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Subject: Letter of Support for LBUD's Direct Install Garden's (DIG) USBR 2024 WEEG Grant Application

Wrigley Association is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Long Beach Utilities Department's (LBUD) Bureau of Reclamation's (UBSR) Water and Energy Efficiency Grant for Fiscal Year 2024 in support of the Direct Install Gardens (DIG) Program (Project).

The DIG program will provide water-wise landscape conversions free to residents within the LBUD service area to reduce water consumption, lower consumer water bills, and mitigate climate change effects. This program will prioritize particularly vulnerable residential units whose inhabitants are currently experiencing negative health impacts such as higher rates of respiratory illness and cardiovascular disorders, which are exacerbated by increasing temperatures, pollution, and severely limited greenspace characterizing the surrounding environment, all of which will be intensified by climate change.

The Project addresses the environmental justice issue of the disproportionate impact climate change has on urban disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities that do not have access to proportionate open spaces with urban forests or greenery as well as communities that are adjacent to areas of mass transportation/transit, such as communities like ours within the I-710 corridor.

Our Mission: The Wrigley Association is a 501 C4 non-profit organization, (CA State ID # 1673284) whose mission is to promote the common interest, instill pride, establish and encourage the highest standards in Wrigley. To foster an active understanding of citizenship and civic responsibility. To oppose and discourage discrimination and to create a sense of belonging. To promote higher business standards and encourage uniformity and cooperation among merchants, property owners and residents. To eliminate crime, promote community pride, and develop wholesome, enjoyable, cultural, social, and physical activities.

Turf removal is a growing response to the State of California's water crises. This round of the DIG program will convert 20,000 square feet of turf to climate resilient gardens which will save approximately 2.8 of acre-feet of water per year. In addition to water savings, this program provides environmental restoration, climate resilience, green job opportunities, beautification, urban cooling effects, air quality improvements, and carbon sequestration to help mitigate the effects of climate change on the local environment. Program demand continues to outstrip the Department's existing financial allocations.

We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to consider LBUD's timely grant proposal, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wrigley Association

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