



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 25, 2024  
Ernie Hernandez, City Manager  
323-722-4805

### **City of Commerce hosts Bandini Park event announcing \$500 million in federal funding for southern California air regulators**

On Monday, July 22, the City of Commerce hosted U.S. Senator Alex Padilla and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) as they celebrated \$500 million in federal funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for southern California air regulators.

Located between the I-5 Freeway to downtown LA and the I-710 to the Port of Long Beach, the City of Commerce is a major economic hub within Los Angeles County. With industries ranging from manufacturing to retail, Commerce is home to over 2,000 businesses that employ more than 50,000 people, contributing over \$1.9 billion in annual taxable sales. This investment from the EPA serves as a major advancement in supporting local commercial development while upholding air quality standards to ensure a healthy environment for City of Commerce and southern California residents.

“The City of Commerce was proud to host this event as a leader in industrial progress in southern California,” said Mayor Hugo Argumedo. “This substantial financial assistance toward zero-emission infrastructure promotes the well-being of our community by ensuring our residents can live, work and play in a healthy environment without sacrificing the functions that support our economy.”

As part of the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program, the \$500 million will address air quality maintenance in the transportation and freight sectors. The

distribution of these federal fiscal resources fosters the national and local goal to reduce the emissions that contribute to climate change.

This regional grant comes as part of the EPA's distribution of \$4.3 billion in climate grants nationwide, of which South Coast AQMD received the largest allotment. The Inflation Reduction Act, signed by President Joe Biden in August of 2022, paved the way for these funds to be distributed. With the funding, the South Coast AQMD plans to deliver incentives to businesses to transition away from diesel-powered engines, which is predicted to reduce more than 12 million metric tons of carbon emissions and avoid burning more than one billion gallons of fuel between 2025 and 2050.

"We shouldn't have to choose between being a pivotal part of our nation's economy and having clean air for our children to breathe. We can do both. We must do both," said Senator Padilla at Monday's event. Through the aid of Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, the goods movement in the City of Commerce and the southern California region can innovate toward a cleaner future that increases efficiency and creates jobs.

Explore the EPA's current and upcoming funding opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act and more at [epa.gov/invest](https://epa.gov/invest).

Learn about the City of Commerce's mission for economic development and how we're going green as one of the "Most Business Friendly" cities according to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) at <https://www.ci.commerce.ca.us/city-hall/economic-development-and-planning>.