

California Strategic Growth Council Priority 3: Resolution on Housing, Climate, and Equity

WHEREAS California is experiencing acute and entwined housing and climate crises, the impacts of which are simultaneously contributing to and amplified by widening racial and economic equity gaps across the state; and

WHEREAS what, where, and how development occurs has significant impacts on our personal lives, our communities, and our state; and

WHEREAS the social determinants of health, including affordable, stable, safe, and health-promoting housing, as well as the broader conditions and environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age, affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life outcomes; and

WHEREAS decades of decentralized growth patterns, inadequate supply of housing, and a lack of integrated public transportation options have resulted in sustained increases in vehicle miles traveled (VMT), leading to increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, negative impacts on affordability, air quality, and health, and ultimately more development and reduced carbon sequestration on natural and working lands; and

WHEREAS histories of redlining, interstate highway development, and predatory home loans have resulted in historical and continued segregation, reduced wealth, lower rates of homeownership, and higher rates of cost-burdened households for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities compared to white populations. As a result, BIPOC and low-income communities are disproportionately exposed to pollution and climate-related extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS climate-driven disasters place people who are currently unhoused or in unstable, substandard, or inadequate housing at extreme risk; and

WHEREAS addressing these challenges requires changing how California builds and connects communities while strengthening the social safety net through strategic growth: an inclusive, coordinated, interagency approach to development and conservation that helps protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more resilient, culturally and economically vibrant, and socially diverse; and

WHEREAS strategic growth requires consistent and coordinated action on land use and transportation strategies at all levels of government in California, including State, regional, and local; and

WHEREAS the Newsom Administration is committed to a California for All agenda and believes the State plays a critical role and holds unique responsibility to reduce barriers and create equitable opportunities for all Californians; and

WHEREAS building on the state's climate leadership, the historic \$53.9 billion climate budget enacted in 2022 is designed to reduce emissions, build community resilience, accelerate affordable housing, provide access to clean and inexpensive public transportation, and expand access to health care and education while advancing equity and expanding the number of Californians that share in the state's economic growth; and

WHEREAS SB Bill 375 (2008) recognizes the critical role of integrating transportation, land use, and housing decisions and requires each of California's 18 regional metropolitan planning organizations to

develop a sustainable communities strategy to meet regional per capita GHG emission reduction targets for light-duty passenger travel; and

WHEREAS under the Statewide Housing Plan, California must plan for more than 2.5 million homes by 2030, with no less than one million of those homes meeting the needs of lower-income households; and

WHEREAS sweeping legislation over the last six years and the formation of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness has produced a range of data-informed, innovative strategies to streamline and incentivize various types of housing development, expand the supply of rental and for sale affordable homes, and reduce and prevent homelessness; and

WHEREAS AB 686 (2018) requires the State, cities, counties, and other agencies to administer programs in a way that affirmatively furthers fair housing to overcome patterns of segregation and fosters inclusive communities; and

WHEREAS Executive Order N-82-20 outlines a comprehensive and results-oriented agenda to restore biodiversity and landscape health to deliver on our climate change goals and other critical priorities, including improving public health and safety, securing our food and water supplies, and achieving greater equity across California; and

WHEREAS viewed together, the State has a robust toolbox to support healthy communities with access to housing, transit, and opportunities while ensuring the preservation of and access to natural and working lands for the benefit of all Californians; and

WHEREAS despite these efforts, Californians are driving more – leading to more pollution, higher costs, and worse day-to-day experiences. Annual housing production continues to fall far short of the levels required to meet the State’s goals, and housing remains unaffordable for millions of Californians. Too often, well-made plans remain as plans rather than becoming realities; and

WHEREAS many State programs – particularly older programs – are not aligned with each other or with contemporary State objectives. Local jurisdictions tasked with implementing the State’s climate and housing goals often lack consistent access to available support, guidance, targeted funding, and policy tools to implement those actions; and

WHEREAS the Council, comprised of Cabinet members representing seven State agencies and three members of the public, has called for deeper, more coordinated commitments and actions regarding the alignment of the state’s housing, climate, and equity efforts to build more sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS coordinating agency activities relating to housing, climate, and equity is a core mandate of the Strategic Growth Council authorizing statute, which directs the Council to identify and review activities of participating agencies that may be coordinated to increase the availability of affordable housing and meet the goals of our state's climate change policies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Council and each member agency endeavor to administer their programs and activities in a manner that supports strategic and equitable growth, with emphasis on the following areas:

- a) Evaluating and prioritizing non-budgetary and non-legislative actions to implement existing recommendations including, but not limited to, the Draft 2022 Progress Report on California’s

Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (SB 150 Report), the California Transportation Assessment Report (AB 285 Report), and the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI);

- b) Identifying additional tools and strategies to meet the State’s housing, climate, and equity goals in a coordinated way, at the scale and at a pace necessary to meet the urgency of current and projected needs;
- c) Removing barriers through technical assistance and capacity building, continued development of data tools, partnerships with California Native American tribes and local and regional government agencies, and elevating effective strategies and best practices;
- d) Improving coordination between state, local, federal, and tribal partners and sharing information on new and existing efforts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Council and each member agency commit to using a minimum of one public Council Meeting annually as a forum to share measurable actions and best practices implemented; highlight success stories; discuss remaining barriers, and actively engage with stakeholders to gather public input, with a specific focus on California Native American tribes, and under-resourced communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Council and each member agency, in coordination with SGC staff, commit to developing a work plan comprised of short-, mid-, and long-term actions and objectives, including a process to track, measure, and communicate the State’s collective efforts to accelerate strategic growth;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the development and implementation of these practices shall be overseen by SGC staff in coordination with the following interagency working groups:

- a) Housing and Transportation Working Group
- b) Conservation and Housing Education Working Group
- c) Building Decarbonization Working Group

This Resolution is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable of law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

Passed and adopted this _____