advances in clean technology. Zero emission vehicles for ports that are now commercially-available include battery-electric drayage trucks, battery-electric terminal tractors, conversion kits for battery- electric terminal trucks, zero-emission transport refrigeration units, electric forklifts, electric railcar movers, electric mobile and ground power units, and electric mobile shore power cable management systems.

The State of California has funding available to cover the incremental cost of all of these technologies through California CORE and the Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (“HVIP”). Other ports like the Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach are making good use of the resources available and leaning in to deploy zero-emission trucks and off-road equipment.

On June 25, 2020, the California Air Resources Board approved a first-of-a-kind rule requiring that manufacturers of trucks and other port-related vehicles sold in California transition to being zero-emission -- including 100% of drayage trucks being zero-emission by 2035. We expect that Oakland’s equitable climate action plan will not only match other ports, but lead by example by putting Oakland’s Port at the forefront.

The Ad Hoc Committee extends our thanks to the City’s sustainability staff for their tireless service, particularly Shayna Hirshfield-Gold and Daniel Hamilton. We congratulate the City on adopting the ECAP as is, with a focus on the recommendations above, an innovative ECAP that puts frontline communities in Oakland at the center of the work.

Sincerely,

the ECAP Ad Hoc Community Advisory Committee

Najee Amaranth and Nicole Bratton, Co-Chairs

Ryder Diaz

Anne Olivia Eldred

Barbara Haya

Jhamere Howard

Navina Khanna

Jody London

Ryan Schuchard

Susan Stephenson

Tyrone "Baybe Champ" Stevenson Jr

Dominic Ware

Jacky Xu

Brian Beveridge and Bruce Nilles, Alternates