



# CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

**To:** California Strategic Growth Council Members  
**From:** Lynn von Koch-Liebert, SGC Executive Director  
**Re:** Executive Director Report to the Council – June 28, 2022

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## Organizational and Staffing Updates

- The Transformative Climate Communities program welcomed Rebecca Aviles and Anna Jane Jones as new Program Analysts.
- Shanna Atherton-Bauer has been promoted to lead DOC's SALC Program Manager position. Shanna has been with the program for six and a half years.
- Sean Kennedy joined SGC as Special Projects Analyst to lead initiatives such as Council Priorities, SGC modeling, and other unique projects.
- SGC welcomed 7 student interns for the summer of 2022. This is SGC's first year with paid internship opportunities.

## Investment Program Updates

### Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC)

Staff: Saharnaz Mirzazad, Marc Caswell, Shep Wilbun, Jessica Lopez, Justin DeWaele and California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) Staff Team

- SGC AHSC staff continues to work with our "Core AHSC Team" including staff from CARB and HCD, to update Program Guidelines for Round 7 & Beyond. The team released the [Policy Discussion Document](#) for public comment throughout the month of May and received 23 public comment letters with more than 250 specific comments. Staff will present the Policy Discussion Response Summary to the SGC Council Meeting on June 28, seeking feedback from the Council on some of the proposed policy changes as they begin the process of updating the Draft Guidelines for public release in late Summer 2022.
- SGC AHSC staff and our partners at CARB have also released an analysis on regional differences in response to a Council Motion adopted in January 2022. The details of that analysis can be found in Appendix B of the [Policy Discussion Document](#), and staff will present on this topic during the June 2022 Council meeting.
- SGC Executive Director Lynn Von Koch-Liebert spoke [at the Grand Opening](#) of Casa Adelante, the first electric large affordable housing development in San Francisco. Project is 127 100% affordable units for low-income families and transitional-aged youth. The collaboration of Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) and Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC), working with architects Mithun and Y.A. Studio, creates an active community hub at the corner of 17th and Folsom streets, across from the In Chan Kajaal Park. Complementing the affordable housing are high-quality community programs anchored on the ground floor with infant/toddler care and a preschool courtesy of Good Samaritan Resource Center; after-school programs and activities for youth and young adults, courtesy of Youth Speaks, First Exposures and PODER.

### Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)

Staff: Saharnaz Mirzazad, Sophie Young, Jerry Rivero, Jennifer Kim, Sarah Newsham, Bo Chung, and California Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff Team

- Staff and the technical assistance providers are working closely with applicants to the Round 4 TCC NOFA for \$106.2 million (released March 8, due July 1, 2022). TCC received fourteen (14) Implementation Grant Pre-Proposals on April 22 and provided threshold feedback to applicants on May 6. Staff intends to recommend awards at the October 2022 Council Meeting for three \$35M Implementation Grant and four \$300,000 Planning Grant awards.
- Staff held two workshops for current grantees and program evaluators to reconnect the cohorts, share successes and lessons learned, and provide a forum for peer learning and dialogue.
  - TCC Evaluator Convening (May 17) - Evaluator teams across all TCC sites attended a virtual convening to share updates on recent progress, challenges, and early findings. Topics discussed included troubleshooting around outreach and surveys, reporting and quantification measures for the California Air Resources Board, and a walkthrough of Oakland’s visual tree mapping and tracking tool developed by the University of San Francisco evaluation team.
  - TCC Grantee and Partner Convening (June 8) - Over 320 TCC Implementation and Planning Grantees and Partners have been invited to meet in an online webinar in order to reconnect, reconvene, and recharge with the objectives of TCC program and projects. This convening intends to create a collaborative space where grantees and partners can discuss best practices to address challenges as well as highlight successful outcomes during project implementation. Interactive breakout room sessions include best practices related to the Collaborative Stakeholder Structure as well as topical discussions such as community outreach, engagement and recruitment. A previously scheduled in-person convening was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and partners have since expressed interest in peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
- Staff presented two key components of the TCC Program Model at the 2022 National American Planning Association’s (APA) Conference.
  - “Sowing Neighborhood-Level Investments: Transformative Climate Communities Model” (May 1) featured the TCC Collaborative Stakeholder Structure as a best practice in community visioning, planning, and resilience project implementation. TCC Senior Program Analyst Jerry Rivero moderated the panel that featured Dora Armenta (Round 2 Green Together) and Emi Wang (The Greenlining Institute).
  - “Planning for Community Development without Displacement” (May 18) featured the TCC Displacement Avoidance Plan as a best practice in co-planning for anti-displacement alongside large infrastructure investments. TCC Program Manager Sophie Young and Senior Analyst Jerry Rivero moderated the panel that featured Ivory Rose Chambeshi-Parnell (Round 1 Watts Rising), Dr. Amber Crowell (Round 1 Transform Fresno), and B. Vanessa Coleman (Round 3 Better Neighborhoods, Same Neighbors: An East Oakland Neighborhoods Initiative).

### Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

Staff: Saharnaz Mirzazad, Shanna Atherton-Bauer (DOC), Emily Tibbott (OPR), and Department of Conservation Staff

- Round 8 SALC Guidelines and request for applications were released immediately following approval at the April 28 Council meeting. Pre-proposals were received on June 15<sup>th</sup> and are being reviewed by staff for eligibility and readiness. Pre-proposals are required for those interested in submitting an acquisition application. Planning pre-proposals are optional but are due by July 1 to guarantee feedback prior to the application deadline.



- SALC staff held three virtual application workshops to provide assistance to those interested in applying to one or more of the program’s components. The Acquisition workshop was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Planning workshop on May 24<sup>th</sup>, and the Capacity and Project Development workshop on June 7<sup>th</sup>. A total of 44 participants attended the Acquisition and Planning workshops. A total of 41 participants attended the Capacity workshop. Recordings of each session are available upon request, and staff are available to answer additional application questions as needed.
- SALC staff are working in partnership with the California Tribal Fund to host an outreach workshop with tribes. The workshop will be small and will aim to inform participants about the program and explore potential project opportunities.
- All three Round 7 planning grant agreements have been executed. One acquisition grant agreement remains in process.
- The 124-acre Gill Ranch easement in Yolo County closed on May 31, 2022. The Gill Ranch is a pistachio and almond orchard on the north edge of the City of Davis owned and operated by third generation farmers.
- The 190-acre Whiskey Run easement in Placer County closed on June 2, 2022. The Whiskey Run property is comprised of blue oak woodland and annual grasslands that support a non-irrigated grazing operation.
- The 186-acre Doty Creek easement in Placer County closed on June 3, 2022. The Doty Creek property is a walnut orchard located within the City of Lincoln’s Sphere of Influence.

#### Climate Change Research Program (CCR)

Staff: Elizabeth Grassi, Montrai Spikes, and Natalie Obaldia

- Staff is working with SGC communications team to develop an impact fact sheet that describes how the CCR Round 1 research projects have contributed to communities and inform state climate policy.
- Our CCST Science Fellow is compiling data and information about the CCR Round 1 project and will develop a synthesis document based on project reports, developed metrics, and partner interviews.
- Staff continues to participate in initial sessions with the California 5<sup>th</sup> Climate Change Assessment team to implement steps on structures, processes, and networks that will support this initiative.

#### Tribal Government Challenge Program (TGC)

Staff: Elizabeth Grassi, Coral Abbott, Ena Lupine, and the California Energy Commission (CEC) Staff Team

- The Statewide Gap Analysis of California Tribal Lands expects to release its draft report later this summer. This report provides analysis and synthesis on a diverse set of primary and secondary data. This report provides Tribes’ perspectives about their needs on future state energy and climate assistance programs using survey responses to identify patterns, themes, and trends, and features a complete data set and set of initial findings.
- SGC and CEC staff will collaborate to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the Statewide Gap Analysis report to our partners across state government that include an initial discussion of the draft report with tribal liaisons from state agencies and department.

#### Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program

Staff: Coral Abbott, Lisa Hu



- SGC program staff are coordinating with California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) program staff to support the development of CDFA's community resilience centers program, in order to create alignment between CDFA's and SGC's programs funding for community resilience centers. CDFA received funding for development of resilience centers at fairgrounds and community facilities in the FY21-22 budget, and SGC received funding for resilience centers at community facilities in the FY22-23 and FY 23-24 budget. SGC staff are supporting CDFA staff on the CDFA funding earmarked for community facilities (\$38 million), through draft guideline development and stakeholder engagement. This coordination will help inform program design and engagement for SGC's CRC program.
- SGC staff will begin SGC's CRC program development, public engagement, and hiring additional staff when program funding is allocated for the CRC program at the beginning of FY 22-23.

#### Proposition 84 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grant Program (WRRG)

Staff: Clay Kerchof (OPR), Elizabeth Grassi, Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff Team

- OPR staff produced a case study for the California Adaptation Clearinghouse that synthesizes the Prop 84 projects and how they can inform future integrated wildfire resilience planning efforts.
- OPR staff will host a roundtable in June for grantees to share their lessons learned and help them prepare their case studies. Grantee case studies are due with the 2022 Q2 progress report on July 30, 2022.
- All Prop 84 grants close September 30, 2022, and final reports and the final invoice are due October 30, 2022.

#### Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

##### Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)

Staff: Kirin Kumar, Ena Lupine, Sarah Risher, and Kavleen Singh

- **Regional Climate Collaboratives Program Application Launch:** Staff posted the Notice of Funding Availability for Round 1 of the Regional Climate Collaboratives program and launched the Pre-Proposal Application. Staff also posted a number of resources for applicants, including a Collective Impact Resource document that offers resources, case studies, and best practices that may be useful to RCC applicants.
- **Regional Climate Collaboratives Program Application Workshops:** Staff held a series of four application workshops in May and June, including one overview webinar and a series of three longer audience-specific application workshop and networking sessions for rural and unincorporated communities, Tribal communities, and general audience.
- **Regional Climate Collaboratives Technical Assistance:** Staff kicked off a technical assistance contract with Estolano Advisors, the California Coalition for Rural Housing, the Institute for Local Government, and Better World Group to provide application assistance to RCC applicants.
- **Release of the final CCI TA Evaluation Report:** SGC released the final report for the third-party evaluation conducted by Harder+Company Community Research and ChangeLab Solutions assessing the efficacy and impact of the California Climate Investments Technical Assistance Program (CCI TA). Through a robust survey and in-depth interviews with technical assistance (TA) providers and recipients, this evaluation sought to understand the experiences of TA



recipients for the following California Climate Investments programs: Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Program; the BOOST Program; Climate Smart Agriculture Programs; Low Carbon Transit Operations Program; Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program; and the Transformative Climate Communities Program. The evaluation report uplifts the strengths of the CCI TA Program to continue and replicate while also providing actionable recommendations to improve TA provision.

## Collaborative Policy Initiatives

### Health and Equity Program (HEP)

Staff: Kirin Kumar, Jazmine Garcia Delgado, Alexandra Gallo, and Michael Jimenez

#### *Health in All Policies (HiAP)*

Staff: SGC partners with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Institute (PHI) to staff the Health in All Policies Task Force. The Task Force brings together over 25 agencies, departments, and commissions to integrate health and racial equity considerations into programs and policies that advance State priorities.

- HiAP Task Force Quarterly Meeting.** HEP, in collaboration with CDPH and PHI, held a virtual interagency HiAP Task Force Convening on Wednesday, May 11. The goal of this meeting was to begin convening Task Force members in workgroups and have members showcase their equity work through verbal and written updates. Members discussed draft problem and vision statements and objectives for workgroups based on the structural barriers to advance health and racial equity identified via the stakeholder engagement process conducted by HEP and the UC Berkeley Othering and Belonging Institute in 2020 and 2021. These workgroups and initiatives will help guide the work of the HiAP Task Force in 2022 (see updates below). During the convening, members also heard verbal updates from a panel of staff leading equity-focused initiatives at the Department of General Services (DGS), Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and State Water Resources Control Board (Waterboards); this panel was facilitated by PHI.
- HiAP Task Force Workgroups Convene.** Following the HiAP Task Force Quarterly Meeting on May 11, two workgroups convened in the first of monthly meetings. The workgroups are named as follows: Grant Programs, Contracts, and Funding Equity and Equity in Data and Access to Information. Participants of each workgroup include Task Force members that self-selected into each group based on capacity, interest, and expertise. HEP identified interagency champions for these workgroups based on self-selection and nominations to help facilitate workgroup meetings and spark collaboration. In June, each workgroup met to continue finalizing workgroup problem statements, visions, and objectives, and will begin identifying subtasks to advance objectives to be integrated into Action Plans in subsequent months.
- California Health & Human Services Data Expo.** The HiAP Partnership, comprised of HEP, PHI and CDPH provided a plenary session for over 800 state staff at the annual California Health & Human Services Data Expo Event on May 4. The theme of this expo was addressing barriers to, solving for, and improving data equity. The session highlighted examples of health and racial equity data use in state government and how the HiAP Task Force and Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE) can contribute to data equity and access.
- California Primary Care Association Convening on Social Determinants of Health.** On May 31, HEP joined the California Primary Care Association (CPCA) Convening on the Social Determinants



of Health, hosting a diverse audience of state and local health practitioners. HEP was invited to share a case study of State government action to advance health and racial equity, highlighting SGC's role as an interagency coordinator along with health- and racial equity-focused initiatives such as the Health in All Policies Task Force and the SGC Racial Equity Action Plan.

#### *Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP)*

Staff: HEP and SGC Program and Administrative Managers

- **SGC REAP Implementation.** HEP continues to facilitate implementation of SGC's REAP, including commitments for all SGC Programs, Operations, and Council initiatives. SGC's Racial Equity Action Plan is a three-year strategic plan (2019-2022), statement of intent, and accountability measure that ensures SGC will continue to implement strategies that prioritize racial equity. Through REAP Implementation, HEP has advised and supported each program team on meeting their individualized REAP commitments. HEP launched internal working groups in March 2022 to collaboratively pursue or enhance REAP goals related to tribal coordination, technical assistance and contract equity, and workforce equity. Through these working groups, staff have conducted analyses on partnerships to inform strengths, opportunities, and gaps, developed strategies to intake critical information from technical assistance providers to inform equity goals, are in the process of developing an organizational workforce equity survey. Eleven diverse staff are collaboratively developing the workforce equity survey, which will cover topics related to organizational culture, hiring, retention, racial equity competencies, and more.
- **HEP hosted an OPR/SGC Staff Training to Build Racial Equity Competencies** titled, "Legal Training: Diversity & Equity in State Contracting and Grant Administration." SGC's Legal Counsel collaborated with HEP to provide a training to SGC and OPR staff on how to advance diversity and equity within our grant programs and contracts while remaining in compliance with State and Federal regulation. This training took place on May 4th, 2022 and had strong attendance from OPR and SGC staff. This training is the first of three designed to build competencies within the organization to effectively advance REAP commitments.
- **CA State Agency Technical Assistance:** In May, HEP and CACE received a request from the Housing and Community Development's Homekey Program to discuss the integration of racial equity assessments and action plans into state grant programs. HEP and CACE shared potential best practices, connections and interagency collaborative efforts to integrate racial equity into state grant programs.

#### *Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE)*

Staff: SGC partners with the Public Health Institute's (PHI) State of Equity program to host a racial equity capacity-building program for California State government institutions and employees. CCORE brings together approximately 40 agencies, departments, boards, and offices to build a people-power movement inside of California State government to advance racial equity by deploying organizing principles inside and outside of the system.

- **CCORE Learning Cohort.** On Wednesday May 18, PHI hosted the first session of the 2022-2023 CCORE Learning Cohort. The session was facilitated in partnership with O&G Racial Equity Collaborative and focused on the role of government in advancing racial equity. Opening remarks were provided by Kirin Kumar with SGC, which is the state host of CCORE, and Elena Santamaria of NextGen Policy, which is an important community partner. The participants for the first session included seven teams, each with up to 12 people from the following California state entities: California Conservation Corps, Department of Finance, Department of Health Care



Access and Information, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Social Services, and California Health and Human Services Agency (including Departments of Public Health, Aging, Developmental Services, Healthcare Services, Rehabilitation, and State Hospitals, the Office of the Surgeon General, Center for Insights and Innovation, and the Medical Emergency Services Agency). The full cohort convened again on June 15, and will continue to learn together, plan for, and implement actions in support of racial equity until commencement in August 2023. Additionally, team coordinators (leads representing each participating agency or department) met with CCORE staff in one-on-one briefings and attended a training to support their capacity building in June.

- **CCORE in the state of California.** Given the longevity and interest for CCORE in the state of California, other states are continuing to look to this initiative to guide their work and for support.
  - In May, CCORE staff hosted a conversation at the National Network for Public Health Institutes Annual Conference on the role of public health institutions in advancing racial equity in government.
  - On June 7, PHI State of Equity in partnership with Race Forward and other national racial equity organizations hosted other states across the nation advancing racial equity and featured speakers from the states of Utah and Kentucky to share their work.
  - On June 28, CCORE staff presented at the State of Washington’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion summit, open to all employees from Washington state agencies, boards and commissions on lessons learned from CCORE.
- **California Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Briefing.** On May 12, the State of California Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee hosted CCORE staff to provide a 2-hour briefing on the history and approach of CCORE. This presentation included a discussion with state government staff on the value and impact of CCORE to advancing racial equity in state government.

## Land Use Planning and Economic Development

Staff: Emily Tibbott and Egon Terplan

- As part of an inter-agency policy team, staff has assisted in the implementation of EO N-82-20, including input to the CNRA-led Natural and Working Lands (NWL) Climate Smart Strategy and the Pathways to 30X30 report, final versions of which have now been released. Staff is now supporting the development of an implementation plan for the NWL Climate Smart Strategy.

## Regional Planning Initiatives:

- The final California Comeback Plan included a \$600M investment in augmenting the existing Regional Early Action Planning Grant (REAP) 2.0 funds. The proposed new program focuses on implementing regional plans in ways that reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT), accelerate infill housing development in furtherance of the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle RHNA goals, increase housing supply at all affordability levels, and affirmatively further fair housing. The REAP 1.0 program (initiated in 2019) was focused on helping regions meet their RHNA targets, which increased significantly from the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle to the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle for most areas of the state. The REAP 2.0 program is managed by a joint team across HCD, SGC, OPR and CARB. Staff are currently developing the final program guidelines, which are to be released in Summer 2022, and reviewing Advance Applications from MPOs and COGs. Since January 2022, OPR and SGC have each added one Program Associate to the REAP 2.0 Team. OPR is currently in the process of hiring a REAP 2.0 Program Analyst.



- SGC Staff, in conjunction with OPR, continue to manage the State/MPO Working Group that consists of the planning directors of the 18 MPOs and members of key state agencies (SGC, OPR, HCD, BCSH, CalSTA, CTC, Caltrans, CARB).

#### AB 285

- SGC staff have continued to host focus groups to discuss key findings from the stakeholder engagement process.
- SGC staff will share a summary of 9 key findings from the AB 285 stakeholder engagement process at the June 28 SGC Council Meeting.

#### Legislative Updates

Staff: Will Robinson, Kelsie Menefee

- **AB 2011 (B. Wicks) Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act of 2022.** The Planning and Zoning Law authorizes a development proponent to submit an application for a multifamily housing development that is subject to a streamlined, ministerial approval process and not subject to a conditional use permit if the development satisfies specified objective planning standards. This bill would make certain housing developments that meet specified affordability and site criteria and objective development standards a use by right within a zone where office, retail, or parking are a principally permitted use, and would subject these development projects to one of 2 streamlined, ministerial review processes. The bill would require a development proponent for a housing development project approved pursuant to the streamlined, ministerial review process to require, in contracts with construction contractors, that certain wage and labor standards will be met, including that all construction workers shall be paid at least the general prevailing rate of wages, as specified.
- **AB 2237 (Friedman) Transportation planning: regional transportation improvement plan: sustainable communities strategies: climate goals.** Current law requires certain transportation planning agencies to prepare and adopt regional transportation plans directed at achieving a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system. Current law requires each regional transportation plan to also include a sustainable communities strategy prepared by each metropolitan planning organization. Current law requires the Strategic Growth Council, by January 31, 2022, to submit a report to the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature that includes, among other things, an overview of those sustainable communities strategies, an assessment of how implementation of those sustainable communities strategies will influence the configuration of the statewide integrated multimodal transportation system, and a review of the potential impacts and opportunities for coordination of specified funding programs, including the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. This bill would require the council, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Transportation Agency, to convene a task force to review the roles and responsibilities of metropolitan planning organizations and to define “sustainable community. (Last Amend: 5/19/22)
- **AB 2419 (Bryan) Environmental justice: federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Justice40 Oversight Committee.** The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides additional federal funds to rebuild the nation’s infrastructures. Executive orders issued by President Biden established the federal Justice40 Initiative with the goal that 40% of the overall federal benefits flow to disadvantaged communities and stating that the implementation





of the IJJA should prioritize investing public dollars equitably, including through the Justice40 Initiative. This bill would require a minimum of 40% of funds received by the state under the IJJA to be allocated to projects that provide direct benefits to disadvantaged communities and a minimum of an additional 10% be allocated for projects that provide direct benefits to low-income households and low-income communities, as provided. The bill would require specified agencies administering federal funds to perform specified tasks related to the expenditure of those federal funds.

- **AB 2438 (Friedman) Transportation funding: alignment with state plans and greenhouse gas emissions reduction standards.** Current law provides for the funding of projects on the state highway system and other transportation improvements, including under the state transportation improvement program, the state highway operation and protection program, the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, and the program within the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program commonly known as the Local Partnership Program. This bill would require the agencies that administer those programs to revise the guidelines or plans applicable to those programs to ensure that projects included in the applicable program align with the California Transportation Plan, the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure adopted by the Transportation Agency, and specified greenhouse gas emissions reduction standards.
- **SB 558 (A. Caballero) Farmworker Climate Resilience Adaptation Program. (A-6/6/2022)** Would, until January 1, 2026, create the Farmworker Climate Resilience Adaptation Program, to be administered by the Strategic Growth Council, to award grants totaling \$20,000,000 to eligible entities for the development and implementation of projects addressing the needs of farmworkers, their families, and communities for sustainable and equitable adaptation to the impacts of climate change. **The bill would require the program to be guided by the Farmworker Climate Resilience Adaptation Task Force established by this bill consisting of 19 or more representatives appointed from each designated entity**, to be composed as specified, and would require the task force to meet not less than 6 times before June 30, 2023, as specified. The bill would require the task force to make recommendations about projects funded under this program and, on or before June 30, 2023, to report its findings and recommendations to the Strategic Growth Council, the state agencies involved in the task force, the Legislature, and the Governor. The bill would make the implementation of this program contingent upon an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute for this purpose. (Amended on 6/6 to remove the office of emergency services as lead agency & instead replace CALOES w/ SGC.)
- **SB 989 (Hertzberg) Climate Change Preparedness, Resiliency, and Jobs for Communities Program: climate-beneficial projects: grant funding.** Would establish the Climate Change Preparedness, Resiliency, and Jobs for Communities Program, to be administered by the Strategic Growth Council, and would require the council to fund grants to develop and implement multibenefit, community-level, climate-beneficial projects to support community and landscape resiliency and workforce development. The bill would require the council to award competitive grants to eligible entities, as defined, through an application process, as provided. The bill would require the council, on or before July 1, 2023, to develop guidelines to implement the program and criteria to select projects eligible for grant funding that include, at a minimum, specified information related to community resiliency grants, landscape resiliency grants, and climate and career pathways grants.
- **SB 1078 (Allen) Sea Level Rise Revolving Loan Pilot Program.** Current law requires the Ocean Protection Council to, among other things, establish policies to coordinate the collection,



evaluation, and sharing of scientific data related to coastal and ocean resources among agencies. Current law establishes the State Coastal Conservancy with prescribed powers and responsibilities for implementing and administering various programs intended to preserve, protect, and restore the state’s coastal areas. This bill would require the council, in consultation with the conservancy, to develop the Sea Level Rise Revolving Loan Pilot Program for purposes of providing low-interest loans to local jurisdictions for the purchase of coastal properties in their jurisdictions identified as vulnerable coastal property located in specified communities, including low-income communities, as provided. The bill would require the Ocean Protection Council, before January 1, 2024, in consultation with other state planning and coastal management agencies, as provided, to adopt guidelines and eligibility criteria for the program. The bill would authorize specified local jurisdictions to apply for, and be awarded, a low-interest loan under the program from the conservancy, in consultation with the Ocean Protection Council, if the local jurisdiction develops and submits to the conservancy vulnerable coastal property plan and completes all other requirements imposed by the Ocean Protection Council.

## Media Clips

### California Strategic Growth Council

- [\[LA Progressive\]: California Exposes Structural Determinants of Health](#): To help California state agencies better understand what is causing social inequities in health and what they can do to address them, the *California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)* partnered with the Othering & Belonging Institute’s Community Power and Policy Partnerships (CP3) Program and Ground Works Consulting to lead an engagement process with local and regional stakeholders.
- [\[National Resources Defense Council\]: Two California Bills Would Put Climate in the Fast Lane](#): Two bills, AB 1778 and AB 2438, would help the State prioritize climate and equity in our mobility investments across California. An important warning from the *California Strategic Growth Council*: the state’s transportation spending is often working at cross purposes with its climate goals, and slowing our progress to creating a zero-emissions transportation system that works for all Californians.
- [\[UCI News\]: Human-triggered California wildfires more severe than natural blazes](#): Two new studies find that increasing fire severity in California is leading to more and more property damage, civilian and firefighter fatalities, ecosystem degradation and poor air quality. The research was funded by NASA, *California’s Strategic Growth Council*, and the University of California’s National Laboratory Fees grant program.
- [\[Streets Blog Cal\]: Learn About and Offer Thoughts on California Transportation Assessment](#): On April 20, the *Strategic Growth Council (SGC)* hosted a public discussion of the AB 285 report, which described how California is not spending its transportation money wisely.
- [\[Nature Communications\]: Human-ignited fires result in more extreme fire behavior and ecosystem impacts](#): A standardized database of wildfire behavior that shows how human-caused fires can amplify ecosystem impacts. The study received funding support from a *California Strategic Growth Council* award to researcher Michael L. Goulden.

### Climate Change Research

- [\[EurekAlert!\]: Policy, farm management help China mitigate climate change](#): New research findings indicate that climate-warming nitrous oxide released from animal farming in China has been mitigated by science-led policy and farm management interventions. This research was supported by the Strategic Priority Research Program of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the



National Natural Science Foundation of China, the *California Strategic Growth Council Climate Change Research Program* and the U.S. Department of Energy.

- [Human-triggered California wildfires are more severe than natural blazes \(phys.org\)](#): Human-caused wildfires in California are more ferocious than blazes sparked by lightning, a team led by scientists from the University of California, Irvine reported recently in the journals [Nature Communications](#) and [Scientific Data](#). This research could help scientists better understand fire severity and how likely a blaze is to kill trees and inflict long-term damage on an ecosystem in its path. The research was funded by NASA, California’s Strategic Growth Council, and the University of California’s National Laboratory Fees grant program.

#### Transformative Climate Communities

- [\[Bakersfield Now\]: Project to bring millions to Bakersfield for reducing green house emissions](#): A special meeting was held Monday, June 6 night for community members to review and ask questions about new community projects proposed for *Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)* funding. The TCC program is administered by the *California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)* for the implementation of multiple neighborhood-level projects and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving other economic and health benefits.
- [\[CaliforniaCityNews.org\]: California Consulting Releases Municipal Grants for May 2022](#): This article discusses various different municipal grants, including the *Transformative Climate Communities Grant*. It provides information regarding the program’s deadline, amount, and eligibility.
- [\[Spectrum News 1\]: Watts Rising striving to improve the lives of residents](#): Watts Rising is a collaboration of residents, more than 40 organizations, and city agencies striving to improve the quality of life in Watts. It was one recipient of a \$33.25 million grant from the *California Strategic Growth Council’s Transformative Climate Community Program*. “To begin to see this change in the community is really empowering and important and a great model for the rest of the state,” *Strategic Growth Council* executive director Lynn von Koch-Liebert said.

#### Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

- [\[The Davis Vanguard\]: Davis Permanently Preserves 124 Acres of Farmland Northeast Of City Limits](#): The City of Davis recently purchased an agricultural conservation easement on 124 acres of farmland as a permanent preserve for farmland and open space. The State of California funded its portion of the acquisition through the California Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation program (SALC), in collaboration with the Department of Conservation.
- [\[CarsonNow.org\]: Agreement conserves 1,741 acres and over five miles of rivers and streams in Bridgeport Valley](#): The Eastern Sierra Land Trust has secured a conservation easement with to protect the historic Centennial Point Ranch in the heart of Bridgeport Valley. Funders include the *California Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*.

#### Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

- [\[CaliforniaCityNews.org\]: California Consulting Releases Municipal Grants for May 2022](#): This article discusses various different municipal grants, including the *Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program*. It provides information regarding the program’s deadline, amount, and eligibility.



- [\[Streets Blog Cal\]: Grading CA Transportation Programs on Climate, Equity Goals](#): ClimatePlan released a 2022 Report Card that grades on California transportation funding programs according to whether they align with climate, equity, and public health values and goals. *Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC)*, managed by the *Strategic Growth Council (SGC)*, received an A-.
- [\[NBC Palm Springs\]: Affordable Housing Community Opens in Coachella](#): A group of Coachella elected officials celebrated the opening of a \$47.9 million affordable housing community. Among other organizations, funding for the project was provided by the *California Strategic Growth Council's Affordability Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program*.

