

## CITY OF EL CENTRO

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **El Centro Honored for Achievements in Addressing Climate Change**

El Centro, Ca. October 8, 2020 – Today, the City of El Centro received a Beacon Spotlight Award for its achievements in implementing sustainability best practices and dedication to advancing sustainability to help meet aggressive state climate goals. The Institute for Local Government honored El Centro with a Silver Level Award for Sustainability Best Practices, recognizing the city's comprehensive efforts to create a more sustainable and resilient community. The Institute applauded El Centro's work in a variety of areas including developing sustainable programs for waste reduction, hosting an Environmental Education Program for youth, and implementing an Active Transportation Plan/Safe Routes to School Plan. "We as a city are very proud to be honored with this award and look forward to many more projects like this that makes living in El Centro a great place to be" stated Mayor Efrain Silva.

In addition to participating in the Beacon Program, the City of El Centro is also part of ILG's BOOST Pilot Program a joint endeavor of the Institute for Local Government (ILG) and the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) to help local governments address California's climate change and equity goals. Through the BOOST Program, the city has embarked on additional efforts to secure funding for housing and infrastructure projects and engage residents in discussions about the future of the city. The city's participation in both programs provides additional resources to assist with climate and resilience initiatives.

"Current events across the state such as record setting heat waves, devastating wildfires and extremely poor air quality underscore the importance of implementing both proven and innovative policies and practices to move the needle on climate change," says Erica L. Manuel, CEO and Executive Director of the Institute for Local Government. "ILG is proud to partner with our local government colleagues to help them achieve local and state goals to make California more resilient and sustainable for all residents."

Currently, 161 cities and counties throughout the state participate in the Beacon Program. The Institute for Local Government established the Beacon Program to create a framework to assist local governments in setting goals, documenting progress and sharing best practices that create healthier, more efficient, vibrant communities. To win a full Beacon Award, participants are required to demonstrate achievement in five areas: Agency Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Agency Energy Savings, Natural Gas Savings and Sustainability Best Practices.

To learn more about the City of El Centro achievements visit: [www.ca-ilg.org/beacon-participant-profile/city-el-centro](http://www.ca-ilg.org/beacon-participant-profile/city-el-centro).

### **About the City of El Centro**

The City of El Centro is a vibrant, multicultural, medium sized, desert community near the US-Mexico border. As the Imperial County seat, it is the core urban area for the region. With two major international border crossings nearby, it is home to retail, transportation and large agricultural industries. El Centro is exploring opportunities to deepen its relationship with state agencies and strives to create a healthier community.

### **About the Institute for Local Government**

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) is the non-profit training and education affiliate of the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties and the California Special Districts Association, which represent 1000s of local agencies across the state. ILG helps local government leaders navigate the constantly changing landscape of their jobs by offering training, technical assistance, written resources and facilitation services specifically designed for local agencies. From leadership to public engagement to housing and workforce, ILG helps local leaders address a wide range of complex issues. Visit [www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org) to find out more.

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