



City of El Centro  
1275 W. Main Street  
El Centro, CA. 92243

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### City of El Centro Selected for New Program to Help Under-Resourced Communities Address Climate Change

El Centro, CA – December 18, 2019 - The City of El Centro is pleased to announce its selection as one of 12 California communities along with the cities of Arcata, Arvin, Bakersfield, East Palo Alto, Coachella Valley, Town of Mammoth Lakes, Paramount, Salinas, San Diego, San Joaquin Valley and Ventura to participate in the BOOST (Build, Organize, Optimize, Strengthen, and Transform) Pilot Program – a new partnership of the Institute for Local Government (ILG) and the California Strategic Growth Council (SCG) to help local governments build capacity to develop and secure funding for projects that provide access to clean air and water, clean transportation, affordable housing, and economic opportunity in alignment with the state’s equity and environmental goals.

The BOOST Pilot Program will help communities: **Build** awareness of funding opportunities to address climate action; **Organize** projects to be best positioned to meet its goals; **Optimize** existing resources and build more capacity; **Strengthen** relationships with key stakeholders and identify new opportunities for regional engagement and collaboration; and **Transform** their approach to addressing climate action.

“The City of El Centro is looking forward to benefit from the Institute of Local Government’s expertise in finding right-size solutions to challenges that the City is tackling and the City is committed to utilizing the BOOST partnership to secure future funding for projects that will improve our community’s quality of life” stated Mayor Efrain Silva.

“In El Centro, the BOOST partnership will focus on providing support, consultation, and technical assistance to City staff and officials. BOOST will facilitate connections to regional and state agencies in preparing a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and accessing funding from the California Climate Investments program for sustainability, infill development and other projects” stated City Manager Marcela Piedra. Also, the partnership will provide consultation with the city’s public outreach efforts related to the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

“The Institute for Local Government is excited to partner with the California Strategic Growth Council and City of El Centro” said Erica L. Manuel, CEO and Executive Director of the Institute for Local Government. “Over the last decade ILG has gathered promising practices and lessons learned about sustainability through our flagship Beacon Program for cities and counties. We look forward to using that expertise to support, and BOOST, communities across California.”

“Communities across California are working to achieve sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and a high quality of life for their residents, but not all have the same ability to do so,” said Louise Bedsworth, Executive Director of California Strategic Growth Council. “BOOST will provide customized

support to help communities develop the compelling, fundable projects that can lead to healthy thriving, and resilient communities.”

The BOOST pilot program is funded through a \$1 million appropriation by the California Legislature in the Budget Act of 2018 (SB 856) from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which is administered through California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health outcomes, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Find out more about the BOOST Program at [www.ca-ilg.org/BOOST](http://www.ca-ilg.org/BOOST).

### **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 officials and staff 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 with a wide range of issues. Visit [www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org) to find out more.

### **About the California Strategic Growth Council**

The [California Strategic Growth Council \(SGC\)](http://www.sgc.ca.gov) is a cabinet-level body chaired by the Director of the California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research tasked with coordinating and working collaboratively with public agencies, communities, and stakeholders to achieve sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians with a focus on the state’s most disadvantaged communities. SGC implements its mission through four key activities: making investments in infrastructure and conservation programs; conducting outreach and providing technical assistance to support of communities seeking to access these investments; and leading and supporting integrated policy initiatives that align with SGC’s mission. [www.sgc.ca.gov](http://www.sgc.ca.gov)

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