

Date: June 28, 2022

Subject: Strategic Growth Council April 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: April 2022 – June 2022

Staff Lead: Kimberly Davila, Executive Fellow

Recommended Action

Approval of the April 28, 2022, Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

Strategic Growth Council April 28, 2022 - Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Chairman Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:07pm.

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); not present

Sasha Kergan (Designee), Deputy Director, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH);

Moises Rivera Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

Darwin Moosavi (Designee), Deputy Secretary, California State Transportation (not present Agency (CalSTA), on behalf of Acting Secretary Elissa Konove;

Nicole Capretz, Public Member;

Mike Flad (Vice Chair), Public Member;

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

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 Secretary Ross and seconded by Councilmember Capretz to approve the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes. **Motion passes (7-0-2*; Moises Rivera and Secretary Toks abstain).**

*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

Council Comment:

Assefa (OPR): Environmental retrofit, and lessons from site visit in Watts, show transformative impact of the work done and council championing and being out in communities.

Ross (CDFA): Quality of work of SGC is excellent, thanks to staff.

Chancellor Munoz: Grants usually go to researchers at universities and think tanks, representatives from grants were meaningful. Willingness of SGC to rethink and reimagine how to engage communities.

Kergan (BCSH): Commends SGC for inviting departments and agencies to engage and how to see connection and how we can all work together. Felt inclusive and welcoming of.

Councilmember Capretz: How are MPOs doing on implementing. Would love to dig deeper into bills from Assemblymember Friedman for findings from AB285 report. Would also like to dive into next steps of AHSC guidelines.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Agenda Item #5: Consent Calendar

- a. **Transformative Climate Communities Round 4 Guidelines Amendment** *Amend sections of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Final Transformative Climate Communities Round 4 Program Guidelines to provide further clarification and guidance on program requirements.*
- b. **Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Round 8 Guidelines Approval** *Adopt the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Round 8 Program Guidelines.*

Council Comment:

Kergan (BCSH): Appreciate space for tribal participation and support for principles of self-determination for tribes.

Moreno-Rivera (CNRA): There is intentionality behind changes, thanks to the team.

Public Comment:

Marc Landgraf, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

Jeanne Merrill, California Climate and Agriculture Network

Motion passes (9-0-0).

Motion was made by Councilmember Flad and seconded by Deputy Secretary Moreno-Rivera.

Agenda Item #6: ACTION: Regional Climate Collaboratives Round 1 Guidelines Approval

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Kirin Kumar, Deputy Director of Equity & Government Transformation, SGC

Recommended Action: Approve the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Regional Climate Collaboratives Round 1 Program Guidelines.

Council Comment:

Moreno-Rivera (CNRA): We went from listening to communities, amending guidelines, and then a program that takes these things into consideration. SGC is taking a best practice into a standard practice. We know need is greater, and these dollars leverage others. We can share this with technical assistance champions and conversation on how to do this strategically going forward.

Ross (CDFA): Will this have to depend on yearly appropriation? How can we capture actual outcomes? Think about much larger, whole of government, as we build capacity building. As a champion of technical assistance, I think we need to put effort into outcomes.

Capretz: Building institutional foundation so communities can take on massive transformations. Taking steps for communities to be ready for this program. High confidence in SGC team and choosing right projects to advance.

Flad: Enthusiastic support and as a champion of technical assistance, outstanding work and critical piece to regional equity. Building on past lessons and applying those to remove barriers. Find way to continue to fund technical capacity to better serve underserved communities. The process in place is transformative to bring in folks that don't necessarily see themselves as climate oriented.

Starr (HHS): Commends staff and pattern and process, especially continuous focus on racial equity. Commends efforts to honor tribes and their needs. Appreciate lessons learned from TCC. From a health standpoint, hope to get local health partners to apply and be part of this program as they know their communities best.

Kergan (BCSH): Continuing to maintain flexibility and value it being built into this program to remove barriers to participation. If communities feel like they need a grant writer to participate, this type of program builds trust in partners that we want to work with them. This sets foundation for interest in program and should be affirming for us and a message to legislature who first supported this.

Capretz: Shoutout to Greenlining Institute who have been at the forefront of building this program. Community organizations in the trenches fighting to build these programs.

Assefa (OPR): Have heard from community organizations about trouble of advance payment and other challenges they have and revised guidelines responding to those. Place based is connected to regions and is capacity building in how people think about climate.

Public Comment:

Emi Wang, Greenlining Institute

Marc Roost, Silicon Valley Community Coalitions

Martha Armas-Kelly, Catholic Charities

Motion passes (9-0-0).

Motion made by Councilmember Flad and seconded by Deputy Secretary Moreno-Rivera.

Putney replaced Chancellor Munoz.

Agenda Item #7: Discussion: Racial Equity Updates

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Kirin Kumar, Deputy Director of Equity & Government Transformation, SGC

Council Priority 1: Racial Equity Resource Hub Launch

Racial Equity Panel

Carousel Gore, California Energy Commission

Nicole Placencia, California Department of Housing & Community Development

Thea Rittenhouse, California Department of Food & Agriculture

Council Comment:

Assefa (OPR): Leading opportunities, but challenging institutionalizing. Engagement has a big impact on making a lasting change in institutions. The State of California and SGC leading by example and becoming a resource for the State. The intent that went into the Resource Hub will bring lasting impact.

Omishakin (CalSTA): Listening to item #6 and listening to this panel makes me feel encouraged and inspired. When I hear about advanced payment and childcare, those are systemic changes. The panel mentioned habits and they lead to culture change. Culture change is really sustained, when we build it into who we really are. On the hub, how are we getting word out and what tools are we using to do widespread promotion to agencies and departments across the state? For the panel, where do you see gaps, what do we need to be doing as a council?

Von Koch-Liebert: Important for council to help the Resource hub gain traction, to push out to departments. On a quarterly basis, do a rollout of resources added to the hub. SGC welcomes feedback and knowledge on institutional channels to push out the hub.

Ross (CDFA): I feel inspired and humbled. Our goal is to not have to be intentional about these things, that it will just be the way things are. These are important discussions and how we invest in programs and how we're organized across government.

Kergan (BCSH): Thank you to the SGC staff for making this hub. I appreciate the panel for sharing their insights with us. In housing, we have a history of exclusion and it's been an honor to do this work at the state. Can you offer some suggestions for how to build space for folks to have difficult conversations?

Flad: I've always served on the city level. I've seen a gap between efforts at the state level, and the city level. There are probably more strategic ways to engage cities. As a question, are you deploying strategies to further engage the local level? I appreciate transition to a resource piece, and the role the local level can play in experiencing the growth we are seeing on state level.

Von Koch-Liebert (SGC): How can we take approaches and demystifying. Within this council, we have 54 departments. We want to make sure we're creating models and tools to export solutions we are seeing.

Starr (HHS): In public health, we interact with local partners. The focus with the resource hub is on state agencies, but we have opportunity to share that. We say equity is public health's blood. Identifying racial disparities is not enough, but we need to get at the core. We've produced tools to address inequities during the pandemic. We have opportunity to use resources to improve recognition and help with racial equity.

Moreno-Rivera (CNRA): Knowing challenges, what motivates you to continue doing this work and knowing SGC is doing this work?

Public Comment:

Elena Santamaria, NextGen California, Policy Advisor

Julia Kaplan, Public Health Institute

Marc Roest

Agenda Item #8: Public Comment

Sam Assefa, Chair

Matt Read, Staff Counsel, SGC

Public Comment:

Richard Sadowski

Agenda Item #9: Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm