



November 16, 2021

Cal Fire Urban & Community Forestry Program
1416 9th Street
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 92244

Dear Urban Forestry Grant Program Members,

The AB 617 Portside Environmental Justice Steering Committee (Portside Community) supports Urban Corps' Urban Forestry Workforce Development Tree Planting Program and its partnership with the Port of San Diego to plant 20 additional trees at Cesar Chavez Park in Barrio Logan. The Portside Community understands that the trees will be planted outside the open field area so that residents and visitors can continue to enjoy active recreational opportunities, such as frisbee and soccer. Urban greening and tree planting are identified in the Portside Community's Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP), which was adopted by the San Diego Air Pollution Control District's (APCD) Governing Board in July 2021 and by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in October 2021.

In 2018 the Portside Community was selected by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as one of ten communities statewide to participate in the Community Air Protection Program. This program requires new, community-focused actions that go beyond existing State and regional programs to reduce exposure to air pollution in disproportionately burdened communities throughout the State. Additionally, the program is structured to ensure that community members are active partners in envisioning, developing, and implementing actions to clean up the air in their communities.

The Portside Community encompasses parts of Barrio Logan, Logan Heights, Sherman Heights, and National City. The 26-member Portside Community Steering Committee, half of which are local community residents, was established in October 2018 and has been guiding development of the CERP. Planting more trees and increasing shade canopy was identified as a key strategy to improve air quality and to reduce the urban heat island effect. The Portside Community's CERP

has a goal of increasing tree canopy within the community to 35% by 2031. Urban Corps tree planting project is an important first step in helping us reach our longer-term goal.

Sincerely,

Portside Environmental Justice Steering Committee

Cc: Domingo Vigil, San Diego County Air Pollution Control District
Larry Hofreiter, Port of San Diego