

# Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Meeting Minutes

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## **DRAFT** May 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Council Members present: Chair Ken Alex, Director, OPR; Vice-Chair Bob Fisher, Public Member; Secretary John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency; Secretary Matt Rodriguez, California Environmental Protection Agency; Secretary Diana Dooley, Health and Human Services Agency; Secretary Brian Kelly, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

### **Call to Order**

*Chair Alex called the meeting to order.*

### **Approve January 24, 2012 Minutes (Action Item)**

*Secretary Laird moved to approve the minutes. Vice-Chair Fisher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Agenda Item: Executive Report**

Executive Director (ED) Heather Fargo welcomed Secretary Kelly to the Council and introduced Jessica Kueon, an intern from UC Davis. She discussed the numerous meetings that SGC Staff attended over the last several months. ED Fargo briefly described legislative bills (AB 2238 and AB 2404) and recent Executive Orders (B-19-12 and B-18-12) that might affect the Council. Lastly, she provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

### **Action: Endorse Health in All Policies (HiAP) Implementation Plan: *Health and Health Equity in State Guidance***

Dr. Linda Rudolph presented the eighth HiAP implementation plan. The goal of this implementation plan is to ensure that California's decision makers are informed about the health consequences of various policy options during the policy development process. The taskforce would like to incorporate a health and health equity perspective into state guidance, surveys and technical assistance documents where feasible and appropriate.

Vice-Chair Fisher asked if removing barriers to infill development was incorporated in the HiAP implementation plans. Dr. Rudolph responded that the HiAP taskforce supports infill development, and explained several areas the taskforce is working on that relate to removing barriers to infill development.

Secretary Kelly asked Dr. Rudolph if she envisioned the final product to be a voluntary guideline to guide decision makers or a standardized document. Dr. Rudolph explained that it will be decided as they learn more, and provided an explanation on the structured review concept.

Secretary Kelly asked for a timeline. Dr. Rudolph stated that she expected to present an update to the Council by the end of 2012.

*Secretary Dooley moved to endorse the HiAP Implementation Plan for Health and Health Equity in State Guidance. Secretary Laird seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Chair Alex opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was given.*

### **Action: Planning Grants – Round 2 Selection**

ED Fargo provided an overview of the planning grants, focus areas, and review process. 137 eligible applications were received, 43 were recommended for funding. The recommendation includes funding approximately \$24.6 million, rather than the originally anticipated \$18 million.

David Thesell, Department of Conservation (DOC) explained the Planning Grants Round 2 selection, including funds remaining (\$37 million), the outreach provided, and subsequent selection process to reach the recommendations. ED Fargo received two letters from applicants expressing concern over not receiving funding. She also received an additional letter for a project that was recommended for funding at an amount less than requested. Thesell explained that the guidelines do not allow providing funding over \$1 million. ED Fargo later clarified that the guidelines allow for the Council to award over \$1 million in funding, but that this was not a recommendation of the review committee.

Secretary Rodriguez asked how the Council could cut out projects to reduce the amount funded in Round 2. Secretary Laird explained that by dividing the three rounds equally would have provided a more robust last round. Secretary Rodriguez asked if Round 3 would change if only \$13 million will be left. ED Fargo explained that there will be a review of what has been funded, and that the Council could later provide guidance for changes to the last round. Secretary Rodriguez clarified that he did not recommend reducing the amount to \$18 million, but was concerned about being so far over the anticipated amount.

*Chair Alex opened the floor for public comment.* Multiple public comments were given. Several entities expressed concern about not receiving funding and requested reconsideration; other entities appreciated the opportunity to receive funding and requested the Council approve the recommendation. Additional comments included a recommendation to analyze Round 1 and 2 to ensure equitable distribution of funds throughout the State, expanding funding for the program, and providing more detailed descriptions of the projects.

Secretary Laird explained future funding and bond measures. Secretary Rodriguez thanked the staff that evaluated and scored the grants. He is concerned about the amount of funding left, and would like to focus the remaining amount on grants and standards that achieve the Council's long-term vision. Vice-Chair Fisher questioned how the staff decided to draw the line at 88.3, and why the cut-off score varied across Focus Area. Thesell and Bruce Gwynne, DOC explained the rationale behind choosing the cut-off scores.

*Secretary Laird moved to approve Planning Grants Round 2 selections as recommended. Secretary Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Action: Urban Greening Grants – Round 2 Selection**

ED Fargo introduced Polly Escovedo, California Natural Resources Agency. Escovedo provided an update on Round 1 funding, and explained the Urban Greening Grants Round 2 selection process, including the concept proposal process, number of fully submitted applications (104), the recommendation to fund 50 proposals (totaling approximately \$20.7 million), and a breakdown of types of grants that were recommended for funding.

*Chair Alex opened the floor for public comment.* Multiple public comments were provided. A few entities expressed appreciation for the opportunity to receive funding; one entity requested reconsideration of a grant proposal.

*Secretary Laird moved to approve Urban Greening Grants Round 2 selections as recommended. Secretary Dooley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Staff Update on Strategic Plan Implementation**

ED Fargo provided an update on the Strategic Plan Implementation and shared an updated status chart of the Strategic Plan actions. ED Fargo explained that Action 8 of the Strategic Plan was now considered a tier 1 (top priority) project, Action 3 is moved to the second tier, and Action 11 is moved into the third tier.

Secretary Kelly recommended using an adopted SB375 compliant plan, rather than relying on the 5-Year Infrastructure Plan for Action 4. Vice-Chair Fisher requested an update at the next Council meeting. Chair Alex recommended completing an inventory on existing plans. Secretary Kelly asked for more information on the regional progress report (Action 12), and Trish Kelly provided a response.

*Chair Alex opened the floor for public comment. A few public comments were provided, including a suggestion to add BT&H to Action 4.*

*The Council broke for the Closed Session agenda item.*

ED Fargo provided an update on Action 1: Coordinate State Agencies. Chair Alex recommended taking a different approach to coordinating state agencies, and asked ED Fargo to work with Secretary Kelly. Secretary Dooley was concerned about the amount of staff time required for the recommended steps. Chair Alex suggested working with the Key Staff to understand what funding is available, and making it more transparent.

Nancy McKeever, SGC Staff, provided an update including accomplishments and next steps for Action 2: Barriers to Infill. Secretary Kelly encouraged SGC Staff to be open to guidance from BT&H's departments on barriers to infill development, including on topics and stakeholders. Vice-Chair Fisher suggested addressing CEQA and redevelopment in the future.

Andrew Altevogt, Cal/EPA provided an update on Action 8: MPOs/SB375, including a description on what has been done, and what still needs to be done. Vice-Chair Fisher asked for a timeline, and recommended adding deadlines.

### **General Public Comments**

*Vice-Chair Fisher opened the floor for public comment. A few public comments were given, including a request to work with the Council on barriers to infill development; a request for Council members to attend the entire meeting; recommendation to look at the status of the Council, and finding additional funding; and a recommendation to review California Transportation Commission's Statewide Transportation Needs Assessment for performance measures.*

### **Agenda Item: Meeting Adjourned**

*Vice-Chair Fisher adjourned the meeting.*