

May 8, 2009

California Energy Commission  
Special Projects Office  
Re: EECBG  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

RE: Energy Efficiency Block Grants for Small Cities

To Whom It May Concern:

The Albany City Council urges the California Energy Commission to utilize a per-capita allocation for the energy efficiency block grant funds for small cities. We believe the per-capita option provides for a more equitable allocation of funds to small cities and will effectively enable all of the small cities to constructively utilize funds in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

As inherent to almost any smaller city, Albany has limited staff resources to assign to a competitive grant process that would likely require an extensive amount of preliminary administration in order to develop a competitive application. This lack of staff resources is further heightened by the current status of the economy that faces our state and nation. A per-capita allocation, developed by the CEC and subject to both federal and state requirements, would provide a much more accessible and straightforward opportunity for smaller cities.

The City of Albany prides itself on the amount of action we taken to date regarding climate change. The City has conducted a greenhouse gas emissions baseline inventory, adopted a greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal of 25% below 2004 levels by the year 2020, and is currently in process of developing a comprehensive climate action plan comprised of innovative measures intended to enable the City to achieve its greenhouse gas reduction goals. We foresee energy efficiency block grant funds as a crucial component of pursuing energy efficiency programs within the City as outlined in our climate action plan including development of a residential energy efficiency retrofit program, assistance to commercial facilities regarding energy efficiency, and retrofits to existing municipal facilities and utilities.

We thank you for taking the lead to administer the energy efficiency stimulus funds and appreciate your consideration of this request. We trust that the CEC will develop an equitable approach for all small cities under its purview for the energy efficiency stimulus funds.

Sincerely,

Marge Atkinson  
Mayor