

# Meeting 38 February 11, 2025

Featuring CARB & Lawyers for Good Government



# **Purpose**

Interactive 1-hour meetings designed to be a regular space where local governments - and those who work with them - can help each other learn about (and possibly inform) available opportunities to advance their energy and climate goals.

# **TODAY'S AGENDA**

- Opportunity Roundtable
- Jillian Blanchard, Lawyers for Good Government
- Adil Mahmood, CARB
- Submit a proposal for the CCEC Forum! Deadline Extended!
- Optional: Extended 15 minutes for Bonus Breakouts

# **Opportunity Roundtable**

Need/Have Board View all Opportunities

### **Policy Drives Investment**

Agencies Scope/ Design Assistance Programs & Gather Input



Applicants Apply to Funding Solicitation

### State

- FY 21-22 Budget (\$15B climate resilience)
- FY 22-23 Budget (\$38.8B climate change)
- <u>Cap and Trade auction revenue allocations</u>
   (>\$20B raised since 2013)
- FY 23-24 Budget
- FY 24-25 Budget May revise
- State agency proceedings
- CCI Reauthorization
- Proposition 4 Climate Bond
- Wildfire response/recovery

- Governor's 2025-2026 State Budget

(highlights)

### Federal

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- (2021) = \$47B in climate resilience funding
- FY 22-23 Budget (\$44.9B climate change)
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) (2022)
- <u>Biden's Proposed FY 23-24 Budget</u> (\$52.2B climate change)

- Trump Transition

### <u>Funding</u>

- CEC: Reliable, Equitable, and Accessible Charging for Multi-family Housing 3.0 February 14, 2025
- TFN: Partners for Places Matching Grant Program February 28, 2025
- CEC: Technical Assistance for Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Infrastructure Funding February 28, 2025
- USDA: High Energy Cost Grants February 28, 2025
- CalEPA: Environmental Justice Action Grants Round 2 February 28, 2025
- Climate Resilience Fund: Climate Smart Communities Initiative March 3, 2025
- DOE: <u>Career Skills Training Program</u> March 6, 2025
- Robert Wood Johnson Found.: <u>Local Data for Equitable Communities Grants Call for Proposals</u> March 18, 2025
- CEC: FAST 2.0 Fast Available Charging for All Californians March 31, 2025
- DOE: <u>Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Funding</u> concept paper due Feb 27, 2025; app August 28, 2025
- USDA: <u>Community Facilities Program Disaster Repair Grants</u> Available Until Funds are depleted
- State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water State Revolving Fund Water/ Energy Audit Rolling
- DOE: Technical Assistance for the Adoption of Building Energy Codes Rolling
- CCEEJ: Thriving Communities Grant (Region 9 Subawards) Rolling

### **Other Assistance**

- CEC: HEEHRA Phase I Program stackable SF/MF rebates (up to \$8,000)
- Federal Energy and Climate Funding Updates and Resources

### **Input Opportunities**

- Prop 4 survey and workshops (pending)
- Solar for All workshops (pending)





Staff Air Pollution Specialist, CARB

Adil Mahmood



# **Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) State and Local Government**

Adil Mahmood
Staff Air Pollution Specialist
Mobile Source Control Division

# **Advanced Clean Fleets**

- Advanced Clean Fleets Waiver Withdrawal
- State and Local Government (SLG) fleets portion of the regulation remains unaffected
- Annual reporting period for SLG fleets begins March 1, 2025 with a deadline of April 1, 2025
  - SLG fleets following the ZEV Milestones Option should report immediately as the reporting period was in January
- TRUCRS Reporting Information
- Advanced Clean Fleets Fact Sheets
- Please submit questions to ZEVfleet@arb.ca.gov





# **Featured Discussion**



Vice President of Climate Change and Environmental Justice, Lawyers for Good Government

Jillian Blanchard



# **Q&A** and Discussion

# **Audience Prompt:**

Beyond support outlined, what else could help you

Add comments or questions to the chat or raise your hand

### Other Resources that Could Be Helpful

- Tracker for status of fed energy/climate/ej programs
  - Whether programs or portals are accessible for drawdown
  - Whether program awards are not progressing to contracts
- Letter template for agencies illegally withholding payment for work on existing contracts
- Information about the laws that are broken if payments are withheld on existing contracts
- Letter template and guidance for orgs receiving notices about stopping work on DEI (custom letter for Tribes)
- Letter for congressional offices
- An updated list of where orgs can share their stories with contact info (media outlets, congressional offices, NGOs)
- Tracker for economic hardships mounting for awardees and their contractors
- Matchmaking for organizations that wish to collaborate on litigation or legislative efforts

# SAFEGUARDING FEDERAL FUNDING

Update as of Feb. 11, 2025





# Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG)

Goal: Leverage 125,000 legal advocates in all 50 states to ensure the equitable distribution of historic federal funding for climate, infrastructure and water by providing legal resources and assistance to states, local governments, nonprofits, and frontline community grantees.

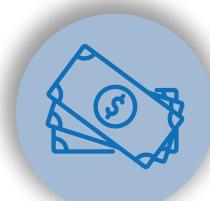


Directly assisted 24 state governments representing 54% of the U.S. population with implementing climate & equity policy



Provided legal guidance to over 700 municipalities and communities on climate project funding

Provided over \$30M in pro bono legal assistance in 2024 alone



Currently represent 13 communities on multiple fed programs in 11 different states & territories



# **Potential Vulnerabilities**

# **FEDERAL FUNDING**

- Funds are not awarded/obligated
- Funds are not allocated/disbursed
- Investigations, inquiries, and audits
- Decreased staff/delay of funds

# TAX CREDITS/DIRECT PAY

- Full repeal of tax credits
- Decreased staff/delay of funds
- L4GG guidance on tax credit status <u>available here</u>









# IRA and IIJA Funding- Efforts to Freeze

- Relevant Executive Orders continue to threaten funding
  - "Unleashing American Energy" and "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI
     Programs and Preferencing" Executive Orders (and others) issued January 20
  - OMB Memo issued January 27, nominally rescinded January 29
- Two lawsuits: 23 State Attorneys General & <u>NGO coalition</u>
  - Treasury's interpretation issued February 2 -- very broad
  - Federal court <u>Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) issued January 31</u> and <u>February 10</u>
     stated that Administration <u>must unpause ALL IRA and IIJA Funding</u>
  - Administration <u>appealed late February 10</u>
- Current state of play: <u>L4GG's Guidance Brief</u>









# **Pre-Clinic Legal Support**

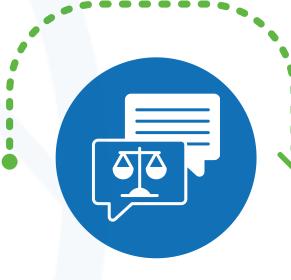
Answering legal questions that grantees in all stages of the process may have leading up to the election.

# **Attorney Training**

~1-2 hours of training on general topics relating to protection of federal funds and pro bono engagement

# **Fund Protection Clinic Launch**

L4GG will launch a Fund Protection Clinic in February/March that will offer more comprehensive, tailored assistance to grantees.















# Webinars and Workshops

Hold a series of ~12 workshops over the next twelve months, starting with financial systems and procurement compliance.

## **Office Hours**

Grantees will have an opportunity to ask webinar presenters questions during topic-specific office hours.





# L4GG'S LEGAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE NOW

# **ACCESSING TAX CREDITS**

# Clean Energy Tax Navigator

- Free, interactive tool for factspecific tax credit guidance
- Use tax credits NOW for 2024 and 2025 projects



# PROTECTING FEDERAL FUNDING

# **Fund Protection Clinic**

- Works directly with federal grantees to protect their funds from potential clawbacks
- Includes services such as:
  - Legal assistance regarding compliance with terms and conditions
  - Defense against potential and actual attacks to federal funding



# EPN'S CRITICAL SUPPORT TO OBLIGATE AWARDS RIGHT NOW





We offer **pro bono 1:1 support,**please email <u>epa-</u>
<u>support@trccompanies.com</u>

Also, please use these **Best**Practices: Steps you take

now to protect your funding

We have also created specific resources, office hours and learning cohorts, for selectees of:

- <u>Climate Pollution Reduction</u> <u>Implementation Grants</u>
- Community Change Grants
- <u>Greenhouse Gas Reduction</u> Fund's Solar for All



# EPN & L4GG'S 1:1 TA

For 1:1 technical assistance, please complete **this form** or scan the QR code below to connect directly

with regional staff

This includes help applying for **Grantmakers \$** 



# Safeguards & What You Can Do

# **IF THIS HAPPENS...**

- Funds are not awarded/obligated
- Funds are not allocated/disbursed
- Investigations, inquiries, and audits
- Decreased staff/delay of funds

# DO THIS...

- Contact EPN for help reaching final award
- Complete <u>this form</u> to stay informed, and <u>email your PO</u> to build records
- Register for TOMORROW's
   <u>Financial Compliance webinar</u>
- Document everything!









# Safeguards & What You Can Do

# **IF THIS HAPPENS...**

- You can share your story with local electeds
- Elective Pay success story & data

Matchmaking with litigators

# DO THIS...

Contact <u>Lilette Consulting</u> for PR help

- Send to <u>Atlas Public Policy</u> or Climate Power
- Contact L4GG we are working with litigators to uplift good stories













# **Email us:**

jillian@L4GG.org larissa@L4GG.org nicole@L4GG.org

# Last Chance for Proposals! CCEC Forum 2025



# etwork

# What's Next?

- Bonus Breakouts up next!
- Next meeting March 11, 2025
- Share <u>invitation</u> with others

See you next time!



# **Optional: Bonus Breakouts**

### Thanks for joining us!

This is a space for informal discussion among the LERN network. Feel free to:

- Offer an announcement, success story, or opportunity
- Share a need for information, collaborators, or advice
- Raise a suggested topic or speaker for future LERNs

If you need an in-depth discussion, you can pitch a specific bonus breakout topic and invite others to join you (today or we can plan ahead for next month)



# **CCEC Serves Local Needs**



wEEkly Update



**CURRENTS Quarterly** 



**Webinars** 



**Annual Forum** 



Active Funding Opportunities



<u>Funding Program</u> <u>Database</u>





Technical Assistance



<u>Technical Assistance</u> <u>Directory</u>



<u>Local Government</u> <u>Roundtables</u>



**Best Practice Database** 



Interviews and Case Studies