

CLEAN TECH  
LOS ANGELES

Innovate. Accelerate. Impact.

February 21, 2012

Honorable Tony Cardenas, Chair  
Honorable Ed Reyes, Vice Chair  
Honorable Jan Perry, Member  
Honorable Richard Alarcon, Member  
Honorable Herb Wesson, Member  
Housing, Community & Economic Development Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Proposed CDBG funding for the Los Angeles Clean Tech Incubator (LACI)**

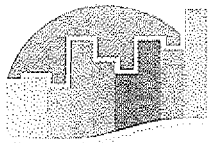
Dear Chairman Cardenas and Members:

I am writing to express the strong support of CleanTech Los Angeles (CTLA) for the proposed \$800,000 in CDBG construction funding for the Los Angeles CleanTech Incubator (LACI).

CleanTech Los Angeles is an organization focused on fostering the development of clean tech businesses in the greater Los Angeles area to support sustainable economic growth and advance clean technology. Supporting LACI is at the core of our mission -- to support start up high-technology businesses and create high-paying quality jobs in Los Angeles. As a coalition of 30 organizations encompassing academia, business, and government, including UCLA, USC, Caltech, JPL, LA Business Council, LA Chamber of Commerce, LA Central City East Association, and more, CTLA has strongly supported the creation of a Los Angeles high-tech business incubator from its beginning. The additional \$800,000 in CDBG funding will allow the construction of the permanent facility to proceed to completion by mid- 2013.

Since its inception in June 2011, with CDBG, CRA/LA, and LADWP funding, LACI has reached promising milestones in attracting private capital and new businesses to Los Angeles:

- Completed hiring of the LACI management team.
- Opened a temporary facility in the Arts District with space for up to nine startup businesses.
- Recruited the first six portfolio cleantech companies: 350Green, ClearWater Holdings, Eliosolar, Gridtest Systems, Hive Lighting, California Lithium Battery. Achieved 50% capacity more than six months ahead of plan.
- LACI has become the hub of Los Angeles cleantech activities as evidenced by a series of events and functions that have drawn together more than 1,000 local, state, and federal participants.
- LACI is receiving substantial interest and support from the most senior officials of the US Department of Energy.
- The permanent home for LACI, a 3.2 acre industrial building, has been purchased and final construction plans are being prepared.



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With the additional CDBG funding, LACI can complete construction documents for the opening of the 3.2 acre permanent facility, the La Kretz Innovation Campus, by June 2013. The La Kretz Innovation Campus is to serve as a cleantech industry hub in Los Angeles—a place where entrepreneurs, engineers, scientists, and policymakers can interact to promote and support the development of clean technologies and LA's green economy.

We hope you will support the proposed additional CDBG funding and help bring the permanent Los Angeles Clean Tech Incubator to fruition.

Sincerely,

Michael Swords  
Chairman  
Clean Tech Los Angeles

Executive Director  
Strategic Research & Global Partnerships  
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of California, Los Angeles

Cc: Honorable Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Mayor  
Members, CleanTech Los Angeles



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February 21, 2012

Hon. Tony Cardenas, Chairman  
Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: February 29, 2012 Agenda Item / CDBG Funding for La Kretz Clean Tech Innovation Campus

Dear Councilman Cardenas and members:

The Arts District Business Improvement District (BID) represents 743 commercial and live-work property owners in the eastern portion of Downtown Los Angeles. These property owners voted in favor of a property tax assessment in order to provide a higher level of services than the City can provide. Through this commitment to neighborhood betterment, the Arts District BID was formed in 2006. The BID now provides maintenance, security, marketing and economic development services spanning 53 blocks bounded roughly by the 101 Freeway, Alameda St., Seventh St., and the Los Angeles River.

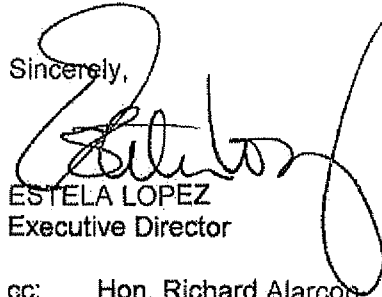
The Le Kretz Clean Tech Innovation Campus, located within the boundaries of the Arts District BID, is destined to be the centerpiece of Los Angeles' Clean Tech Corridor. Your support of \$800,000 in CDBG funding will be important to the continued development of the corridor, the Campus, and the investment Los Angeles has already made in the jobs of the new economy.

The Campus will be the center the City needs to compete for clean tech innovation and commercialization activities. At the Los Angeles Clean Tech Incubator, presently located in a temporary site near the Le Kretz campus property, we are already witnessing the demand for specialized services for emerging clean tech companies, as well as state-of-the-art space to accommodate the needs of these companies. Los Angeles needs a permanent center that will provide strong linkages to the clean tech industry, offering access to potential customers for products and services developed at the Campus.

As noted in an economic impact report completed in October, 2011 for the Los Angeles Clean Tech Incubator, a center that "supports development of a high-wage, high-growth clean technology cluster in the Los Angeles region ... will increase the commercialization of research, accelerate the formation of new high-growth businesses and create high-wage jobs. It will enhance the capacity of small businesses while developing a skilled and diverse workforce."

Your vote on this funding request will speak volumes about Los Angeles' commitment to compete for these jobs and the ideas behind them. If we don't act to support it, we will lose the employment and business opportunities – and the economic growth they bring – to other jurisdictions. I urge your support for this funding, and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Estela Lopez', written over a large, stylized flourish that extends to the right and loops back down.

ESTELA LOPEZ  
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Richard Alarcon  
Hon. Jan Perry  
Hon. Ed Reyes  
Hon. Herb Wesson