

April 26, 2023

**Subject:** Council Priority 3 on Climate, Housing, and Equity

**Reporting Period:** April 2023

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## Summary

On December 15, 2023, 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 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-term (0-1 year) and medium term (1-2 years) actions and objectives, organized by specific 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.

## Background

[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. 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.

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### **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 (six months), mid-term (12 months), to long-term (two years).

Priority was given to those non-budgetary, non-legislative actions that can feasibly be implemented under the authority of the Council and member agencies within the two-year time horizon of Council Priority 3. Recommendations requiring budgetary or legislative action but considered high impact were cataloged for potential inclusion in future initiatives.

### **Request for Information – March 1-31, 2023**

In March 2023, SGC released a Request for Information (RFI) 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 the way 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 Sub-Committee (HTC+C).

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.

SGC received a total of 12 external formal responses to the RFI, including submissions by academic institutions (3), advocacy groups (4), county government (1), metropolitan planning organizations (2), nonprofit and education and research organizations (1), and member of the public (1).

Recommendations were classified based on the same methodology applied in the analysis 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.

### **Council Priority 3 Work Plan**

The work plan is comprised of short-term (0-1 year) and medium-term (1-2 years) actions and objectives, organized by specific goals. Lead and supporting agencies are designated to each action to foster accountability. The complete Work Plan is included in Attachment A.

### **Next Steps**

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.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Which strategies and actions do you believe will have the most significant impact in meeting the objectives of Council Priority 3?
2. In which strategy area's is your agency best positioned to take a leadership role?
3. In which areas would you like to see greater emphasis?

### **Attachments**

Attachment A: Council Priority 3 Work Plan

