

Date: April 28, 2022

**Subject:** Strategic Growth Council November Meeting Minutes

**Reporting Period:** February 2022 – April 2022

**Staff Lead:** Kimberly Davila, Executive Fellow

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## **Recommended Action**

Approval of the February 24, 2022, Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

## **Strategic Growth Council February 24, 2022 - Meeting Minutes**

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

Chairman Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

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

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

Samuel Assefa, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR);

Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA);

Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Secretary, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH);

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA);

Elissa Konove, Acting Secretary, California State Transportation;

Nicole Capretz, Public Member;

Mike Flad (Vice Chair), Public Member;

Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz, Public Member;

Mark Starr (Designee), Deputy Director, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS), on behalf of Secretary Mark Ghaly.

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Flad and seconded by Secretary Castro Ramirez to approve the January 26, 2022 meeting minutes. **Motion passes (10-0-0\*; x abstain).**

\*Marks abstention or absence from vote

#### **Public Comment:**

No public comment.



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

**Assefa (OPR):** The benefits of the TCC program are great to see, and the greatest transformations come from speaking to the communities impacted and empowered by this program.

**Castro Ramirez (BCSH):** This initiative really builds community from the inside out. I had an opportunity to visit the TCC site in Fresno and it's important for us to get out into the community to hear directly from individuals. This is a reminder of the initiatives set out in the Governor's California Blueprint.

**Muñoz:** The integrated approach from community input in Fresno is important. Many members from the Fresno community come from less resourced areas. We must design communities so that they don't encourage displacement.

**Blumenfeld (CalEPA):** The work around incorporating disadvantaged incorporated communities into Round 4 of the TCC guidelines is incredibly important.

**Crowfoot (CNRA):** Not only does the TCC program shift the paradigm on how to use state funds in a more community driven way, but lessons from TCC can help inform our efforts to build capacity. We have an opportunity to shift state investments to be driven by disadvantaged communities.

**Blumenfeld (CalEPA):** We as a council are interested in shared state resources that go into a community and understanding what type of funds go into the community through the SGC venue.

#### **Public Comment:**

Grecia Elenes, Regional Policy Manager for Leadership for Justice and Accountability

Rachel Vranizan, Green Zones Program Coordinator for California Environmental Justice Alliance

### ***Agenda Item #5: Consent Calendar***

#### ***Transformative Climate Communities Round 4 Guidelines Update***

*Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC*

*Sophie Young, TCC Program Manager, SGC*

#### **Council Comment:**

**Castro Ramirez (BCSH):** Appreciates integration of incorporate communities into TCC guidelines and alignment with California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) pro-housing guidelines. HCD awarded the first pro-housing designation recognition to the City of Sacramento. It's great to see SGC incorporate pro-housing policies that encourage preservation and development.



**Public Comment:**

Grecia Elenes, Regional Policy Manager for Leadership for Justice and Accountability

Motion was made by Secretary Blumenfeld and seconded by Secretary Ross to approve the motion. **Motion passes (10-0-0\*; x abstain).**

**Agenda Item #6: Discussion: California Transportation Assessment Update (AB 285)**

*Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC*

*Egon Terplan, Senior Advisor, OPR*

**Council Comment:**

**Blumenfeld (CalEPA):** The transportation sector is the highest contributor of emissions in the state. We need to continue to reduce our automobile dependence and we need to transform our planning around transportation. From a CalEPA and CARB priority perspective, a structural realignment from the state's planning and funding framework and climate, air quality, and equity. Transportation planning and funding need to consider housing to curb sprawl and VMT.

**Muñoz:** Higher education is the recipient of bringing students and faculty onto campus. The alignment of projects with state goals are important as projects are expensive and planned over several years. I'm interested in the alignment with funding with state goals, looking at projects throughout their entirety, and assessing MPO and local government roles, responsibilities, and authority.

**Konove (CalSTA):** There are many strategies in CAPTI that could be incorporated around discussion by this report. CalSTA's efforts alone won't be sufficient to achieve goals, we all have a role on regional and local levels. We are looking forward to engaging with stakeholders on how to advance our shared goals.

**Starr (CalHHS):** Many of the recommendations align with CalHHS priorities and goals, especially those pertaining to reducing greenhouse emissions and land use decisions that have impact on health outcomes. The transportation sector impacts the communities of California and their health in many ways. Disadvantaged communities and communities of color are disproportionately affected by transportation. There are three recommendations important to our goals at CalHHS: reviewing and aligning state goals, identifying current policies and projects conflicting with climate goals, and giving MPOs authority to meet goals expected of them.

**Flad:** Critical we continue to engage local and MPO levels. We will need to relate to local officials and engage in a meaningful level. Knowledge building at the local level. On MPO piece, they need more capacity to act.

**Crowfoot (CNRA):** We need to not compartmentalize transportation and leave out habitats and conservation. We are working to build connectivity to build habitat needed to help species. We need to reconnect our working environment to and advance mitigation to our transportation projects.



**Assefa (OPR):** Transportation also plays a role in access to nature and other equity concerns.

**Capretz:** Importance of engaging local officials and investing at the local level. We want to redesign streets and reimagine how streets look like and who they serve. There's a misalignment with projects and commitments that were made through legacy projects. Would like to see MPO issue explored more deeply.

**Ross (CDFA):** For rural communities driven by agricultural, conservation of agricultural lands and how SALC falls within this. There is a need for capacity in rural counties, where under resourced communities need more resources to make more strategic decisions. We also need to think of goods movements and can't ignore where we're sending goods movements and what that means for local communities.

**Castro Ramirez (BCSH):** Historic housing investments to preserve and expand housing affordability and thinking about transit investments for adequate access to transportation. Making equitable transportation investments and figure out ways transportation improvements don't further displace and divide communities. Thinking about statutory changes that would give MPOs more authority.

*Sasha Kergan, BCSH Designee, stepped in for Secretary Castro Ramirez at 3:14 pm.*

#### **Public Comments**

Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor, Chair of San Joaquin Valley Policy Council

Nailah Pope Harden, ClimatePlan

Bill Higgins, California Association of Council of Governments (CalCOG)

#### ***Agenda Item #7: Public Comment***

##### **Public Comment:**

Allison Hilliard, Policy Analyst for Reimagine Power and Advocate for Clean Sustainable Energy

#### ***Agenda Item #8: Meeting Adjournment***

Meeting adjourned at 3:17pm.

