





SF Policy Action Team
Climate Reality Project



extinction rebellion
SF BAY AREA



ACTION FOR A
HEALTHY PLANET

April 8, 2024

Mayor London Breed
City Hall, Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Cc: Anna Duning, Budget Director; Joseph Sweiss, Climate Advisor

Dear Mayor Breed,

We, the undersigned, urge you to preserve the ongoing General Fund money that you allocated last year to fund seven SF Environment Department staff positions which are crucial to continue implementing the detailed and comprehensive Climate Action Plan you introduced in 2021. SFE's request of \$1.8 million in FY 2024-25 and \$1.6 million in FY 2025-26, a tiny fraction of the City budget, will keep these staff members working to bring in robust state and federal grant money, and to manage those funds most effectively to fight climate change. Missing such opportunities would cost the City dearly.

The growing climate emergency is a fundamental economic, public health, and livability threat that underlies and exacerbates many of the City's most urgent problems. As leader of San Francisco's climate response, you have provided strong support for adaptation and resilience strategies. On the mitigation side, you declared your ambition to achieve a net-zero emissions City by 2040 by enacting the CAP. We applaud your vision in committing last year to allocate ongoing budget funding to ensure that crucial staff would keep their jobs.

The small investment in these positions has already paid for itself as SFE has secured \$45.8 million in external funding since 2023. These staff positions are needed now to continue to increase the Department's ability to bring in federal, state and private funds - in a window of opportunity that may only extend for the next few years. This current budget request by SFE does not include new funding but is in accord with funds already in place with the promise of continuation each year.

A strong Environment Department can be the linchpin of the City's equitable transition to net-zero by 2040, with so many attendant benefits along the way. We ask that you fulfill your pledge to work towards achieving CAP goals by sustaining in the upcoming budget cycle the full Environment Department budget as promised for the next 2 years.

In the face of a severe budget deficit and worsening climate and pollution effects, San Francisco must pursue its most cost-effective path with vision. Climate change/pollution problems will cost so much more to solve if not addressed now. And as you know, low-income and BIPOC communities are always disproportionately affected as the planet warms. Please empower SF Environment to seize the current opportunity for San Francisco to persevere as a world-class city and a leader in climate action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steering Committee

San Francisco Climate Emergency Coalition

Kat Broomall, Coordinating Committee, SF Circle

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

Elena Engel, Coordinating Committee

350 San Francisco

Lauren Weston, Executive Director

Acterra

J. Michelle Pierce, Executive Director

Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates

Pauline Brooks, President

California Alliance for Retired Americans

Lindsey Alami and Chris Chidsey, Co-leaders

Citizen/s Climate Lobby, SF chapter

Amanda Millstein, MD & Ashley McClure, MD

Climate Health Now

Paul Wermer, Co-lead, SF Policy Action Team

Climate Reality Project

Avni Jamdar, Bay Area Regional Director

Emerald Cities Northern California

Leah Redwood, Action Coordinator
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area

Brian Wiedenmeier, Executive Director
Friends of the Urban Forest

Maggie Marks, Director
Garden for the Environment

Glenn Phillips, Director
Golden Gate Bird Alliance

Ray Kutz, President
Golden Gate Electric Vehicle Association

Arieann Harrison, Executive Director
Marie Harrison Community Foundation

Maia Piccagli, Co-founder
Mothers Out Front San Francisco

Eliana Lopez, Founder
Mukupati children's clothing

Amber Hasselbring, Executive Director
Nature in the City

Eric Brooks, Campaign Coordinator
Our City SF

Melanie Grossman, President
OWL-SF

Glenn Rogers, Board member
Parkmerced Action Coalition

Antonio Diaz, Organizational Director
PODER

Keith Goldstein, President
Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association

Cooper Marcus, Chief Quitter
QuitCarbon

Robert M. Gould, MD, President
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility

Christopher White, Interim Executive Director
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

Kristina Pappas, President
San Francisco League of Conservation Voters

Jennifer Clary, President
San Francisco Tomorrow

Dylan Fabris, Community & Policy Manager
San Francisco Transit Riders

David Lewis, Executive Director
Save The Bay

Charles Whitfield, SF Group Chair
Sierra Club

Zachary Frial, Environmental Justice Organizer
South of Market Community Action Network (SOMCAN)

Sam Fishman, Sustainability and Resilience Policy Manager
SPUR

Nina Atkind, San Francisco Chapter Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Carter Lavin, Co-director
Transbay Coalition

