

September 14, 2022

San Antonio City Council
100 Military Plaza
San Antonio, TX 78205

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We write today in strong support of Council Member Mario Bravo's proposal to use additional revenue from CPS Energy to help low income customers, reduce urban heat, and increase climate resiliency.

San Antonio is locked in a vicious cycle from climate change. As temperatures rise, our air conditioners have to work harder, drawing more electricity from our power plants, which in turn pump out more of the greenhouse gasses responsible for global warming. And as San Antonioans use more electricity, our bills go up.

Council Member Bravo's proposal is a great opportunity to help break the cycle and move San Antonio toward a safer, cleaner, more affordable future. Recently the city council voted to continue CPS Energy's STEP programs for another five years at \$70 million per year but many of our organizations believed more could have been done and this proposal will help ensure that more is done to help CPS Energy customers. The SA Climate Ready Plan lays out the path toward that future, but it's up to Council to take big steps to move us along. Bravo's proposal smartly includes:

- \$7.5 million to provide **utility bill assistance for low income customers**,
- \$8.5 million to convert local buildings into **solar powered community resilience centers** to serve as heating or cooling centers during severe weather events like Winter Storm Uri,
- \$13 million in **residential weatherization and efficiency upgrades** to lower electric bills and reduce use of polluting power plants,
- \$13 million to **fight deadly urban heat** through a tree planting campaign
- \$8 million to fund the first year of Council Member Ana Sandoval's proposed Dedicated Resiliency, Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Fund, which will help **leverage new federal funds made** available by the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

We understand that there are other worthy uses of this revenue from CPS Energy and you have to make some tough choices, but we're convinced that Council Member Bravo's proposal makes smart, strategic investments which will pay dividends to the community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Luke Metzger
Executive Director, Environment Texas

DeeDee Belmares
Climate Justice Organizer, Public Citizen

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Christopher Mayorga
Organizer, Climate Justice San Antonio

Cyrus Reed
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Lexy Garcia
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Alex Birnel
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Diana Lopez
Executive Director, Southwest Workers Union

David Sanchez
Texas State Director, NextGen America

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Texas Political Director, Environmental Defense Fund

Stefania Tomaskovic
Director, Coalition for Environment, Equity and Resilience

State Senator Roland Gutierrez

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Sunrise SA

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Steering Committee, San Antonio DSA