



**Subject: Letter of Support for EPA Wildfire Smoke Preparedness in Community Buildings**

Dear Ms. Ann Lee,

On behalf of the **Altadena Town Council**, I am pleased to express my support to the application of CORE Community Organized Relief Effort in response to the *Environmental Protection Agency Wildfire Smoke Preparedness in Community Buildings* opportunity. The **Altadena Town Council (ATC)** is confident that, if selected for funding, CORE's project activities, with our support in identifying education opportunities and local buildings, will meaningfully expand knowledge about the impacts of wildfire smoke and equip local buildings to be more resilient to smoke. This initiative will reduce indoor exposure to pollutants in wildfire smoke, reducing the overall public health burden of wildfire smoke exposure.

**ATC** is a locally elected volunteer advisory body that represents the residents of Altadena. Altadena lies in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone along the Wildland–Urban Interface of the San Gabriel Mountains, making it vulnerable to fast-moving wildfires. In addition to direct fire risk, the community frequently experiences unhealthy air quality from both local and regional wildfire smoke, sometimes lasting days. While catastrophic events like the 2025 Eaton Fire are rare, the impacts are severe, and even routine smoke exposure poses public health risks. This makes targeted preparedness and mitigation efforts in Altadena essential.

**ATC** has worked with CORE through its LA Wildfires Recovery work to support families impacted by the Eaton Fire. We appreciate CORE's achievements and are pleased to support their application to the EPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nic Arnzen".

Nic Arnzen  
*Chair, Altadena Town Council*  
Nic.arnzen@altadenatowncouncil.org



## Vote Tally

Approve - Marona, Greene, Yu, Vega, Cippola, Whirledge, Wong, Carmody, Anderson, Sutherlen, Mahramas, Wilkins

Oppose – Moulden, Stewart-Gordon

Abstain –

Missing Vote – Marcussen

***Chair chooses to vote in the event of a tie***

## Letters of Opposition

### ***Councilmember Moulden***

I respectfully submit a 'No' vote on this item and ask that this statement be read into the record by the Secretary, as has been our standard practice.

This position is not a reflection of opposition to wildfire smoke preparedness funding, nor to the important work of community-based organizations. In fact, the opportunity itself—focused on improving indoor air quality, supporting smoke readiness, and protecting public health—is one that aligns deeply with the needs of Altadena.

However, the issue before us is not the intent of the funding, it is the process and accountability surrounding our endorsement.

At this time, the Council has not been provided with the actual grant application from CORE, including their project narrative, their scope of work, identified community buildings, implementation plan, or community engagement strategy. Without this, we are effectively being asked to support a proposal without understanding how funds (potentially in the range of hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars) would be used within our community.

That is not a responsible position for this body to take.



Endorsing an application under these conditions amounts to approving what can only be described as a blank check, and that is precisely the concern we have consistently heard from residents. The community has been clear in expressing frustration about outside organizations entering Altadena, applying for funding in its name, and moving forward without meaningful transparency or community input.

We should not reinforce that concern, we should be correcting it.

At a minimum, any organization seeking formal support from the Altadena Town Council should:

- Present their full proposal publicly
- Clearly identify the sites, scope, and intended impact
- Engage the community in advance of endorsement
- Allow space for questions, feedback, and accountability

There should be no more private meetings, no more rushed requests, and no more last-minute votes of endorsement without a clearly defined plan. This grant opportunity was made public Jan 30th, 2026.

Our role is not simply to support funding—it is to ensure that funding is aligned with the needs, priorities, and trust of the community we represent.

Until that standard is met, I cannot support this request.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Isis Moulden

Altadena Town Council

***Councilmember Stewart-Gordon***

I OPPOSE for the following reasons :



Good morning

I understand that they verbally said one thing and the paperwork says another. Are they willing to put what they stated in writing. Also, would they be willing to specify how much of those funds are gonna be used for this purpose?

Because if we're cosigning, we need to ensure that Altadena is going to benefit. Also do we know if they've asked any other entities to sign on? With a potential to receive 300,000 to almost 3 million for this Grant they can easily distribute a few inexpensive portable air purifiers give a few classes and they're done.

I would like for ATC to still see the plan that they submitted for the Grant. Also I would like to see public buildings as well as businesses in Altadena which The public frequent receive services other than air purifier portable

Most of the community buildings are owned by LA County. I would like to see confirmed if LA County will allow CORE to come in and physically touch their buildings. For total transparency, not relying on anyone's word administrations personnel changes can happen at a whim

I would like for the Council to initiate when a nonprofit or any entity request our support for grant money in the name of Altadena Eaton fire survivors. They need to submit the package with whom/what funds they are applying for as well as come before the Council to inform the residence of Altadena of what their requesting.

Vi

(Councilmember Stewart-Gordon)



## Chair's Remarks

The letter of support was for the only applicant seeking the funds from the EPA program. If the applicant is successful, it would bring those funds to Altadena and the region to better prepare, educate, and equip our public buildings from the harmful impact of smoke damage and seek to provide safer less harmful spaces. Without this effort through CORE Altadena would not see any of the funds make their way to our town.

CORE has agreed to partner with the Town Council to best reach out to the community and identify the best use of these funds. While not contractual, those intentions have been mentioned multiple times in emails to the Town Council. Chair was encouraged that Council voted in favor to support this effort as a top priority should be to uplift these types of efforts on behalf of our community.

This letter was considered and voted aside from regular council meeting due to the urgent nature and timeframe for submission. This is NOT the preferred method and Council is discussing formalization of preferred process that would include suggested exceptions.