



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

October 18, 2021

Wilfred Marshall  
Economic Development Administration  
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890 Seattle, WA 98174-1001

Dear Mr. Marshall,

On behalf of the City of San Diego, I am writing to support the San Diego Regional Policy and Innovation Center's grant application for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) *Build Back Better Challenge*. Their project, "The Coastal Blue-Green Hub: Bridging Blue Economy And Climate Resilience Infrastructure Gaps In Southern California," will create economic opportunities for the City and our surrounding community while strengthening local industry and the environment. The project will also help the City implement our ambitious Climate Action Plan and Climate Resilient SD plan.

Key infrastructure is needed to support our maritime, blue economy, and green infrastructure industries. The City of San Diego has a thriving coastline that is ripe for investment. The proposed project will build upon our history as a center for California fishing, our excellent collaboration with world-class universities, and our long-term commitment to create a resilient region.

The Blue-Green Hub fills critical gaps within our region. The proposal put-forth by the project team will create lasting impacts along our coastline. In partnering with the City, County and Port, the Policy and Innovation Center will be able to quickly implement infrastructure efforts that directly improve our commercial fishing and aquaculture communities. By not only focusing on blue economy projects but also considering where infrastructure projects could protect coastal regions from the impacts of climate change, the regional cluster will ensure that our economy is more resilient from disruption. Also, in leveraging the innovation hubs throughout the region, the regional cluster will ensure that our workforce has the expertise and skills needed to grow this sector beyond the span of the EDA funding.

The support from EDA would provide the critical catalyst needed to grow our emerging blue economy and coastal resilience industries into a national model for creating economic prosperity while addressing equity and climate change. Thank you for your consideration of this transformative project.

Sincerely,

TODD GLORIA  
Mayor  
City of San Diego