



October 13, 2023

California Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Moisés Moreno-Rivera
Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs and Border Relations

Re: Support for Pedal Ahead's Environmental Justice Action Grant Application

Dear Ms. Moreno-Rivera:

Climate Action Campaign is a non-profit organization based in San Diego and Orange County with a simple mission: create a zero carbon future through effective and equitable policy action. We are thrilled to offer our support for Pedal Ahead's application for CalEPA funding to implement its *Pedal Ahead San Diego Initiative* to improve health and active transportation outcomes for disadvantaged communities across San Diego.

Climate Action Campaign is committed to providing San Diegans diverse, effective, and eco-friendly transportation options while promoting healthier and more streamlined modes suitable for residents of all ages and abilities. Historically, planning and investments haven't fully addressed the City's transportation necessities, especially in underprivileged areas. This has perpetuated unequal urban planning, leading to varying health and economic outcomes. In the broader San Diego area, a mere 7% of those with lower incomes benefit from speedy and regular transit services, a consequence of a predominantly car-oriented transport system.

As outlined in the City's Climate Action Plan titled "Our Climate, Our Future," San Diego needs to transition away from a vehicle-dominated transport system. The first step involves a clear prioritization of our streets. This means emphasizing and safeguarding the most at-risk means of travel, like walking and cycling and bolstering public transit for peak efficiency and functionality. This strategy wraps up with an emphasis on shared, business, and private electric transport, marking a dedication to move away from combustion engines and fossil fuels entirely.

The proposed project to purchase 100 e-bikes and distribute them to disadvantaged communities aligns perfectly with our climate action strategy, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by offering a sustainable alternative to cars and promoting cleaner air through reduced vehicle emissions. By targeting disadvantaged communities, it also addresses historical inequities, ensuring that the benefits of sustainable transportation are accessible to all, regardless of socioeconomic status. From a health standpoint, e-bikes encourage physical activity, which can lead to improved cardiovascular health and reduced rates of chronic diseases. This is especially important for low-income residents who suffer high rates of pollution burden and poor health outcomes. Furthermore, by enhancing mobility, underserved residents will have better access to essential services, fostering a healthier, more connected community.

The introduction of e-bikes promises both environmental betterment and social equity, making it a cornerstone for a just and sustainable future. I urge all stakeholders to support this forward-thinking proposal.

Sincerely,

Corinna Contreras

Transportation Policy Advocate

Climate Action Campaign