

March 23, 2009

Mayor Gavin Newsom
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carl B. Goodlett Place, Suite 200
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Equity, Job Quality and Transparency in ARRA Implementation

Dear Mayor Newsom:

We are an alliance of community and worker organizations rooted in San Francisco's diverse working class neighborhoods--Chinatown, the Mission District, Bayview Hunter's Point and the Excelsior and Portola Districts—where working families have borne the brunt of the economic crisis locally. Despite their efforts and determination, increasingly many in our communities are becoming unemployed, underemployed or trapped in low-wage jobs with poor benefits and few opportunities for advancement. The current \$787 billion American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) and its emphasis on green jobs offers a hopeful opportunity in steering our nation and City onto the path of sustained economic recovery.

With your commitment to expand clean energy and green businesses in San Francisco, the federal recovery plan can create hundreds of green jobs over the next few years and significantly boost the local green industry sector. To maximize benefits from public investments in the green economy, jobs that are created must be targeted and accessible to San Francisco's economically distressed communities, particularly young, immigrant, people of color, and older workers. **We ask for your commitment to work with the community to ensure that ARRA funds create green jobs and opportunities primarily for low-income people and people of color.**

Stimulus funds need to be used smartly, not just in short sighted "shovel-ready" projects, but also through investments in long-term community development that builds pathways out of poverty. High quality job standards ensure that workers, their families and entire communities are self-sufficient and healthy. **We ask for your commitment to work with the community to ensure that ARRA funds create high quality jobs with family-supporting wages and benefits, safe and healthy working conditions and career ladders.**

The American people and President Obama have called for the highest level of transparency and accountability in the use of the recovery funds. An inclusive public process with *significant, meaningful community input* will ensure that the opportunities provided by ARRA are fully realized. There should be timely and accurate reporting, accounting, and disclosure of the City's return on its investment. The real benefits to working class communities must be assessed through specific criteria for percentage and quality of jobs created relative to stimulus dollars invested. **We ask for your commitment to greater transparency and community input in shaping and monitoring the infusion of ARRA funds for San Francisco's developing green collar economy.**

As a first step toward these commitments, we ask for you to hold a public hearing by April 6, 2009 where specific information will be presented about the use of ARRA funds and how these funds will benefit low-income communities and communities of color.

We look forward to working with you to strengthen and expand a green economy for all in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

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cc: Supervisor Mar and other members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors