

December 14, 2023

**Subject:** Strategic Growth Council October 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes  
**Reporting Period:** October 2023 – December 2023  
**Staff Lead:** Lois Kim, Projects Analyst, SGC

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## **Recommended Action**

Approval of the October 26, 2023 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

## **Strategic Growth Council October 26, 2023 - Meeting Minutes**

### ***Agenda Item #1: Call to Order***

Chair Sam Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM in honor of Cindy Montanez, CEO of TreePeople.

### ***Agenda Item #2: Roll Call***

#### **Council Members and Representatives Present:**

Sam Assefa, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Nicole Capretz, Public Member

Frank Cardenas, Public Member

Lourdes Castro Ramirez, Secretary, California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency

Jaimie Huynh (Designee), Environmental Justice Specialist, California Environmental Protection Agency, on behalf of Secretary Yana Garcia

Darwin Moosavi (Designee), Deputy Secretary, California State Transportation Agency, on behalf of Secretary Toks Omishakin

Rohan Radhakrishna (Designee), Deputy Director, California Department of Public Health Office of Health Equity, on behalf of Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly of the California Health & Human Services Agency

Cori Lucero (Designee), Deputy Chief of Staff, on behalf of UC Merced Chancellor Juan Sanchez Munoz

Virginia Jameson (Designee), Deputy Secretary, California Department of Food & Agriculture, on behalf of Secretary Karen Ross

Noaki Schwartz (Designee), Deputy Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency, on behalf of Secretary Wade Crowfoot (*virtual*)

### ***Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes***

Approve the August 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Castro Ramriez and seconded by Moosavi.

**Motion passes (10-0-0\*).** \*Marks abstention or absence from vote

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Agenda Item #4: Executive Director's Report**

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Will Robinson, Legislative Director, OPR/SGC

**Council Comment:**

Assefa: First want to start by acknowledging Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramirez and her leadership in the State of California.

Castro Ramirez: Thank you to the community of Barrio Logan for welcoming us to your community. I am thankful for the support and the vision of Governor Gavin Newsom, SGC, and all who have joined us today.

Assefa: I also want to acknowledge the advanced pay bill; it is one way we chip away at structural barriers to advance equity. I also want to note that the Council Election has been postponed to the December 14 Council Meeting.

Capretz: Welcome everyone to San Diego, grateful that we are all here today to learn about the challenges of the city. I also want to give kudos to the Council Priority 3 Workshop. For the next community we travel to, we should have conversations with our governments and CBOs. I also want to end by thanking Secretary Castro Ramirez and her leadership.

Assefa: Agree, the Governor has asked the State to travel more and meet communities where they are at. Really incredible to meet with and learn from folks working on the ground.

Huynh: I want to give a thank you on behalf of Sec. Garcia regarding AB 590 and the work to promote advanced pay. Really glad this is passing, particularly in light of CalEPA's environmental justice grant program

Radhakrishna: I also want to thank the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center for sharing your history, resiliency, and art. Lynn, thank you for taking the resources and tools to the federal level, I have heard a lot from folks across the countries on this. On behalf of Secretary Ghaly, thank you to Secretary Castro Ramirez and her leadership. I am also appreciative of AB 590, and want to explore how this can support tribes and local government as well

**Public Comment**

Georgette Gomez

**Agenda Item #5: Consent Calendar**

*Motion to move the Consent Calendar.*

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

**Council Comment**

No Council Comment.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment.

Motion was made by Castro Ramirez and seconded by Moosavi.

**Motion passes (10-0-0\*).**

***Agenda Item #6: ACTION: Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Guidelines Approval***

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Nancy Cheng, Community Assistance for Climate Equity Analyst, SGC

**Council Discussion**

Cardenas: Very appropriate that we are passing the guidelines here, want to thank the CPMCC for all their work here. What is the funding and sustainability of this program?

Kumar: This is a pilot through a flexible technical assistance pot that allows us to create pilot programs like this. The next goal is sustained funding. We want to use this now to explore what tribes need so that we can create more tailored program in the future. This is a two-year grant term.

Cardenas: What are the strategies to get sustained funding for this program?

Kumar: A few strategies including storytelling to elevate best practices and the importance of technical assistance.

Cardenas: What are the regional funding goals of this program? How can we advance regional equity and access to State funding?

Kirin: Council Priority 2 aims to address this by advancing capacity building and reducing barriers to support access to funding across the State. This program is intentionally designed to be very accessible to tribes, so we can go beyond capacity building.

Moosavi: As the transportation agency, we have our fair share of state and federal policies that may be cumbersome for tribes. This program will hopefully build capacity for tribes to access those funds. In terms of looking for a sustained source of funding, a lot of times what needs to be shown is a measure of impact. Measurement of impact can be burdensome to track. How are we measuring the results of this pilot?

Cheng: One of the deliverables for the technical assistance (TA) provider is to create success stories for the tribe. It will be on the TA providers to do this, so it is less of a burden on the tribe. Also measuring trainings, workshops, development of policies, and more.

Kergan: I very much appreciate the flexibility and intention to be responsive to tribal needs, recognizing tribal needs vary across the state. Through the pilot, we should consider how those

selected grantees can allow us to reflect upon the need for capacity need and geographic representation in the state. There are barriers in housing programs for the state – we can be thought partners for this.

Kumar: SGC's entire portfolio of TA is to externally improve TA but also internally promote findings, best practices, funding resources, and relationships.

Radhakrishna: Regarding the duration of the grant program, I'm curious if tribes brought up a lower amount of money so it can be stretched over a longer period.

Cheng: During the public comment period, tribes did mention duration but there was a larger focus on increasing the amount of funding available.

Assefa: This is a great example of a program to support capacity building, tribes, and access across the State.

### **Public Comment**

Motion made by Capretz and seconded by Kergan.

### **Motion passes (10-0-0)**

### ***Agenda Item #7: ACTION: Resolution to Support Energy-Efficient Factory Built Housing to Support the State's Housing, Climate, & Equity Goals***

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

### **Council Discussion**

Assefa: This is incredibly exciting and a very good method to meet the need for more housing, receive federal funding, and add community benefits. Due to the reductions in cost, greenhouse gas reductions, and construction time – this is a very unique opportunity.

Kergan: Thank you for bringing this resolution. This is very exciting, as California's factory-built housing (FBH) is built to a higher standard of energy efficiency. The California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) oversees regulating and certifying FBH units. It is exciting that the Department of Energy (DOE) is looking at how energy products with housing outcomes, especially since the Inflation Reduction Act does not focus on housing. It is exciting to see benefits with workforce, housing, economic development, and environmental benefits. There is also a potential to utilize this to support emergency housing and emergency response.

Cardenas: This is economics at work. It is properly the role of government to identify opportunities in the private sector for public funds to be smartly invested to benefit jobs and people. To build more high-quality home in Californians by Californians, with high quality emissions and reductions, we need to move now and partner with the private sector. This is the type of innovative thinking that will take us to the other side.

Radhakrishna: Secretary Ghaly firmly believes that housing and dignified employment is a health strategy. As we build the guidelines, we can go beyond energy efficiency to bake in community benefits, natural light, universal design for aging in place, thermal comfort, and more.

Huynh: I attended the EPA Region 9 Tribal Conference and there was a session focused on climate ready homes for tribal elders. This is a really timely resolution to not only house our folks but also to plan for climate change impacts. At CalEPA, we focus on greenhouse gas reductions and a circular economy. This will meet many goals and reduce construction waste, have more efficient materials, and we're excited. The FBH industry has been successful in California but slow to achieve scales in California due to regulatory and financing barriers so very excited that we are talking about this today.

### **Public Comment**

Olivia Seideman, Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability

Tyler Pullen, UC Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation

Vamsi Kumar Kotla, ReMo Homes

Carol Galante, UC Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation

Gabriel Grossman, Preflex Buildings

Francisco Duenas, Housing Now!

Kevin Brown, FactoryOS

Matt Horton, Accelerator for America

### **Council Discussion**

Capretz: Just to respond to some of the comments, what is your response to some of the questions on the affordability and energy of the units produced?

Von Koch-Liebert: As we go through the next phase of this, we will do guideline development which will give great opportunity to get more detailed information. For energy-efficiency, we are using federal terminology so it is more efficient for applicants.

Capretz: Recognize that it's counterproductive that different state programs have different goals for electrifying homes, since it is inconsistent.

Von Koch-Liebert: Agree, our priorities is that this program aligns with DOE and the goals of California.

Motion made by Cardenas and seconded by Capretz.

**Motion passes (10-0-0)**

## ***Agenda Item #8: DISCUSSION: Council Priority 3: Housing, Climate, & Equity Panel***

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Sean Kennedy, Special Projects Analyst, SGC

### **Panelists**



Moderator: Tuere Fa'aola, Sustainable Communities Program Manager San Diego Association of Governments

Murtaza Baxamusa, Ph.D., Program Manager for Regional Sustainability and Climate Action, County of San Diego

Darbi Berry, Director of Climate and Environmental Programs, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative

Shasta Gaughen, Ph.D. - Environmental Director and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Pala Band of Mission Indians

### **Council Discussion**

Assefa: On one of the barriers, piece mail grants, what solutions can you propose recognizing the challenges in our current structure?

Kergan: On the difficulties with pre-development funding, could a revolving loan fund be helpful?

Jameson: How do you prioritize methods for capacity building, recognizing the fluctuation of funds?

### **Public Comment**

### ***Agenda Item #9: DISCUSSION: 2024 Catalyst Conference***

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Matt Horton, Senior Advisor, Milken Institute

### **Council Discussion**

Assefa: Excited that we are thinking of a focus beyond the conference. Important that we are institutionalizing this in state government but also beyond. The big takeaway for me is the implementation focus, building institutional knowledge, and culture change around these topics.

Huynh: On the 10,000 Communities Initiative – a lot of communities we work with do not have internet, particularly for rural communities that need a lot of support. What are your strategies to connect with those communities?

Horton: We are looking at Conference but also working with the power of the state as a convener and other organizations with existing relationships.

Kergan: Really excited about the conference and the portal but agree that access should be the center of doing this. We can consider how to get the word of this out through the council agencies and departments and how to continue to share this message.

Von Koch-Liebert: We will be connecting the 10,000 Communities Portal with our applicants and continue to encourage folks to utilize it, as it a resource even for unawarded applicants or folks building projects.

Capretz: What happens when you submit a project into the 10,000 Communities Portal?

Horton: It will be connected with various resources and partners so depending on the stage of the project, it can receive various levels of technical assistance and support.

Cid: We are also using this to bridge some of the work between our programs and program phases, the Conference, and more.

**Public Comment**

***Agenda Item #10: Public Comment***

No public comment.

***Agenda Item #11: Meeting Adjournment***

Assefa: Again, I want to close the meeting in honor of Cindy Montanez, CEO of TreePeople.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 PM.