



# CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

## Strategic Growth Council Operating Guidelines

Updated and presented for Council adoption at the April 30, 2019 meeting

### *Section I – Vision, Mission, and Activities*

The Vision of the Strategic Growth Council (“Council”) is: Healthy, thriving, and resilient communities for all.

The Mission of the Council is to coordinate and work collaboratively with public agencies, communities, and stakeholders to achieve sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians.

Through State statute (Pub. Resources Code section 75120 *et seq.*), the Council is charged with developing a process to coordinate state agency activities so they assist and support the planning and development of sustainable communities which strengthen the economy, ensure social equity, and enhance environmental stewardship. These activities include:

- Improving air and water quality,
- Protecting natural resource and agriculture lands,
- Promoting public health,
- Increasing the availability of affordable housing,
- Improving infrastructure systems,
- Revitalizing urban and community centers, and
- Assisting state and local entities in meeting State climate goals.

### *Section II – Organization & Structure*

#### *A. Membership*

1. The Council consists of the following ten members:

- Director of State Office of Planning and Research
- Secretary of California Natural Resources Agency
- Secretary for California Environmental Protection Agency
- Secretary of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

- Secretary of California State Transportation Agency
  - Secretary of California Health and Human Services Agency
  - Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture
  - Public member appointed by the Governor
  - Public member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly
  - Public member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
2. A Council member may designate a member of their executive staff to attend in their place. The designee must have the authority to vote on issues and direct staff to undertake Council initiatives.
  3. The public member is required to have expertise in land use planning, local government, resource protection and management, or community development or revitalization.

#### *B. Council Leadership*

The Council will elect a Chair and one Vice-Chair for a two-year term. The Chair will be responsible for presiding over Council and representing the Council in public meetings. The Vice-Chair will be responsible for fulfilling the Chair's duties when the Chair is unavailable.

#### *C. Work Committees*

For assistance in conducting its business, the Council may establish committees or workgroups. Such groups gather information, conduct research, analyze relevant issues and facts, and draft proposed position papers and/or recommendations for deliberation by the Council. Committees or workgroups may not conduct business independent of the Council or determine policy without approval of the Council as their role is to provide information and recommendations for consideration by the Council.

#### *D. Meetings*

1. The Council shall meet or otherwise communicate as a group as often as it deems necessary, but at least once quarterly. The Chair may call special meetings as necessary.
2. The Council meeting activity is subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Government Code Article 9, Section 11120).

#### *F. Decision-making*

1. The Council will seek consensus recommendations. Consensus will be determined by a poll of the members present at the meeting by the Chair (Council Chair or Vice Chair). Decisions on commitment of funding and

other resources, other than those specifically allocated to the Council, ultimately rest with individual agencies.

2. The Council will develop a policy for taking advisory positions on legislation **related to the Council's mandated purpose.**
3. The Council will take formal votes on internal business matters, such as making grant award for Council programs, setting strategic goals for the Council, and amending program guidelines. Each member will have one vote, cast by the member or his or her designated alternate. Voting will require a quorum, which is constituted by a majority of Council members (6). A majority of the entire Council is needed for a vote to be affirmed.
4. The Council may sponsor conferences, symposia and other public forums to seek input regarding local, regional, and natural resource planning, sustainable development, and strategies to reduce and mitigate climate change.

#### *G. Staffing and Organization*

1. SGC Staff: The Council is currently staffed with dedicated program and cross-programmatic staff. Council staff works closely with key staff members **at each of the Council members' respective agencies.**
2. Key Staff: Key staff represent each of the agency members of the Council. Key staff serve as primary liaisons between SGC staff and Council members. Key staff meet with SGC executive leadership at least monthly and provide guidance and strategic support for SGC programs and policy initiatives.
3. The Office of Planning and Research provides administrative support to the Council and Council staff.

### *Section III - Duties*

Under SB 732 (Chapter 729, Statutes of 2008), the Council must support the following activities:

1. Identify and review activities and funding programs of member state agencies that may be coordinated to meet the objectives of the Council.
2. Review and comment on the five-year infrastructure plan and the State Environmental Goals and Policy Report.

3. Recommend policies and investment strategies and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and to appropriate state agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities.
4. Provide, fund, and distribute data and information to local governments and regional agencies that will assist in developing and planning sustainable communities.
5. Manage and award grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities.

### *Section IV – Programs*

The Council directs the following programs:

1. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC): Established in Public Resources Code section 75200 *et seq.* and funded through a continuous 20 percent appropriation from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund through Health & Safety Code section 39719(b)(1)(C), the AHSC Program delivers affordable housing that is linked to key destinations through investments in walking, bicycling, and transit infrastructure.
2. Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC): Established and funded on the same statutory basis as AHSC and as a complementary strategy, SALC protects at-risk agricultural land from conversion to pollution-intensive uses.
3. Transformative Climate Communities (TCC): Established in Public Resources Code section 75200 *et seq.* and funded by annual appropriation, the TCC Program implements a place-based strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions designed to catalyze collective impact through a combination of community-led climate projects in a single neighborhood.
4. Climate Change Research: Established through the Budget Act of 2107, the **Climate Change Research Program** funds gaps in California's clean technology and climate change research portfolio that also benefit its most disadvantaged communities.
5. Regional Climate Collaboratives: Established in 2018 through SB 1072 (Chapter 377, Statutes of 2018), the Regional Climate Collaborative Program will assist regions of under-resourced communities in establishing collaboratives to assist with accessing statewide public and other grant moneys for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.

6. California Climate Investments Technical Assistance: AB 1613 (Chapter 370, Statutes of 2016) appropriated \$2.0 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the Strategic Growth Council to provide technical assistance to disadvantaged communities in applying for Climate Change Investments grant awards.

The Council is also involved in several policy initiatives:

1. High-Speed Rail: Council staff work on integrating regional conservation and development work around high-speed rail.
2. Health in All Policies (HiAP): Executive Order S-04-10 established the Health in All Policies Task Force at the Strategic Growth Council in 2010. The HiAP model is based on the recognition that California's greatest health challenges—like chronic illness, climate change, health inequities between populations, and increasing health care costs—are highly complex and influenced by policies, programs, and investments across sectors.

### *Section V – Modifications*

This agreement is to remain in effect until a vote of the Council.