

February 28, 2023

Subject: Strategic Growth Council December 15, 2022, Meeting Minutes
Reporting Period: December 2022 – February 2022
Staff Lead: Sauntharya Manikandan, Executive Fellow, SGC

Recommended Action

Approval of the December 15, 2022, Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

Strategic Growth Council December 15, 2022 - Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Acknowledgement of Tribal leadership and representatives attending the meeting.

Director Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

“SGC Executive Director Lynn von Koch-Liebert is out of office so SGC Deputy Director of Equity & Government Transformation, Kirin Kumar, will represent SGC in her place”

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Council Members and Representatives Present:

Sam Assefa, Director, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research

Frank Cardenas, Public Member

Moises Moreno-Rivera (Designee), Assistant Secretary for Equity & Environmental Justice, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), on behalf of Secretary Wade Crowfoot

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

Juan Sanchez Munoz, Public Member

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

Sasha Kergan (Designee), Deputy Secretary of Housing & Consumer Relations (BCSH), on behalf of Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramirez

Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

Nicole Capretz, Public Member Yana Garcia, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
(joined at 1:30 pm)

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Chancellor Juan Sanchez Munoz and seconded by Secretary Karen Ross to approve the October 27, 2022 meeting minutes. **Motion passes (9-1-0*)**. *Marks abstention or absence from vote

Public Comment: No public comment

Agenda Item #4: Executive Director's Report

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

Council Comment:

Director Assefa: Thank SGC staff for their work and excited for guidelines for AHSC and how it represents comments and feedback from multiple groups to address equity and multiple factors. Also excited for catalyst conference for bringing cutting edge ideas and introducing multiple voices to expand the work of the State.

Secretary Ross: So excited about SALC. Important to note that this number of acres is more than what we've done over 20 years with different programs. Speaks to consistency of funding, planning grants, and importance of reaching out to tribal programs. Capacity building will be what helps this last for climate, acknowledge Shanna Atherton for her work heading the farmland conservancy program.

Deputy Secretary Moreno-Rivera: Acknowledge Augustin being high school alumni and extending a welcome to colleague from Coachella Valley.

Deputy Secretary Radhakrishna: Note that these are big and important numbers in not just what but also how and congratulates SGC staff and agency's work with guidelines. Extended congrats to Cal EPA and CARB on release and consideration of scoping plan, one of the most ambitious and intersectional plans. Acknowledge Dr. Starr and his retirement and thank him for his service.

Director Assefa: Acknowledge great work Dr. Starr has done and thanks Rohan for taking over his role.

Chancellor Munoz: Echoed excitement around SALC program and housing. Very excited for Catalyst conference and visibility of the programs and how it sets precedent and pressure for other states and leaderships. Noted that it catalyzes thinking both within and outside the state. Technical innovations and other innovations that could occur if conferences happened consistently. Notes Lawrence Livermore and breakthrough announcement on vision and energy for what isn't fossil fuels. Things happening in California unlike anywhere else, not just the moment but what it catalyzes for the future.

Secretary Castro-Ramirez: Apologize for being late.

1:25 Secretary Castro Ramirez joins to replace Deputy Secretary Kergan (BCSH)

Public Comment: No Public Comment

Agenda Item #5: Consent Calendar

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

Deputy Secretary Moreno-Rivera: Our agency wants to extend a thank you to the staff that worked with us on these guidelines for AHSC and TCC and look forward to future collaboration.

Secretary Garcia, EPA joined at 1:30 PM

Council Comment:

Director Assefa: Thank you for all the public comments, discussion on impacts of our programs, as well as the ways we can improve. We acknowledge need for disability/accessibility discussion, it is important for us to hear and improve on this.. I also want to point out that AHSC needs to meet state ADA and disabilities act by law to receive funding but will continue to improve this. Encourage staff to continue to work with communities that highlight challenges with our programs.

Kirin: AHSC is actively scheduling meetings to begin those conversation ahead of next round, especially regarding paratransit and comments brought up today.

Secretary Garcia: Echo comments and note that disability rights comments are very important to hear and reiterate appreciation for it.

Public Comment:

Motion passes (10-0-0).

Motion was made by Secretary Ross and second by Director Assefa.

Agenda Item #6: ACTION: Council Priority 3: Housing, Climate, and Equity

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

Sean Kennedy, Special Projects Analyst, SGC

Adopt the Resolution on Council Priority 3: Housing, Climate, and Equity

Council Comment:

Secretary Castro-Ramirez: Meant to go over this last meeting, but influx of public comment pushed this over but thankful for how great public comment was in grounding our work. Acknowledge all the time and people that worked on this project, working on housing, climate and equity gives an opportunity for council to think about strategic growth. Shared that the reason they ran late to council meeting was that State and HCD just announced 6 pro-housing designations: Citrus Heights, Oakland, Fontana, San Diego, Roseville, West Sacramento. This designation means that cities are committed to building housing that is located near transit, jobs, and healthcare that we know family needs to thrive.

Talked to mayors of these designations earlier today and celebrate today the work they are doing. Talked to Mayor Todd Gloria and wanted to borrow his quote “good housing where people want to be is not just good housing policy but good climate policy”. This priority uses the same approach so let's continue this good work because those most impacted are typically low income, people of color, vulnerable communities. This requires us to be more intentional in how we collaborate and like the Governor says, “how we move with speed and urgency”. Tackling issues with planning, planning with communities, interagency coordination, advancing policy, and creating innovative programs. Our state goals of planning look to 2.5 million new homes in the next 8 years of which 1 million must be available to lower income households.

The largest gap in housing needs is those who are very low or extremely low-income households, which in Affordable Housing speak is the measure that we use of 50% area income or below. But this in not just about production and affordability, as we were reminded at UC Merced (thanks to Chancellor

Munoz) that the work we are doing must ensure we are building equitable communities, creating communities that are better integrated and recognizing some communities have suffered more than others from disinvestment. Attention to type of building, type and quality of units, respect to communities, and understanding to regional dynamics, this is the level of intentionality we bring to BSCH and collectively among my colleagues.

We also think about health, access to transportation, energy efficiency, and more.

Thanks to Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, and SGC staff for incorporating edits and feedback and ask that all continue joining our movement of bringing climate, housing, and equity at the state and ready to take to next level.

Secretary Garcia: That was well said Secretary Castro-Ramirez. I want to extend thanks to both you and Public Member Capretz's work in this space. Excited to be here today and see link between housing, climate, and equity especially after coming from CARB scoping plan meeting and this includes centering work in environmental justice and equity issues. Affordability is something we are grappling with on par with the climate crisis. As this resolution indicates, how and where we build this housing matters for climate outcomes especially for those disproportionately affected by climate hazards and environmental challenges. Key to strategic growth is uplifting sustainable communities' strategies (SB 375), although this is not the focus of this resolution, we want to make sure to coordinate across decarbonation efforts and land use.

Suggest a few principles to guide workplan:

1. Think big. Housing, climate, and equity not by minor adjustments we need major changes to status quo. Essential to align policy across all agencies. This also presents opportunity to explore how to reach our housing goals and climate change targets.
2. Use data to guide our actions. Need to be evidence based to achieve policy actions we are striving towards.
3. Center equity. Ensure each action we take has clear nexus to equitable outcomes and identify in action who and what will be better off as we implement these plans. Props to disability advocates who spoke earlier and suggest considering their comment as we move forward in this priority area.

Public Member Capretz: Excited to work on this issue and hear that San Diego has received designation. Lean in on ideas to augment what staff and other agencies had viewed as outcomes for this policy, as this is what I am most interested in as an advocate on the ground. We have seen a large NIMBY movement, happens often in San Diego and it can be frustrating for maximizing housing opportunities when people are trying to preserve status quo.

In spirit ways state can help provide several suggestions:

- Rather than just mandating infill housing, suggest state have a database of progressive policy options for cities and counties to adopt in one centralized location, especially best practices and policies that have been successful. Smaller cities don't have the capacity to put forward policies that will be successful.

- Training for local officials to communicate benefits of infill housing, not just policy but messaging to broader community. When we attend community planning meetings (opposed to new housing), city staff continues with how to present and respond to messaging. City staff want to do right thing but not equipped to do so.
- Statewide Mechanism around same issue around housing, mentioned messaging around water/electricity that were helpful, and we can utilize this platform to push these housing needs.

Director Assefa: Couldn't agree more. A year ago, the governor challenged us to think about housing as a climate strategy. What he meant by that is how issues are interconnected. Decisions we make on how we use our land has the most impact on climate, equity, economy, and wellbeing of the planet. This is not just a numbers game in terms of housing, we must be bold and show results. Applaud Secretary Castro-Ramirez on the work her agency has done for affordable housing. Very excited to see this take shape and ways OPR can support as a land use agency.

- General Plan Guidelines: The general plans are roadmaps for local jurisdictions to implement land use. The state has had bold programs and legislation to encourage local jurisdiction to create more affordable housing. Looking to update this plan and requirements/statutes that we want to put forward and consistent to what we want to get out of local jurisdictions.
 - Some even use general plan to oppose housing developments, so we are looking to update this to make sure equity and climate goals are embedded in there.
- CEQA: Intention is to make sure development responds to climate equity. Look at this to see if there are opportunities to streamline CEQA so housing that meets this area are expedited and make sure guardrails for regulations.
- Connect the dots in government and investigate our own programs that supports housing to be affordable and sustainable.

Secretary Ross: Love the linkage of climate, housing, equity since it helps us to think about where we are developing and where we don't. We are reckoning with water and natural resource limitations that lead to land fallowing (affordability). Additionally, this is happening at a time where we have made big investment in food resilience (farm to school, farming in urban areas, taskforce on land access being stood up) so we need to think how we can use this to build up rather than out. Given that many land planning entities are under resourced, OPR and SGC tools are especially beneficial. Let's not borrow from future, we need to think differently and put people at the center of the work.

Secretary Omishakin: Well, noted and well said by all my colleagues. These issues are clearly all connected. We come back to the point that we must work together. President Kennedy made a statement about this issue to Congress in 1963 "Transportation and Land use should go hand in hand as two inseparable aspects of the same process."

Appreciate the intentionality here and the way staff is having us lean into this and make sure we are not moving away from this good work.

Director Assefa: I appreciate that quote. Even go a step further an say good land use policy is good transportation policy. Looking forward to working with transportation.

Deputy Secretary Radhakrishna: Thank you on behalf of CDPH, especially for explicitly naming and elevating health within the resolution. At the federal level the Health and Human Services just launched a new framework called the 7 vital conditions and housing is one of those conditions. So, we really looking forward to this resolution.

Dr. Margot Kuchel says housing is most important medicine, and it's more powerful when it meets certain outcomes so I will build off Public Member Capretz's challenge to dive into those outcomes.

Outcome 1: We would like to see the plans, policies, and allocation of resources meet five criteria and track those overtime.

- How much of the housing is permanent
- How much is supportive
- How much is zero carbon
- How much is climate resilient
- How much is healthy

Outcome 2: Look at the home itself as a place for health by supporting a maximum threshold for indoor temperatures. We have a minimum one for heating, but we don't have a maximum one for heating.

Outcome 3: Building off Secretary Ross's point of answering the tough question of where we should/shouldn't be developing. Not just housing for all but health and housing for all through working group with BCSH.

Public Member Cardenas: Thank you for taking the time to celebrate the key members who lifted this council priority up. This item will be remembered as being a pivotal moment towards climate action and something that can easily fly under the radar. One of the resolved clauses is commitment to use public council meeting annually to measure best practices and discuss barriers and engage with stakeholders with specific input from CA Native American tribes and under resourced communities. Some of the most powerful people in the 4th largest economy in the world are saying they are ready to be held accountable for meaningful and measurable climate actions and no less in an open forum and that is amazing transformation. Testament to SGC leadership, GO.

Second Secretary Castro-Ramirez's point as it is important to listen to leaders when they speak. She described what is happening in the state and what she is trying to drive as a movement. This is frontline movement (movimiento – nomenclature used by indigenous communities) that communities have been trying to get governments for years. She is elevating the consciousness of these communities to build a movement. Cardenas looks forward to the privilege to hold council and agencies accountable for their actions as we move forward with this challenge.

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Motion passes (10-0-0)

Motion made by Deputy Secretary Moreno-Rivera seconded by Secretary Castro-Ramirez's.

Public Member Capretz and Chancellor Munoz leave at 2:35 PM due to conflicts of interest.

Agenda Item #7: Regional Climate Collaboratives Round 1 Awards

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

Ena Lupine, CACE Program Manager

Action: Approve staff recommendations for the Regional Climate Collaboratives Round 1 Awards

Council Comment:

Director Assefa: Chair's discretion and public comment first.

Director Assefa: Acknowledge difficulty of not receiving award but potential for Round 2 applicants.

Secretary Garcia: Thanks everyone for applying to program. Very impressed by where the program is now and in awe of how many applicants we had. This is a time of not so happy fiscal outlooks in the next couple of years but highlight how we were seeing so clearly needs. In the next round, hoping to see geographic gaps filled especially in the San Joaquin Valley.

Public Member Cardenas: Acknowledge the leadership of SELA collaborative and Dr. Wilma Franco. They had to do traditional capacity building from the ground up and are now a model for others. It is a testament to visionary leadership and persistence. As a humble 5th generation resident of Tongva land, I thank you for the opportunity to support tribes. We have no federally recognized Tribes in the LA county, which is at no fault of their own and goes back to broken promises over century. Thank you to other Tribal Awardees including Hoopa Valley and Pala Band Indians.

Deputy Secretary Moreno-Rivera: Secretary Crowfoot sends his regards to leadership of SELA and seconds Council Member Cardenas' comment. It's great to be in space that acknowledge the continued need to work with Tribes. There is a lot of historic inequities in California and the number of applicants is testament to how much more we need to do and acknowledge that so many communities that are ready to take on this challenge and work with us. Thank you to everyone that provided public comment, know that there is council and staff looking to work with you moving forward

Director Assefa: Echo comments and kudos to process of going through applications.

Public Comment:

3:21 Deputy Secretary Toks leaves and replaced by Deputy Secretary Moosavi (virtually)

3:23 Secretary Castro-Ramirez leaves and replaced by Deputy Secretary Kergan

3:35 Secretary Garcia leaves and replaced by Deputy Secretary D'Souza

Chancellor Munoz came back at 3:41

3:43 Deputy Secretary Moosavi leaves

Motion passes (10-0-0)

Motion made by Public Member Cardenas seconded by Secretary Ross.

Agenda Item #8: DISCUSSION: Community Resilience Centers: Policy Direction



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

Coral Abbott, CRC Program Manager

- *Required Elements & Functions of Community Resilience Centers*
- *Geographic Diversity*

Discussion Questions

1. Should the CRC program only fund proposals that will equip communities to meet a multitude of emergency needs? Or should the program also fund those projects that are more limited in the scale of emergency response potential?
2. What are the possible approaches to defining 'geographic diversity' for the CRC program? How should this be reflected in the program guidelines?

Council Comment:

Secretary Ross: State owns fairgrounds that are integrated into regions. They are not only the first place to call for emergencies but also place to go to. CDFA CRC fairgrounds program focused on frequent evacuations, longer periods of evacuation, charging facilities, backup energy, etc. Focus on facilities like showers and kitchens and overall, we are creating better year-round community hubs. many of these places also host childcare, events, and more. If investing in these facilities don't want to duplicate, we need to have two track – one is larger full-service community resilience centers and the second being something like library and community centers to be modified to make changes.

Transportation needs to be considered as an important factor in putting together these resilience center. We need to think about investments that have already been made and take these into consideration. Additionally, keep in mind needs of vulnerable populations for something less than a full-service grant.

Director Assefa: Agree especially on these centers becoming community centers, which is a great unintended benefit.

Deputy Secretary Moreno-Rivera: Not disagree with Secretary Ross on the utility of identifying a map of fairgrounds. Curious on if the criteria were able to provide multiple services, will venues have the capacity to do so. Given the limited resources to do as much as possible, so intuition has been towards CERF map. Because as part of Governor's generosity towards 16 collaboratives of 250 million, seen the value of folks coming together to work at the regional scale.

When Covid-19 hit in Inland CA, the fairground is where vaccines were administered because it's a generationally known facility of confidence, especially generational awareness. If there was a way to combine CERF and fairground structure, that would be ideal in planning for the resilience centers.

Deputy Secretary Radhakrishna: Thank Coral for naming social connection as a key part of what we are trying to be driving. Two words and phrases we should be thinking are trust and community informed feature fitting. "Build it and they will come" - this is not the case. Cultural, language, physical transportation accessibility is the key here. Some of these sites might not meet the needs of all hazards now and in the future. We dissuade applicants if we expect them to address all hazards, so this should

be considered. This fits with pre-hazard mitigation, as a prevention strategy. We know it's going to increase in frequency and intensity, so we need to supplement existing trusted sites rather than building more.

When it comes it comes to second question on geographical diversity: Mentioned just a few of the maps, but it doesn't always get addressed equitably. We heard from public comment in Item 7 from Kayla that maybe we need to address communities needs from a risk perspective. At our agency we are looking at socioeconomic and climate risks and there are ways to address equity through that --> address diversity through regional allocation rather than picking a particular regional map. We need to use prioritization tools like what the department did during the pandemic.

Deputy Secretary Moreno-Rivera: Thank you Rohan for your comments, lots of alignments with what you shared. Additionally touch upon several other elements. First energy resiliency: include solar installation, renewable energy generation, education on rebate and assistance programs. Second on water resilience side: water efficiency and conservation, drought tolerant landscaping, and education on this as well. Third on nature-based and food security: community greening, vegetation management, defensible space, community gardens, and training/education on these activities. You can see a clear educational component in all of these. Fourth on workforce development: job training and certification, outdoor workers' rights and protections in context of climate impacts, business development for carbon neutral future, and minimum funding target and resilience for Native American tribes. Fifth in health: Extreme heat action plan highlights that deadliest hazard in CA and US. Heat waves are predicted to cause two to three times more heat related deaths in next century. EJ and equity lenses, climate vulnerable communities will experience the worst of these effects. Make sure these elements are reinforced and recommend paying closer attention to guidelines on communities most vulnerable to extreme heat.

On the question of geographic considerations. There are already structures in place (don't develop new regional considerations) and instead leverage existing breakdowns like climate assessment and that funded projects should be a spread of regions. Back to Rohan's comment, looking at vulnerabilities of communities and capacity.

Deputy Secretary D'Souza: This is innovative and groundbreaking and not a lot of precedent to look to so it will be an iterative process. Decide and revisit especially for first question. Suggest a more inclusive approach, allowing applicants to decide. And be clear that we will have the opportunity to revisit these guidelines.

Deputy Secretary Kergan: Lots of principles. Keeping in mind simplicity for applicants and we expect to learn a lot from first round of funding. Look to SALC program and doing a portfolio approach. Second approach of flexibility (size/barriers that vary), appreciate the social vulnerability comment and support for that. Flexibility to allow for other investment ~ collocate CRC with housing?

Last thing is sustainability. Curious of long-term sustainability of CRC since we didn't get a sense of how long we are able to support operations so that we can works towards longevity of outcomes.

Public Member Cardenas: Setting aside geographic parameters and look at existing roles. Point made by Rohan social equity concerns and risk analysis. Where is the type of areas of where we expect bad things to happen. More heat, more wildfires, and San Andrea's [fault] and other things that aren't going

anywhere, and possibility of massive flood in LA according to UCLA. It is too narrow sighted to be looking at specific calamity and the way a community responds, so we need to be considerate of multiple scenarios as we go forward with putting together these centers.

Director Assefa: Question 1, be open to simplicity and be inclusive upfront with guardrails. If we try to do everything, then chance of failure increases especially as you think about sustainability overtime. Be open to flexible approaches, not every need is going to be same.

Regional consideration is a contentious process. What I am hearing is don't reinvent wheel and leverage what has already been done. CAL OES areas will be a good place to start and work with communities and trusted organization.

Chancellor Munoz and Vice Chancellor left at 4:11 PM

Public Comment:

Agenda Item #9: Public Comment

Public comment (virtual)

Agenda Item #10: Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM