



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL
PRIORITY 3:
HOUSING, CLIMATE, AND EQUITY

Draft Work Plan – April 2023

INTRODUCTION

In December 2022, the Strategic Growth Council passed a [resolution](#) calling for a coordinated approach to housing, climate, and equity efforts that support strategic growth across California ("Council Priority 3" or "Priority 3"). Council Priority 3 aims to improve access to affordable housing in healthy and amenity-rich communities, provide a variety of transportation options that reduce the need to drive, and preserve and ensure access to natural and working lands.

To support Council Priority 3 implementation, SGC Staff has developed a two-year work plan designed to operationalize the goals of the Priority. The Work Plan is organized around three goals, outlined in the resolution:

1. Ensure existing opportunities to simultaneously advance the State's housing, climate, and equity objectives are utilized to their full potential.
2. Identify additional tools and strategies to meet the State's housing, climate, and equity goals in a coordinated way and at the scale and pace necessary to close existing gaps and meet the urgency of current and projected needs.
3. Improve coordination and information sharing between State, local, federal, and Tribal partners at the nexus of housing, climate, and equity.

The work plan draws on a review of existing recommendations and input gathered through a Request for Information released in March 2023. The work plan is comprised of short and medium-term actions and objectives, organized by goals. Work plan progress will be monitored monthly by the Housing and Transportation Working Group's Housing, Transportation, Climate, and Conservation Sub-Committee, with updates provided to the Council on a semi-annual basis.

SGC PRIORITY 3: HOUSING, CLIMATE, AND EQUITY

[SGC's Resolution on Housing, Climate, and Equity](#) creates a framework for elevating and coordinating the growing number of goals, policies, and programs designed to address the state's entwined housing, climate, and equity crises, and also provides an opportunity to identify and advance additional strategies needed to fully achieve California's housing, climate, and equity goals. Leveraging the Council's position as a public interagency body, Priority 3 aims to build awareness of and access to opportunities across the state, as well as to identify additional strategies to meet the State's housing, climate, and equity goals in a coordinated manner, through a combination of public engagement, technical assistance, and coordination across traditional silos of policy and planning. In turn, Priority 3 will help to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions and enhance community resilience while advancing equity and expanding the number of Californians that share in the state's economic and environmental wealth.

DEVELOPING THE HOUSING, CLIMATE, AND EQUITY WORK PLAN

Analysis of existing recommendations

Beginning in February 2023, SGC staff conducted a review and evaluation of existing State recommendations related to the objectives of Council Priority 3. The analysis included the review of the following State plans and reports:

- Draft 2022 Progress Report on California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (SB 150 Report)
- California Air Resources Board 2022 Scoping Plan Appendix E: Sustainable and Equitable Communities
- California Transportation Assessment Report (AB 285 Report)
- Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI)
- Statewide Housing Plan (SHP)
- Housing and Conservation Education Series summary report

Recommendations were classified based on their budgetary impacts, the need for additional enabling legislation, and feasibility under the authority and scope of the Council and its member agencies. Recommendations were further classified based on whether implementation could be achieved through actions internal to state government or would require action from external entities, such as local and regional governments. Finally, recommendations were classified based on the estimated timeline for implementation ranging from short-term (0-1 year), and medium-term (1-2 years).

In assessing the suitability for inclusion in the Work Plan, priority was given to non-budgetary, non-legislative actions that can feasibly be implemented under the authority of the Council and member agencies within a two-year time horizon. Recommendations requiring budgetary or legislative action but considered high impact were cataloged for potential inclusion in future initiatives. Additionally, the Work Plan provides an opportunity to identify and advance additional strategies needed to fully achieve State climate, housing, and equity goals beyond the two-year horizon of Council Priority 3.

Request for Information

In March 2023, SGC released a Request for Information to supplement the analysis of existing recommendations. The RFI offered SGC member agencies, their departments, and the public the opportunity to provide information on ways to

influence how California builds and connects communities through strategic growth. The RFI was promoted via the SGC newsletter and shared directly with approximately 450 Tribal representatives, local and regional governments, transportation agencies, academics, and advocacy organizations. State agency input was coordinated by Key Staff, and departmental input was coordinated through the Housing and Transportation Working Group's Housing, Transportation, Climate, and Conservation.

Through this RFI, SGC sought to identify the following:

1. Non-budgetary and non-legislative strategies and 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 2022 Scoping Plan Appendix E Sustainable and Equitable Communities, the California Transportation Assessment Report (AB 285 Report), the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI), and the Statewide Housing Plan (SHP);
2. Additional non-budgetary and non-legislative tools and strategies to meet the State's housing, climate, and equity goals in a coordinated way and at the scale and pace necessary to close existing gaps and meet the urgency of current and projected needs;
3. Tools and strategies to meet the State's housing, climate, and equity goals that might require legislative and budget action;
4. Strategies and actions for removing barriers to achieving the State's housing, climate, and equity goals 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; and
5. Strategies and actions for improving coordination between State, local, federal, and Tribal partners and sharing information on new and existing efforts.

Recommendations were classified based on the same methodology applied in the review of the existing recommendations. Recommendations requiring budgetary or legislative action but considered high impact and those deemed relevant beyond the scope of Council Priority 3 were cataloged for potential inclusion in future initiatives.

GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND ACTIONS

The Matrix in Appendix A provides an overview of the strategies and actions associated with the Work Plan's three goals. The matrix includes a detailed list of responsible agencies in lead and support roles required to meet the plan's objectives.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Progress on each action in the Work Plan will be monitored by the Housing, Transportation, Climate, and Conservation (HTC+C) sub-committee of the interagency Housing and Transportation Work Group. HTC+C will meet monthly to evaluate progress and discuss any necessary modifications to the plan. HTC+C will submit quarterly updates to SGC staff, informing progress reports to the Strategic Growth Council. Additionally, the HTC+C, in coordination with SGC staff, will generate an annual progress report, which will document key accomplishments made to implement the actions listed in the plan. The progress reports will also provide recommendations for new or revised actions that should be undertaken as necessary in response to changing conditions and evolving needs of the state.

SGC proposes to provide formal public status updates on these annual progress reports at scheduled Strategic Growth Council meetings. In addition to progress reports, a minimum of one public Council Meeting annually will serve as a forum to share measurable actions and best practices implemented, highlight success stories, and discuss remaining barriers. These public Council meetings, combined with additional outreach and engagement strategies contained in the work plan, are designed to foster public engagement throughout the duration of the Council Priority while creating a framework for visibly connecting public input to State action.

APPENDIX A: GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND ACTIONS

Goal 1: Ensure existing opportunities to simultaneously advance the State's housing, climate, and equity objectives are utilized to their full potential.

Short-Term: 0-1 years • Medium-Term: 1-2 years

Strategy 1.1: Improve internal and external understanding of California's housing and climate policy landscape

#	Action	Horizon	Lead Entity	State Partners
1	Compile an inventory of State policies, programs, and funding opportunities at the nexus of housing, climate, and equity.	Short Term	SGC	
2	Assess the utilization of existing tools, funding opportunities, and other State resources intended to meet the State's housing and climate goals.	Medium Term		Council agencies

Strategy 1.2: Evaluate, prioritize, and develop strategies to implement existing non-budgetary and non-legislative recommendations

#	Action	Horizon	Lead Entity	State Partners
3	Implement selected recommendations contained in the Draft 2022 Progress Report on California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (SB 150 Report), the 2022 Scoping Plan Appendix E Sustainable and Equitable Communities, the California Transportation Assessment (AB 285 Report), and other relevant reports	Medium Term	HTC+C	CalEPA, CalSTA, BCSH,
4	Develop implementation strategies for selected recommendations on building electrification and reducing embodied carbon in building materials contained in the 2022 Scoping Plan Appendix F Building Decarbonization, and other relevant reports.	Medium Term	BDWG	CalEPA
5	Understand and develop strategies to address barriers to implementing densification opportunities under existing policies.	Medium Term	HTC+C	BCSH
6	Explore measures to provide greater consistency and alignment between Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA), Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCSs), and regional plans, such as strategic planning that prioritizes green space and conservation and encourages greater integration of state housing and conservation policy priorities.	Medium Term	HTC+C	CDFA, CNRA

Goal 1: Ensure existing opportunities to simultaneously advance the State's housing, climate, and equity objectives are utilized to their full potential (continued).

Short-Term: 0-1 years • Medium-Term: 1-2 years

Strategy 1.3: Identify and remove barriers to accessing and implementing opportunities

#	Action	Horizon	Lead Entity	State Partners
7	Convene implementation workshops with local and regional planners, community-based organizations, and stakeholder groups focused on barriers and opportunities to leveraging existing policies and practices.	Medium Term		CalEPA and BCSH
8	Explore opportunities for more holistic and context-specific accounting of climate and equity benefits of housing development patterns by, for example, assessing benefits and costs at the regional rather than project scale.	Medium Term		
9	Identify opportunities to decrease burdens on individuals and organizations applying for State funds related to housing, climate, and equity.	Medium Term		Council agencies
10	Evaluate and develop implementation strategies for recommendations in the HCD Data Strategy and the Statewide Data Strategy (ODI/GovOps) to address data gaps and streamline existing data and mapping tools.	Medium Term	H+T D	Council agencies
11	Promote and improve access to resources available via the Department of Housing and Community Development's Housing Open Data Tools platform, including the CEQA Site Check Tool and HCD's Excess Sites Tool	Short Term	BCSH	OPR

Goal 2: Identify and elevate additional tools and strategies to meet the State's housing, climate, and equity goals in a coordinated way and at the scale and pace necessary to close existing gaps and meet the urgency of current and projected needs.

Short-Term: 0-1 years • Medium-Term: 1-2 years

Strategy 2.1: Provide opportunities for public input on State policies and programs

#	Action	Horizon	Lead Entity	State Partners
12	Use a minimum of one public Council Meeting annually as a forum to share measurable actions and best practices implemented, highlight success stories, and discuss remaining barriers.	Ongoing	SGC	SGC member agencies
13	Solicit public input to understand how program criteria and application processes shape project designs and how state funding might influence which types of climate-advantageous projects are pursued and why.	Medium Term		

Strategy 2.2: Elevate practices that generate the greatest community and individual impacts

#	Action	Horizon	Lead Entity	State Partners
14	Establish a Housing, Climate, and Equity education series for State government.	Short Term	HTC+C	
15	Expand the SGC Model Hub to include examples of implementation strategies that simultaneously meet housing, climate, and equity objectives.	Medium Term	SGC	
16	Develop and implement a communications strategy based on clear measurable health and community benefits to gain political and community acceptance for climate-aligned and equity-focused housing development.	Short Term	BCSH, CalHHS	SGC, CalEPA, OCPSC
17	Utilize the SGC newsletter and social media channels to highlight success stories.	Ongoing	SGC	BCSH, CalEPA

Strategy 2.3: Identify and catalog new and additional tools and strategies needed to fully achieve State housing, climate, and equity goals

#	Action	Horizon	Lead Entity	State Partners
18	Identify additional tools and strategies (which may include budgetary and legislative approaches) that would be needed to fully achieve State housing and climate goals – including those identified in the Scoping Plan, Statewide Housing Plan, and the Priority 3 Request for Information – and identify additional actions needed to implement these (including those that extend beyond the Council Priority 3 implementation phase).	Medium Term	CalEPA	BCSH, OPR
19	Explore opportunities to position the State to access federal funding opportunities.	Short Term	OPR/SGC	CalSTA, CDFA
20	Conduct a review of the current literature on the housing-climate nexus.	Medium Term	SGC	BCSH, CalEPA
21	Develop a repository for new tools and strategies to inform future initiatives.	Medium Term	SGC	BCSH, CalEPA, OPR

Goal 3: Improve coordination and information sharing between State, local, federal, and Tribal partners at the nexus of housing, climate, and equity.

Short-Term: 0-1 years • Medium-Term: 1-2 years

Strategy 3.1: Actively engage California Native American tribes and under-resourced communities

#	Action	Horizon	Lead Entity	State Partners
22	Coordinate with the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs and California Tribal Chairpersons Associations to develop a framework for engagement with California Tribes on issues relating to housing, climate, and equity.	Medium Term	CNRA	
23	Continue to develop technical assistance resources catered to the specific needs of California Native American Tribes.		SGC	
24	Identify opportunities to expand SGC's BOOST Program to help under-resourced cities and towns advance their housing, climate, and equity objectives.	Short Term	SGC	SGC, CalEPA, OCPSC

Strategy 3.2 Support ongoing efforts to match needs to appropriate funding sources

#	Action	Horizon	Lead Entity	State Partners
25	Support the development of the Milken Institute 10k Communities initiative to assist interested applicants identify and match with appropriate funding sources so that small projects and smaller agencies can better pursue infrastructure projects.	Medium Term	SGC	CalSTA, CalEPA
26	Evaluate the overlap of health, housing, and climate change, and explore options to leverage Medi-Cal funding/services/providers to address needs of homeless, transitional housing, and those with needs for housing with supportive services.	Medium Term	CHHS	BCSH
27	Assess how various state agencies could be more aligned in supporting regional and local governments to achieve their housing, climate, and equity goals and implement Sustainable Communities Strategies.	Medium Term	OPR/CalEPA	

APPENDIX B: RELEVANT ENTITIES

California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)

Council agencies

Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR)

California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

California Health and Human Services (CalHHS)

California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

Interagency working groups

Housing and Building Decarbonization Working Group (H+BD WG)

Housing and Transportation Working Group (H+T WG)

Housing and Transportation Working Group | Housing, Transportation, Climate, and Conservation sub-committee (HTC+C)

Housing and Transportation Working Group | Data subcommittee (H+T D)