Attachment A: SGC Capacity Building Updates
Every program at SGC has made efforts to support technical assistance and provide capacity building to enable communities to build readiness, apply to state and federal funding, or implement complex programs and policies over the past year. A focus on capacity building helps to ensure accessibility to SGC programs and grow long-term resilience in historically under-resourced communities.

Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities (AHSC)
The AHSC program provides technical assistance and targeted outreach to applicants. A 2017 study found that applicants that received TA outcompeted those that did not. The program also provides ongoing capacity support to applicants between rounds to support an ongoing pipeline of projects to the program.

Climate Change Research & California Fifth Assessment (CCR)
SGC's Climate Change Research program is leveraging existing funding to support capacity building around the Participatory Research to Policy model (PRP) that facilitates deep community involvement across all phases of research. CCR has established three capacity building initiatives in partnership with researchers across the state:

- **UC Davis Center for Regional Change:** Aims to analyze and catalog current UC, CSU and State community-based participatory research efforts and develop trainings and resources for researchers to apply the PRP model to their work.
- **CSU Water Advocacy Toward Education and Research:** Provides State entities and research institutions with toolsets and metrics that support incorporation of the Participatory Research to Policy model into program guidelines and project award requirements.
- **UCOP Research and Innovations:** Provides funding to support greater community partnerships across 10 University of California Climate Action Seed or Matching grants through supplemental awards to community-based organizations and non-academic partners.

Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)
The Community Assistance for Climate Equity program anchors SGC's capacity building work through several initiatives. This past year has included ongoing efforts to invest in upstream capacity building to support readiness, accessing public funding, and equitable project implementation. Efforts include:
- Awarding Regional Climate Collaboratives Round 1 grants and launching an RFP for a second round of RCC awards.
- Launching the Tribal Capacity Building program to support tribes throughout California to establish readiness, pursue available funding, and implement tribally led projects.
- Closing the second round of the BOOST program that builds capacity within local governments. The program has supported seven jurisdictions to access new grant funding, develop plans and achieve compliance, and receive

designations such as the CA Dept. of Housing and Community Development Pro-Housing Designation.

- Updating the [Technical Assistance Toolkit](#) (formerly the Technical Assistance Guidelines) to support greater adoption of technical assistance and capacity building initiatives statewide.

Community Resilience Centers (CRC)

The Community Resilience Centers Round 1 program is currently underway with Planning, Project Development and Implementation Grants applications open through September 18th. Across all three grant types, 50 applicants were selected for direct TA assistance with prioritization for priority communities including Tribal, rural, unincorporated, and under-resourced communities. CRC Staff also introduced Application Office Hours to assist non-TA applicants, launched a pre-recorded Application Webinar video series of 4 videos which include demos of the new Submittable platform, and are developing and posting additional applicant resources on the SGC website to better assist applicants through this process. CRC staff have provided feedback to 43 applicants so far through this process, and have received 98 total submissions to-date.

CRC is also preparing to provide direct technical assistance to support project implementation and grant administration for awarded grantees to ensure project success

Connecting Communities

In response to significant demand for resources to navigate federal funding and an oversubscription to SGC's programs, such as the Transformative Climate Communities program, SGC has launched a $2M initiative called Connecting Communities to directly support entities in pursuing federal resources. The program is geared towards connecting communities to the federal EPA Environmental Justice Block Grant program and is a step toward ensuring California's competitiveness for these critical resources.

Health & Equity Program (HEP)

The HEP Program supports capacity building through interagency coordination with over 30 state agencies to advance health and racial equity, advance data equity initiatives, and increase access to funding programs via the [Health in All Policies Task Force](#) (HiAP). The HiAP Task Force has prioritized objectives focused on increasing the provision of technical assistance (TA) and capacity building to support priority communities, including informing SGC's TA Guidelines update and identifying and amplifying best practices for agencies building TA into their program and policy work. Within SGC, the HEP team has advanced capacity building by supporting teams in implementing their Racial Equity Action Plan goals and in embedding equity in program guidelines, engagement practices, and other initiatives.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC)

When the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program identified a lack of program participation in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California regions, the

SALC team partnered with SGC to bring a technical assistance (TA) provider team on board to bridge this gap. The TA team conducted outreach to assess local needs, developed a training program, provided application assistance, and assisted with the initial implementation of the grants for those applicants that were awarded in these target regions.

The success of this initial technical assistance effort helped inform the development of additional SALC technical assistance, which aim to focus assistance on under-resourced communities and individuals in addition to supporting the expansion of SALC projects in new areas of the state. These efforts not only helped the applicants who received direct assistance, but also led to more awareness of and engagement with the program, leading to some of the first tribal applicants and a greater geographic reach of the program.

Transformative Climate Communities (TCC)
As part of TCC Round 5, the program included the Project Development Grant type which can support up to $5M in predevelopment costs such as basic infrastructure development, capacity building, feasibility studies, and other activities related to reaching project readiness. The Project Development Grant prioritizes certain applicants, including unincorporated communities and tribal applicants. This grant type has been met with widespread interest and received 10 applications, several of which are from unincorporated communities or tribal applicants. Across all three TCC grant types, TA providers provided direct TA to 25 applicants and TCC staff also introduced weekly office hours to help non-TA applicants.

TCC also provided $200,000 in post-award consultation support grants to assist Round 4 grantees in finalizing grant agreements. Typically, the process to finalize grant agreements is time consuming but unfunded. This provides the necessary support to ensure the ongoing participation and engagement of partners in the TCC program as the project gets underway.