



July 17, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Support for Nomination of Opportunity Zones 2.0 in the Green Empowerment Zone**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Governing Board of the Green Empowerment Zone, we extend our strong support for the nominations of Opportunity Zones (OZs) from the Green Empowerment Zone.

The Green Empowerment Zone Governing Board, established under state law, is composed of representatives from Federal, State and local government, industry, labor unions, community, workforce organizations, state agencies and educational institutions. Our goal is to attract clean energy manufacturing to the industrial waterfront areas of Contra Costa and Solano Counties.

The Green Empowerment Zone represents one of the state's most viable areas to prioritize access to this federal tax incentive, as there are 9 cities and 1 county with eligible census tracts for nomination for Opportunity Zones 2.0.

Our region is home to critical industrial areas, infrastructure and energy-related businesses, and vacant and underutilized properties. We are also home to a regional concentration of highly skilled workers in the California Jobs First strategic sectors.

Leveraging these existing assets allows California to prioritize access to tax incentives in areas that are uniquely positioned to attract private-sector clean energy investment, while also rewarding long-term patient capital in areas in need of economic revitalization.

The OZs will assist areas like ours where public and private dollars will be best utilized in a coordinated effort to support the development of the clean energy economy. The inclusion of census tracts within the Green Empowerment Zone also sends a strong signal to those projects and programs that are uniquely positioned to improve the economic vitality of our area that they have priority access to tax incentives.

We stand ready to work collaboratively with GO-Biz to promote our region for private sector investment in the renewable energy sector, market the Green Empowerment Zone's shovel-ready sites, and support efforts to grow the California Jobs First strategic sectors.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to community revitalization in historically underserved areas, job creation, and sustained economic growth.

Sincerely,

JOHN GIOIA
Chair, Governing Board of the Green Empowerment Zone
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, District One