



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

To: California Strategic Growth Council Members

From: Lynn von Koch-Liebert, SGC Executive Director

Re: Executive Director Report to the Council – June 29, 2023

Organizational and Staffing Updates

- SGC welcomed the following summer interns and student assistants. SGC's paid summer internship program advances its goal to create a more equitable and diverse workplace.
 - Atia Fairuz, Student Assistant – Email Marketing, Communications & External Affairs Team
 - Chynell Freeman, Student Assistant – Social Media, Communications & External Affairs Team
 - Angel Manuel De Dios, Intern – Community Resilience Centers
 - Nikolay Galstev, Intern – Legislative Team
 - Rachel Patterson, Intern – Legal Team
 - Soni Chaturvedi, Intern – Legal Team

Investment Program Updates

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC)

Staff: Marc Caswell, Shep Wilbun, Jessica Lopez, Justin DeWaele, Brianne Logasa, and California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) Staff Team

- Round 7 AHSC applications were due on April 4, 2023, with approximately \$750 million in available funds. In total, AHSC received a total of 53 applications requesting nearly \$2.5 billion in funding requests across the State. After review, 15 projects were considered fatally flawed and determined ineligible. Of the remaining 38 projects, staff have completed Threshold Review and were sent an Initial Score Letter earlier this month with an opportunity to appeal any reduction in scoring from staff.
- Staff will present a list of projects recommended for awards to the SGC Council at the August 30, 2023 Council Meeting, with staff seeking to inform applicants of their award status in time to plan for the Spring deadlines of the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee.

Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)

Staff: Jerry Rivero, Jennifer Kim, Sarah Newsham, Anna Jane Jones, Rebecca Avilés, Jessica Ison, and California Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff Team

- Round 5 TCC application cycle underway:
 - Prospective applicants continue to indicate their interest by filling out the [Application Initiation Form](#). Technical assistance (TA) providers continue to connect with applicants through this form.
 - 14 prospective Implementation Grant applicants submitted *Pre-Proposals* on May 1. SGC and TA providers provided feedback mid-May.
 - Final applications are due August 1, 2023.
- Round 5 TCC Application Outreach and Technical Assistance is underway:

- Program Staff have been hosting weekly TCC Application online “Office Hours”, starting Tuesday, March 14.
- Unincorporated applicants are now able to submit local data to establish Project Area eligibility and get it pre-approved by SGC. The last day to submit local data to SGC is July 11.
- Tribal applicants are now able to submit modifications for certain requirements. The last day to submit a modification to SGC is June 30.
- Staff continue to work with Round 4 awardees through the post-award consultation process. Two (2) grant agreements have been signed and executed, with several more expected to be signed by the end of June.
- For the first time, the TCC program offered in Round 4 a "Post-Award Support Grant" of \$100,000 to Implementation Grantees (and their subrecipients) to support the detailed development and execution of an SGC grant agreement. Support Grants for Richmond and South LA Round 4 Grantees will close-out this June.
- Staff celebrated project milestones with TCC Implementation Grant Sites:
 - Fresno: April 28, 2023: Transform Fresno (TCC Round 1 Implementation Grant, \$66.5M) hosted their annual [program Summit](#). The Summit featured a six-stop tour to projects in the Southwest Fresno project area with partners and community members.
 - Stockton: May 1, 2023: Stockton Rising, a Round 3 and Round 4 TCC Implementation Grant recipient, co-hosted an inaugural summit with the Stockton Mobility Collective to share data about project progress, celebrate milestones and successes, discuss lessons learned, and how to use these lessons to promote a vision for the future of Stockton. Stockton Rising invited SGC Deputy Director of Community Investments and Planning, Amar Azucena Cid, to give opening remarks.
 - Sacramento: May 31, 2023: The Sacramento Housing Redevelopment Authority (SHRA) and partners celebrated the completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the Mirasol Village housing development, which includes TCC-funded units. The grand opening included a speaker program of project supporters, ribbon cutting, and site tours. SHRA invited SGC Executive Director Lynn von Koch-Liebert to speak and give remarks on behalf of the Transformative Climate Communities Program.
 - June 2023: UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation released the [2023 Annual Progress Reports for TCC grantees](#). Other Evaluation TA providers are expected to submit their reports subsequently in the following month.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

Staff: Shanna Atherton-Bauer (DOC) and Department of Conservation Staff

- SALC staff closed five easement projects between April 28 and June 7. These projects have resulted in the permanent conservation of approximately 2,140 acres of agricultural land in three counties.
- SALC Acquisition Pre-Proposals were due June 16.

Climate Change Research Program (CCR)

Staff: Elizabeth Grassi, Montrai Spikes, Emely Anico, Natalie Obaldia, and Diana Zamora-Reyes

- The CCR team hosted project Exit Presentations for its four [Round 2 grantees](#). These events were an opportunity for grantees to share project outcomes with executive and legislative staff working on climate policy. Each grantee developed a two-page summary sheet describing



project outcomes and videos of these presentations will be uploaded to SGC’s YouTube channel for public viewing. More than 55 executive and legislative staff attended these presentations, and videos of the project presentation will be uploaded on the YouTube platform.

- CCR executed an Interagency Agreement with University of California’s Office of the President to further facilitate and leverage research partnerships and advance CCR’s Participatory Research to Policy Model in the \$80 million state funded UC Climate Action Seed and Matching Grants. The agreement funds:
 - \$200,000 for ten (10) Community-Engaged Hero Award Supplements that support community engagement methods and techniques, integration of community/end-user knowledge, emphasis on solution-oriented alternatives, and communicating research analysis and findings in ways that can be understood by communities and/or end users.
 - \$50,000 to develop a community engagement in climate action platform, furnishing researchers with a suite of useful tools and resources to enhance community engagement in climate action research across the system and the state.
- The CCR team continues to lead the engagement efforts of California’s Fifth Climate Change Assessment:
 - On June 6, the Fifth Assessment team released the [RFP for Core Climate Research](#), led by CNRA, to fund original climate research aligned with the [26 priority topics](#) identified as gaps in the scientific literature. This will inform other Assessment products, such as the regional and topical reports. A [webinar on this RFP](#) was held on June 13.
 - A Request for Information (RFI) closed on May 31, including 4 virtual listening sessions, to gather public input on the scope and structure of the Regional Synthesis reports, such as regional themes, local priority issues, and author team set up.
 - From July-September 2023, the Fifth Assessment team will host nine in-person regional workshops across the Assessment regions to invite the public to review the draft framework for the Regional Synthesis Reports, identify local priorities that can be addressed through the Fifth Assessment, and connect potential author teams.

Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program

Staff: Coral Abbott, Lisa Hu, Dora Monterroza, Jess McCool, and Jessica Cervantes

- Following the April 26 Council adoption of the [CRC Round 1 Final Guidelines](#), staff developed and released a [CRC Grant Type Guide](#), comprehensive webpage update, and [press release](#) with the Governor’s Office to ensure potential applicants are aware of the program.
- Staff also developed and released the [Round 1 Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#), [Intent to Apply Survey](#), [Technical Assistance Request Form](#), and [Implementation Grant Pre-Proposal application](#). Pre-proposals are now due August 25 at 11:59pm PT. Staff aim to release Full applications for all 3 CRC grant types on July 5 and close September 5 at 11:59pm PT per the NOFA.
- Staff have recorded and posted a webinar describing the CRC Round 1 program, updated timeline, and demo of the [CRC program webpage update](#). Staff will host virtual office hours to invite questions from interested applicants. Staff will also develop additional communications and application materials to support Round 1 applicants.
- CRC has secured a third-party contractor, Civix, through competitive RFP processes for both CRC Application Technical Assistance, and CRC grant administration. The grant administration



contract includes additional scope to develop SGC’s capacity to administer future rounds of CRC grants.

- Staff are conducting tailored outreach to ensure diverse CRC applications, including presenting at meetings and attending community events hosted by Tribes, counties, cities, communities, and other networks like the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and California Department of Social Services’ (CDSS) Disaster Services Branch meetings. Staff will also present at upcoming conferences and forums to spotlight the new funding opportunity.
- Staff continue to coordinate closely with SGC teams and OPR staff on ICARP’s Adaptation Planning Grants, Regional Resilience Grants, and Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Grants programs to share best practices, public input, and align funding.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)

Staff: Kirin Kumar, Ena Lupine, Blanca Escobedo, Markie Price, Nancy Cheng, Sarah Risher

- **Regional Climate Collaboratives Program Round 2 Draft Guidelines:** Staff released the RCC Round 2 Draft Program Guidelines for public comment March 15 – April 15 and held a series of public workshops to gather feedback on the draft Guidelines in late March and early April. Staff integrated stakeholder feedback into the document and are bringing the final RCC R2 Guidelines to Council for approval at the June 29 Meeting. Staff plan to post NOFA and launch the application process on Thursday, July 6. Pre-proposals will be due September 6 and Full applications will be due December 6. Staff plan to bring proposed awards to the February 2024 Council Meeting.
- **Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program:** This new pilot program will provide funding and tailored technical assistance to tribes, assisting them in advancing their climate objectives. The goal of the program is to support tribes build long-term readiness to secure grant funds to implement tribal-led climate solutions. CACE staff released a Request for Information (RFI) on May 22 to inform the development of the program. The RFI includes Draft Grant Guidelines and questions to inform the development of a technical assistance provider solicitation for the Tribal Capacity Building Program. The public comment period will be open for 90 days, until August 22. Staff held Tribal workshops throughout the month of June, and has a final workshop scheduled for June 30. Staff plan to bring a final version of the program guidelines to Council for approval at the October Council Meeting.
- **Technical Assistance (TA) Guidelines Update:** CACE staff are working on drafting an update to the Technical Assistance Guidelines and aim to finalize this TA Guidelines update by August 2023.
- **BOOST:** Round 2 of BOOST ends at the end of June and SGC plans to release a final report and a blog post in July highlighting successes and lessons learned for this round, which provided tailored capacity building and technical assistance support to the cities of Barstow, La Puente, Maywood, McFarland, Needles, Rialto and South San Francisco.
- **Partners Advancing Climate Equity:** Staff are working on the development of a solicitation for TA Providers to implement Round 2 of the PACE program, which will be released later this year.



Collaborative Policy Initiatives

Health and Equity Program (HEP)

Staff: Kirin Kumar, Jazmine Garcia Delgadillo, Michael Jimenez, and Kimberli Davila.

Health in All Policies (HiAP)

Staff: SGC partners with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Institute (PHI) to staff the Health in All Policies Task Force. The Task Force brings together almost 30 agencies, departments, and commissions to integrate health and racial equity considerations into programs and policies that advance State priorities.

- **HiAP Task Force Quarterly Meeting.** HEP, in collaboration with CDPH and PHI, held a virtual interagency HiAP Task Force Quarterly Convening on Wednesday, June 28. During this meeting, HiAP Task Force members heard from City of Richmond staff about the City of Richmond's HiAP Strategy. The Task Force had an opportunity to learn about City of Richmond's HiAP approach, including their racial equity work with the [Government Alliance on Race and Equity](#), their Office of Neighborhood Safety, and their Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. The Task Force also had an opportunity to hear updates from the Office of Data and Innovation on the recommendations for a race and ethnicity data standard developed to fulfill Governor Newsom's Executive Order [N-16-22](#). HiAP Task Force members revisited HiAP Workgroup Action Plans, discussed progress to date, and continued to discuss and plan for additional strategies to pursue. The next HiAP Task Force Quarterly Convening is tentatively scheduled to be in-person, on Thursday, August 31.
- **HiAP Task Force Workgroups Convene Monthly.** The [Grant Program, Contract, and Funding Equity](#) and [Equity in Data and Access to Information](#) workgroups that are hosted within the HiAP Task Force have continued to meet monthly. Workgroups are finalizing action plans and have begun to work on short-term actions. During the Grant Program, Contract, and Funding Equity meeting in May, the HiAP Task Force heard a presentation from SGC staff on the [SGC Catalyst Conference Summary Report](#) and had an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Meanwhile, the Equity in Data and Access to Information workgroup heard an update on the [Caltrans Equity Index](#) and learned from their development process.
- **Integration of Health and Racial Equity Lens in Annual Planning Survey.** Per a request from the Office of Planning & Research, HEP provided input on the draft 2023 Annual Planning Survey. HEP provided input across a variety of areas within the survey, with the intention of integrating a health and racial equity advancement lens into the survey questions. HEP proposed three additional questions to the survey, as well as provided input on what tools and data sources survey respondents may be able to use to highlight the impact land use and planning has on health and racial equity outcomes in their jurisdictions.
- **HEP Joins Esri Public Sector Chief Information Officer (CIO) Summit.** HEP attended a two-day Esri Public Sector CIO summit on May 10 and 11, 2023, to learn about approaches for government institutions to advance equity priorities using spatial data and geographic information systems. On May 11, two HEP staff joined on a panel with county, state, and academic equity officers in a session titled, "Driving Equity Initiatives with Location Data and Tools." HEP shared about the California Health in All Policies Task Force and the SGC Racial



Equity Action Plan, and how these two efforts are seeking to incorporate equity-driven approaches in State data and information systems to better meet community needs and advance the State’s equity priorities.

Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP)

Staff: HEP and SGC Program and Administrative Managers

- **2023-2025 Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) Implementation.** SGC programs have continued implementing commitments within the updated 2023-2025 SGC REAP, with facilitation, technical support, and tracking led by HEP. Programs are using a cross-programmatic tracking tool hosted by HEP to track REAP implementation progress across topics, which includes a spreadsheet that integrates all REAP goals, actions, metrics, and timelines. Many strategies are already in progress, with select highlights between April 27 and June 29 below:
 - Teams are addressing application and program implementation barriers on an ongoing basis (for example, via a standardized survey for Technical Assistance (TA) recipients to improve TA provision to priority communities);
 - Select programs have hosted tribally-focused information opportunities, including audiences from or representing tribal populations interested in providing input on SGC draft guidelines, applying to SGC grants, and more;
 - Select programs have increased funding and outreach targets in final grant guidelines for priority communities, including for tribes and tribal-serving organizations;
 - Creation of application prompts for grants that are focused on advancing equity, including asking applicants to demonstrate how project proposals will benefit priority communities using data and narrative responses; and,
 - Programs have begun tracking demographic and geographic data on grantees and interested applicants to inform targeted outreach, TA, communications needs, and other program considerations via surveys, event participation in SGC-hosted events, and program evaluation (including third-party evaluation).
 - HEP will facilitate bimonthly check-ins with each SGC program starting in late June through mid-July, focused on implementation progress and preparation for SGC’s annual REAP update in the fall.
- **HEP Joins Governing for All: California, A GARE Convening in Oakland, CA.** On June 13 through 15, 2023, HEP attended the Government Alliance on Race and Equity’s (GARE) annual convening in Oakland, California, titled, “Governing for All: California, A GARE Convening.” On Thursday, June 15, HEP hosted a 90-minute breakout session on intersectoral co-governance strategies to advance racial equity, which included a feature of SGC’s Oakland Transformative Climate Communities project site. HEP staff disseminated this event across various state networks; several SGC and OPR staff attended the convening.
- **2023-2025 REAP Working Groups.** Staff convene within three internal working groups on the following racial equity advancement topics: Technical Assistance and Contract Equity; Workforce Equity and Organizational Culture; and Engagement and Coordination with Tribes (including federally recognized tribes and California Native American Tribes recognized by the Native American Heritage Commission). At the May monthly meeting among cross-programmatic updates, the Tribal Engagement and Coordination Initiatives Working Group discussed how SGC’s initiatives address and respect tribal and traditional knowledge and sovereign data, and how the interagency Health in All Policies Task Force may be able to promote data sovereignty

and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in its Equity in Data and Access to Information Action Plan. At the May monthly Workforce Equity Working Group, SGC’s Personnel Officer shared updates on forthcoming human resources policies that align with recommendations coming out of the Workforce Equity Survey conducted in 2022. The Workforce Equity Working Group will continue to advise on how these new policies may be implemented, and will work to conduct an updated staff demographic survey in the coming months. Meanwhile, the Technical Assistance and Contract Equity Workgroup has started developing a Technical Assistance Evaluation Survey to be conducted by all SGC programs that offer TA to applicants and grantees. The survey will help programs understand gaps, opportunities for improvement, successes, and how to better serve priority communities. The workgroup has also developed a landscape analysis of the various TA offerings across the organization.

Racial Equity Resource Hub

Staff: HEP and the Communications Team

- **Updates to the Racial Equity Resource Hub.** The HEP Team continues to collect resources from State and non-State entities as directed by Council and will plan to host them on the Hub. Additionally, the HEP team is continuing to update past resources to ensure all resources are up to date and are accessible to users. This month, the Resource Hub will also host a blog post from Council Member, Frank Cardenas.

Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE)

Staff: SGC partners with the Public Health Institute’s (PHI) State of Equity program to host a racial equity capacity-building program for California State government institutions and employees. CCORE brings together approximately 40 agencies, departments, boards, and offices to build a people-power movement inside of California State government to advance racial equity by deploying organizing principles inside and outside of the system.

- **CCORE Learning Cohort Updates.** The 2022-2023 cohort is nearing commencement and the May and June sessions focused on supporting teams where they are in the process, with some organizations wrapping up their application of the racial equity tool and beginning to draft Racial Equity Action Plans, while others are pausing to assess next steps. The State of Equity is in initial planning stages for a CCORE Learning Cohort in 2024. To learn more email CCORE@phi.org.
- **CCORE Transformative Leadership Cohort.** CCORE Transformative Leadership Cohort (CCORE TLC) applications are under review and invitations for enrollment are being sent out. CCORE TLC is set to launch in Summer 2023. To get more information and apply to be a part of this cohort, click [here](#).
- **CCORE Highlighted at 2023 Racial Equity States Lab.** In June, State of Equity launched the 2023 Racial Equity States Lab (the States Lab). The States Lab is a flagship multi-state peer learning and exchange space for state government racial equity leaders. Participants will surface and discuss challenges, triumphs, and learnings in order to build an organizing structure and tools to advance racial equity in state governments. The States Lab is part of a new effort by [State of Equity](#) and the [Government Alliance on Race and Equity](#) (GARE) to help state governments strengthen and reinforce their racial equity efforts as part of a whole-of-government approach, alongside local jurisdictions and the federal government. An info session was hosted on June 7, where nine states participated with interest in enrolling.



- **CCORE featured at the Government Alliance on Race and Equity’s California Convening, June 13-15.** A plenary panel featured State of California leaders involved with CCORE sharing about the role of the initiative in supporting and inspiring their leadership on racial equity.

Natural and Working Lands

Staff: Emily Tibbott

- Following from EO N-82-20, staff supports CNRA’s Natural and Working Lands (NWL) Climate Smart Strategy, including assessment of progress after the first year of implementation. Staff also contributed to the NWL elements of the 2022 State Scoping Plan, recently released in final form.

Regional Planning Initiatives

Staff: Marc Caswell, Justin DeWaele, and California Air Resources Board and HCD staff

- The final California Comeback Plan included a \$600M investment in augmenting the existing Regional Early Action Planning Grant (REAP) 2.0 funds. The program focuses on implementing regional plans in ways that reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT), accelerate infill housing development in furtherance of the 6th Cycle RHNA goals, increase housing supply at all affordability levels, affirmatively further fair housing, and reducing vehicle miles traveled. The REAP 2.0 program is managed by a joint team across HCD, SGC, OPR and CARB. The \$600M is spread across three allocations: a non-competitive \$510 million MPO allocation, a \$30 million competitive rural and Tribal allocation, and a \$30 million competitive high impact/transformational (HIT) allocation.
- All REAP 2.0 applications were due on December 31, 2022. The application review process is reaching its final stages, with batches of awards to be announced on a rolling basis throughout the summer. 11 of 18 MPO applications are substantially completed. The initial review of all rural and tribal applications is complete, and the High Impact Transformational funding winners have been selected following a competitive panel presentation process.

Council Priority 3: Housing, Climate, and Equity

Staff: Sean Kennedy and Sauntharya Manikandan

- SGC staff continues to work with interagency partners through the Housing and Transportation Working Group to refine actions contained in the draft Priority 3 (P3) Action Plan.
- SGC staff have completed Action 1 “Compile an inventory of State policies, programs, and funding opportunities at the nexus of housing, climate, and equity”. The P3 Inventory includes agency and interagency efforts, third party involvement, tribal efforts, and legislation as it relates to P3. The inventory will help build understanding of the past, current, and future of the state’s entwined housing, climate, and equity goals.
- The inventory will be used support future analysis of the existing policy landscape, which will examine (1) opportunities for greater alignment across existing efforts, (2) local government capacity and ability to implement state policy, (3) the current level of coordination is on data, legislation, and regulation, and (4) how Tribal efforts are being factored into this conversation.



- SGC staff hope to continue a regular cadence of updates to this inventory to maintain a database of knowledge as it relates to climate and housing and we can encourage council members to share any information they feel would be relevant to add to this inventory.

Media Clips

California Strategic Growth Council

- [CaliforniaCityNews.org] ["California Consulting Announces Municipal Grants For May 2023"](#) May 1, 2023: SGC's CRC program will fund new construction and upgrades of neighborhood-level resilience centers to provide shelter and resources during climate and other emergencies, such as extreme heat events and poor air quality days. Program will also fund ongoing year-round community services and programs, such as food distribution and workforce development training, that build overall community resilience.

Community Resilience Centers

- [The Center Square: California] ["California to build 'Resilience Centers' at a cost of \\$200 million"](#): May 30, 2023: Funding to build emergency facilities and resilience centers is now in place and available for entities wanting to develop these places of refuge.

Climate Change Research Program

- [Environmental Science and Technology]: ["Toxic Tides and Environmental Injustice: Social Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise and Flooding of Hazardous Sites in Coastal California"](#) May 2, 2023: Rates of sea level rise (SLR) in California closely mirrors global projections to more than double by 2050. SLR and heavy precipitation events are increasing the frequency and extent of coastal flooding, which can trigger releases of toxic chemicals from hazardous sites, many of which are in low-income communities of color. This paper uses regression models to estimate the association between facility flood risk and social vulnerability indicators in low-lying block groups in California, and reports that an estimated 423 facilities are at risk of flooding in 2100 under a high emissions scenario.

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

- [Napa Valley Register] ["Community Voices: Saving the Crescent is a great idea whose time has come"](#): April 29, 2023: After almost seven years of planning, public hearings, reports and excruciating painful oversight, the Crescent housing project is anticipated to be approved on Tuesday by the Napa City Council....The Council has authorized staff to act as co-applicant with the project applicant to apply for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant. This could gain \$35 million for affordable housing and \$15 million for community improvements for pedestrian access and bike trails on Old Sonoma Road from the freeway to Jefferson Street.

Transformative Climate Communities

- [ABC Bakersfield] ["Southwest Strong Fest: City Council wants to hear residents' suggestions"](#) May 10, 2023: The city has roughly 15 to 20 community partners working to identify the issues most relevant to the residents of Southeast Bakersfield in preparation for a potential Transformative Climate Communities Grant from the state.
- [Capitol Weekly]: ["California should restore investments to decarbonize low-income communities."](#) May 23, 2023: The Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program is a best-



in-class model for how to make bottom-up community resilience investments. It is the gold standard being copied at the federal level.

- [LAist] [“This State Program in Underserved Communities is Becoming A Nationwide Model for Climate Action.”](#) May 31, 2023: In some of Los Angeles’s most historically underserved neighborhoods, sustainable community visions are coming to life as a result of grassroots community efforts supported by a partnership with the state that’s actually working.

