



Commissioner Carmen Rubio
City of Portland

March 9, 2022

To: Taren Evans, Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC)
Richa Poudyal, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)
Sergio Lopez, Verde
William Miller, Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)
Jay Brannon, NAACP Portland Chapter 1120B
Huy Ong, OPAL Environmental Justice
Laura Stevens, Sierra Club
Micah Meskel, Portland Audubon
David De La Torre, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Indigo Namkoong, 350PDX
Dan Serres, Columbia Riverkeeper

Re: Response to PCEF call to action

Dear PCEF Coalition members,

I want to thank you for your incredible leadership in bringing the Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) to life in 2018 with the support of 65% of Portland voters. Your efforts are a testament to the visionary climate leadership from our communities of color. It goes without saying that you continue to be valued partners in supporting the City's strong implementation of PCEF in alignment with community values.

I also thank you for calling out the need to explore structural changes as a result of recently updated revenue projections for PCEF. While I have been in active conversations with program staff regarding PCEF's growth, I appreciate the community leadership, guidance and support for this conversation. Given the updated and increased revenue projections, I believe we have a collective and unprecedented opportunity to move more urgently, and more aggressively, to tackle our carbon emissions and better prepare our community for increasing climate-related extreme weather events.

I also believe we must be intentional and thoughtful as we explore changes to ensure that we remain aligned with the original ballot measure intent. Today, I am directing BPS staff managing the PCEF program to:

1. Develop a workplan and timeframe to identify structural changes that will increase investment in carbon mitigation projects.
2. Begin outlining options for structural changes for the PCEF Committee's consideration to enable accelerated funding of carbon-mitigation projects that benefit Portland's Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, and people with low incomes.
3. Work with the PCEF Committee to develop a community-engagement plan to evaluate options for structural changes that centers organizations working with Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, people with low incomes, and people who experience disabilities.
4. Work with the PCEF Committee and my office to present recommended structural changes to City Council by December 2022.

I look forward to your continued support in helping us realize PCEF's vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carmen Rubio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carmen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Rubio".

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