



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 – February 28, 2024**

Staffing Updates

- Camille Frazier joined SGC as the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Program Lead.
- Kelsie Menefee joined OPR/SGC as the Legislative Analyst.
- Jin Zhang joined SGC as the Community Resilience Centers Program Analyst
- Leticia “Tish” Palamidessi joined SGC as the Communications Officer.
- Lisa Duong joined SGC as the Administrative Associate.
- Tessa Salzman joined SGC as the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Program Analyst.

Investment Program Updates

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Marc Caswell, Jessica Lopez, Shep Wilbun, Justin DeWaele, Brienne Logasa, and California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) Staff Team

- AHSC Round 8 Final Guidelines were adopted at the December 14, 2023 SGC Council Meeting.
- AHSC Round 8 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a total of \$675 million in funding was released by HCD on January 19, 2024.
- Applications are due on March 19, 2024 after a 60-day window
- The AHSC team has held two public workshops since release of the NOFA and has welcomed potential applicants to hold consultations with HCD staff.
- The AHSC team is actively managing a continuously updated Question and Answer document throughout the application window to ensure clarity for applicants.
- The Technical Assistance team continues to support more than a dozen projects across the state, including multiple tribal applicants and rural projects and at least one project in each geographic region.
- AHSC Round 8 awards will be made at the August 2024 SGC Council Meeting

Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Jennifer Kim, Sarah Newsham, Rebecca Avilés, Jess Ison, and California Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff Team

- Council awarded \$98.1M to 11 frontline communities during the December Council Meeting.
- Staff have begun the Post-Award Consultation process with the 11 grantees. It is expected that Planning and Project Development Grant Agreements will be finalized and signed by June and Implementation Grant Agreements by August.

- The six Implementation Grant awardees are working with technical assistance partner, Horne, via the Connecting Communities Initiative to apply for US EPA’s Community Change Grant, to fill both the \$7M gap between their requested funds (\$29.5M) and what was awarded (\$22.125M); and the two unawarded Round 5 proposals.
- Staff conducted 14 debrief calls from amongst the 20 unawarded applicants.
- Staff celebrated project milestones with TCC Grant Sites:
 - Pacoima Beautiful: On January 26, Pacoima Beautiful, recipients of a Round 1 TCC Implementation Grant, hosted a Green Together Collaborative Celebration to hear and celebrate Pacoima Beautiful’s initiatives over the last five years.
 - Transform Fresno: On January 25, Transform Fresno (Round 1, \$66.5M) celebrated the formal completion of the West Fresno Center campus with a ribbon cutting ceremony. In August 2023, TCC Program Staff celebrated in-person with the community and Fresno City College the initial grand opening of the campus as it opened its doors to students.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Shanna Atherton-Bauer (DOC), and Department of Conservation Staff

- Year in review: In 2023, SALC closed 21 easements totaling 22,902 acres of irrigated and grazing land across 12 counties, including:
 - 9 easements conserving 4,956 acres of irrigated land in 8 counties.
 - 6 easements conserving 4,066 acres of grazing land in 5 counties.
 - 6 easements conserving 13,880 acres of land that support both irrigated and grazing uses in 6 counties.
- SALC staff reported six easement closings between November 23, 2023 and February 7, 2024. These projects resulted in the permanent conservation of 2,262 acres of irrigated agricultural land and 2,725 acres of land that support both irrigated and grazing uses across five counties.
- SALC staff have taken Council’s direction and will extend the Round 10 SALC Guidelines development process to ensure that staff have the time and capacity to research and engage deeply with the concerns raised around the program’s tribal notification and consultation policy (or lack thereof), how to handle boundaries between tribes and acquisition requests from tribes that are not the most likely descendants of a particular region, options regarding allowing farmworker housing on conserved properties, and how to better support infill development through the program. Staff will incorporate listening sessions and community conversations into the process and engage with the California Agricultural Land Equity on guidelines revisions where appropriate. The following timeline is proposed:
 - Research, listening sessions/community conversations: February – July 2024
 - Draft Guidelines posted for public comment: July 2024
 - Public comment workshops: August/September 2024
 - Final Guidelines to Council for approval: October 2024
 - Pre-proposals due (*tentative*): Late January 2025
 - Applications due (*tentative*): July 2025



- o Award recommendations brought to Council (*tentative*): October 2025

Climate Change Research Program (CCR)

Staff: Elizabeth Grassi, Emely Anico, and Natalie Obaldia

- The CCR Team continues the closeout process for Round 3 grantees. Five exit presentations will occur by project Principal Investigators and their research partners on their completed Round 3 SGC Climate Change Research Program Projects during the Spring of 2024
- As we move to suspend the Climate Change Research grant program, staff is looking to create connections and opportunities for CCR Capacity Building contractors, including the UC Davis Center for Regional Change; CSU-WATER, and UCOP, to engage with Fifth Assessment regional and topical report author teams.
- The CCR program continues to partner with the University of California through the S/Hero supplement to the California Climate Action Seed and Matching Grants. Principal Investigators of these awards meet monthly with UCOP and SGC staff to discuss progress on their efforts to codesign research with under-resourced communities, as well as the institutional challenges faced when working to partner with community-based organizations.
- The CCR and 5th Assessment teams continue to meet quarterly with research leadership from the University of California and California State Universities. The most recent December meetings focused on connecting with researchers funded through the UCOP Climate Action Seed Grants and Climate Action Matching Grants and with CSU researchers conducting community-engaged research.
- The CCR team continues to lead the engagement efforts of California’s Fifth Climate Change Assessment:
 - o Regional Report author teams are expected to be established by March 2024.
 - o Author teams for the Topical Reports on issues of statewide significance, including the report on Tribal and Indigenous Communities, and Racial Equity and Climate Justice, are also being established.
 - o The Tribal Research Grant Program released a NOPA for Round 1 and includes 8 tribally-led research projects. The solicitation for Round 2 is expected to open in Spring 2024.

Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program

Staff: Amar Cid, Anna Jane Jones, Dora Monterroza, Jess McCool, Jin Zhang, and Jessica Cervantes

- Round 1 CRC Application Window Closed September 18, 2023. The CRC Program received a total of 189 Applications Submitted across all three grant types asking for a total of \$685,330,873.13. Given the high volume of applications received, CRC Program Staff have developed and are implementing a staggered application review and awards approach. This has been informed by best practices shared by other OPR, SGC, and State grant programs. The planned awards timeline is as follows:
 - o Planning Grants will be awarded at the February 2024 SGC Council Meeting



- Project Development and Implementation Grants will be awarded at the April 2024 SGC Council Meeting
- Staff are undergoing Round 1 Application Review:
 - **Planning Grants:** Staff completed the Application Completeness Check for 87 Planning Grant applications. Staff screened for eligibility and completeness. Applicants who were missing information flagged by Program staff were given an opportunity to resubmit materials for reconsideration. Program staff finished Program Threshold review of complete applications. Applications that passed Threshold review advanced to the Interagency Review Panel.
 - 19 partners joined the Planning Grant Interagency Review Panel. Orientation for reviewers kicked off on November 16, 2023. Resources and materials were developed and provided to reviewers to supplement their reviews of applications. CRC Staff hosted weekly office hours for reviewers.
 - Once initial scores were submitted by reviewers, staff facilitated a deliberation session to discuss scores with the reviewers. Reviewers had the ability to adjust their scores during and after deliberation. Interagency Review scoring and deliberation for Planning Grants concluded mid-December. Final reviewer scores were averaged to determine the final score for the application.
 - Program staff is preparing materials to present CRC R1 Planning Grant award recommendations for final approval at the February 28, 2024 SGC Council Meeting.
 - **Implementation Grants:** CRC Team conducted Application Completeness Check for the 74 Implementation Grant Applications. Staff screened for eligibility and completeness of applications, giving applicants who are missing information flagged by program staff an opportunity to resubmit information. Program staff finished Program Threshold review of complete applications. Applications that passed Threshold Review advanced to the Interagency Review Panel.
 - 42 partners joined the Implementation Grant Interagency Review Panel. Orientation for reviewers was hosted on January 16, 2024. Resources and materials were developed and provided to reviewers to supplement their reviews of applications. The CRC team hosted weekly office hours for reviewers to provide additional support.
 - **Project Development Grants:** Program staff completed Application Completeness Check for all 28 Project Development Grant applications, giving applicants who were missing information flagged by program staff an opportunity to resubmit information for reconsideration to pass Program Thresholds. Complete applications are currently being reviewed for Program Thresholds. Applications that pass Thresholds will advance to the Interagency Review Panel.
- Staff continue to coordinate closely with SGC teams and OPR staff on ICARP's Adaptation Planning Grants, Regional Resilience Grants, and Extreme Heat and



Community Resilience Grants programs to share best practices, public input, and align funding.

- Staff amended the CRC Round 1 Final Guidelines for approval at the SGC December 2023 Council meeting. This amendment reflects the expanded advance pay authority given the recent signing of AB 590.
- Staff launched the CRC Networking Hub hosted on Milken Institute’s Community Infrastructure Center (CIC) platform. This platform will provide applicants with further opportunities for funding support and project development. The CIC is a dedicated project development platform connecting project sponsors to grant opportunities, project development resources, and matchmaking to a growing set of provider partners from philanthropy to federal agencies and non-profit technical assistance providers. The CIC team has identified alternative funding pools that align with the CRC applicants’ projects and is pleased to offer a pilot program with Streamline Climate to provide automated grant writing services for selected alternative resilience center grants to reduce the burden on applicants. This will contribute to the CRC program team’s commitment to help applicants build capacity and develop partnerships.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)

Staff: Ena Lupine, Blanca Escobedo, Catherine Foster, Markie Price, and Nancy Cheng

- **Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) Program:** RCC Round 2 has been delayed due to the Governor’s January Budget, which proposes a reversion of the \$9.8 million in General Fund monies that had been appropriated for Round 2 of the program. Staff had received 31 full proposals on December 6, requesting a total of nearly \$48 million, and paused the review process. The applications received included a total of 294 partner organizations, including 15 tribes/tribal serving organizations, 170 nonprofits/community-based organizations, 55 local governments/special districts, 14 academic institutions, 7 small businesses, 3 regional governments, and 30 other organizations, including philanthropies and fiscal sponsors. SGC had planned to make awards for the \$8.5 million NOFA at the February 28, 2024 Council Meeting.
 - CACE staff, Councilmember Frank Cardenas, and CNRA Deputy Secretary Noaki Schwartz attended a site visit in South Gate, CA for the Gateway Cities Regional Climate Collaborative on February 15. Executive Director Lynn von Koch Liebert and CACE staff planned to attend a site visit for the Tribal Energy and Climate Collaborative at Pala Reservation in February but it was postponed due to extreme weather.
- **Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program:** CACE staff received 31 applications for the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot program, with 18 applications from federally recognized tribes and 13 from non-federally recognized tribes.
 - The geographic distribution of applications is the following:
 - 4 applications from the Bay Area
 - 4 applications from the Central Coast



- 2 applications from Central Southern California
- 2 applications from Coastal Southern California
- 4 applications from Inland Southern California
- 4 applications from the North Coast
- 6 applications from the North State
- 5 applications from the Sierras
- Applications are currently under review by a robust interagency review panel of 26 reviewers across 17 agencies and departments.
- **BOOST Program:** CACE staff have been working closely with the Governor’s Senior Advisor on Social Innovation, Elena Chavez Quesada, and California Energy Commissioner Noemí Gallardo on developing a BOOST Imperial Valley Program concept. Staff submitted an application to the Families and Workers Fund’s Powering Climate & Infrastructure Careers Challenge, in partnership with the 7 Cities in Imperial Valley, the County of Imperial, the Institute for Local Government, BDO USA, Stanford University, and Imperial Valley College.

Collaborative Policy Initiatives

Health and Equity Program (HEP)

Staff: Jazmine Garcia Delgado, Michael Jimenez, and Kimberli Davila.

Health in All Policies (HiAP)

Staff: SGC partners with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Institute State of Equity program (PHI) to staff the Health in All Policies Task Force. The Task Force brings together almost 30 agencies, departments, and commissions to integrate health and racial equity considerations into programs and policies that advance State priorities.

- **HiAP Task Force Hosts February 22 Quarterly Meeting.** The Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force hosted its first Quarterly Convening of the year on February 22. The convening was held virtually and hosted the Racial Equity Commission for a discussion on how the HiAP Task Force and the Racial Equity Commission can collaborate on cross-cutting issues. The convening included Task Force member updates from the California Department of Food and Agriculture on its Racial Equity Action Plan and from the Climate Change & Health Equity Branch at the California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity. The Task Force will also discuss collaboration progress to-date and results from an internal evaluation survey to support their planning throughout the year.
- **HiAP Task Force Workgroups Convene Monthly.** The Grant Program, Contract, and Funding Equity and Equity in Data and Access to Information workgroups that are hosted within the HiAP Task Force have continued to meet monthly. Workgroups have finalized action plans and have continued to work on short-term actions. In January, the Grant Program, Contract, and Funding Equity working group heard an update from the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications on their Trusted Messenger Master Service Agreement and learned about SGC’s Community Resilience Center Program. Meanwhile, the Equity in Data and Access to Information workgroup



learned about and provided feedback on the Vulnerable Communities Platform of the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program, within the Office of Planning and Research.

Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP)

Staff: HEP and SGC Program and Administrative Managers

- **HEP Continues to Support and Monitor the Implementation of the SGC Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP).** Following the Annual Update to the Strategic Growth Council on the Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) in December 2023, HEP is initiating bimonthly meetings with SGC teams hosted from mid-February to mid-March. Programs share implementation updates with HEP, with a focus on anticipated actions and metrics that will be tracked in 2024. HEP is also conducting an internal needs assessment to better understand how to support SGC teams in the advancement of racial equity work and commitments.
- **Internal REAP Working Groups.** Staff convene three internal working groups on the following racial equity advancement topics: Technical Assistance and Contract Equity; Workforce Equity and Organizational Culture; and Engagement and Coordination with Tribes.
- **HEP Reviews Draft Office of Planning & Research (OPR) Draft General Plan Guidelines.** HEP provided input on the draft General Plan Guidelines to further embed health and racial equity concepts.

Racial Equity Resource Hub

Staff: HEP and the Communications Team

- **Updates to the Racial Equity Resource Hub.** HEP continues to collect resources from State entities as directed by Council to host on the Hub, and is continuing to update past resources to ensure they are up to date and are accessible to users.

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 (LC) Recruitment:** The application submission and review for the 2024 cohort was from November 2023 to January 2024, and the orientation is scheduled for February 2024. The 2024 Learning Cohort offering has been updated to serve the present needs of California state entities, while focusing on key objectives including supporting the understanding of introductory aspects of institutional and structural racism, foundational communication concepts, terms, and methods related to advance racial equity, the value of race conscious policy analysis, and leadership skills aligned with racial equity values.



- **CCORE Transformative Leadership Cohort (TLC):** The 2023-2024 pilot cohort centering Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, has ongoing immersive and inward learnings that brought forward by the facilitators. The last virtual session of the cohort is in February and the cohort will close with a daylong in-person session in March.
- For questions or updates reach out to CCORE Staff at CCORE@phi.org.

Natural and Working Lands

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

Staff: Sean Kennedy, Camille Frazier, Tessa Salzman

- The California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force hosted its second public meeting at the Sacramento State Downtown Campus on Friday, February 16. Task Force members approved the body's bylaws and charter and discussed the key topics and questions that members wish to consider moving forward. Members also generated a preliminary work plan that will guide their efforts over the next two years. The Task Force will continue to meet quarterly and submit its formal recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on or before January 1, 2026.
- On the February 28, 2024 Council Meeting consent calendar, SGC staff will nominate Darlene Franco to serve as a Tribal and Native Liaison on the Task Force. Darlene has worked all her life in Native communities, including directing statewide Native language revitalization programs, coaching Native youth sports teams, leading health and wellness cultural programs, providing cultural curriculum development, and teaching and practicing her Tribe's culture and running ceremonies for her people. She is a member of the Wukchumni Tribe, whose ancestral homelands are in the region known as Tulare County. Darlene's expansive knowledge and lifelong commitment to California's tribal communities are invaluable contributions to the Task Force.

Regional Planning Initiatives

Staff: Marc Caswell, Justin DeWaele, and California Air Resources Board and HCD staff

- The Governor's January Budget proposal included a \$300 million cut to the REAP 2.0 Program. HCD leadership continues to determine next steps.
- The Interagency Team is finalizing the Annual Reporting Template for grantees.

Council Priority 3: Housing, Climate, and Equity

Staff: Sean Kennedy

- Over the past several months, SGC staff have worked with the interagency Housing, Transportation, Climate, and Conservation sub-committee to evaluate progress on actions contained in the 2023 Council Priority 3 Work Plan. SGC staff will present a progress report on this work at the April 2024 SGC Council meeting. The progress report will include updates on existing actions and new actions identified since the release of the work plan in April 2023.



Federal Funding Initiatives

Connecting Communities

Staff: Amar Cid, Rebecca Aviles, Camille Randolph

- The Connecting Communities initiative takes advantage of the historic influx of federal funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and Justice40 initiative, by working to support TCC Partners apply for and unlock federal funding.
- In September 2023, SGC contracted with technical assistance (TA) provider, HORNE, to deliver TA services to TCC Partners.
- In December 2023, HORNE launched an initial *Landscape Analysis Survey* to solicit input from TCC Partners directly about interest in federal grants and technical assistance needs.
- In December 2023, HORNE also began working with recent TCC Round 5 (R5) Implementation Grant Awardees and Applicants to provide grant writing support for US EPA’s Community Change Grant program (CCG).
- Throughout January 2024, HORNE and the Connecting Communities team worked with six (6) R5 Implementation Grant partners to repackage their existing TCC applications for the CCG. Two TCC R5 Partners plan to submit their CCG applications in February, with the rest likely submitting in March.
- Simultaneously, this January and February, the TA Team is conducting follow-up sessions with all TCC Partners who completed the *Landscape Analysis Survey* to better understand and meet Partner needs.
- HORNE, and their subcontractor MDG, will host an informational webinar on the CCG on February 22, 2024.

Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Program

Staff: Sean Kennedy, Lois Kim, Justin DeWaele, Shep Wilbun

- The Draft Guidelines for the Factory-Built Housing (FBH) Pre-Development Program were released for public comment on February 16, 2024. The public comment period will close on March 22, 2024.
- Program staff will launch a series of public engagement to receive the feedback on the draft guidelines, before they are brought to Council for approval on April 24, 2024.

Virtual Power Plants

Staff: Sean Kennedy

- On February 12, SGC released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a public-private partnership to leverage federal funding, specifically through the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office (US DOE LPO), to implement Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) as Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) at sites and facilities supported by SGC-member programs. The selected provider(s) will work with SGC to determine appropriate eligible sites, including SGC-funded Community Resilience Centers (CRCs), to develop and/or expand VPP operation with locally installed and operated distributed energy resources, including solar and battery storage.



- SGC will host an informational webinar on March 5, with proposals due on March 17. Notice of intent to award is anticipated before the April 24 SGC Council meeting.

Media Clips

Strategic Growth Council

- [\[Center for Public Enterprise\]](#) December 5, 2023: “So far, the LPO has given SEFI designation to 9 different state financial entities. Maryland and California actually have two SEFIs each—in Maryland, the Department of Housing and the Clean Energy Center, and in California, the I-Bank and the Strategic Growth Council.”
- [\[Evergreen Collaborative\]](#) October 11, 2023: “As states assess the wide range of federal support available to accelerate the clean energy transition, they should seize upon a major new opportunity: loans and loan guarantees from the US Department of Energy’s (DOE) Loan Programs Office, also known as Title 17 loans. Some of the [first SEFIs to be certified](#) by DOE as of this memo’s publication are: Strategic Growth Council.”

Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities

- [\[Yahoo! Finance\]](#) December 8, 2023: “In its first development with Berkley-based Resources for Community Development (RCD), SVA Architects is pleased to advance design for much-needed affordable housing in Northern California. Funding has been provided by the City of Oakland, California Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC), No Place Like Home (NPLH) funding, Infill and Infrastructure Grant (IIG) program, Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) and California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CA TCAC).”

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

- [\[AG Daily\]](#) January 31, 2024: “The white paper also points to how permanently protecting agricultural land can avoid GHG emissions when coupled with Smart Growth. The State of California has taken this approach through its Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation program, which funds agricultural conservation easements based on quantifying their potential GHG benefits. AFT is presently exploring how such an approach could be used nationally.”
- [\[My Mother Lode\]](#) December 27, 2023: “The Nakagawa Ranch Conservation Easement, under the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, will allow the family to continue owning and managing the land while maintaining the health of the ranch through their American Wagyu cattle. Michael Delbar, CEO of the Rangeland Trust, commended the Nakagawa family’s resilience and stewardship, noting their inspiring story of hope in the face of adversity.”
- [\[King City Rustler\]](#) December 27, 2023: “The project was completed by the [Rangeland Trust](#) with funding from the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the California Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program in collaboration with the California Department of Conservation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) through Walmart’s Acres for America program, and a donation by the Silacci family themselves. The project will secure a 140-year ranching legacy.”



- [\[Palm Springs Tribune\]](#) December 26, 2023: “Oswit Land Trust (OLT) is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Strategic Growth Council’s (SGC) Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program in the fiscal year 2022-2023 (Round 9). This grant will enable Oswit Land Trust to significantly expand its conservation easement program, furthering its commitment to preserving and protecting valuable agricultural lands for future generations and building on its initial success with the Trust for Public Land, in acquiring an agricultural conservation easement on the nearly 2,000-acre Alphabet Farms Ranch.”
- [\[Santa Barbara Independent\]](#) December 26, 2023: “The biggest sums came through the state’s [Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation](#) Program, a mouthful that aims to protect agricultural lands from development. This year also marks the first time that funds will support California tribes with land acquisitions. The Northern Chumash Tribal Council received almost \$6 million to purchase a 310-acre ranch that sits on tribal-affiliated coastal land near Lompoc. Additionally, \$250k was granted for a Tribal Land Trust and Program Management Plan, supporting conservation projects to protect habitats, propagate native species, and preserve open spaces, aligning with the Land Back movement to return the ancestral land of Indigenous Peoples to the original inhabitants.”
- [\[Asian Journal\]](#) December 21, 2023: “The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) approved over \$116 million in Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program grants recently to permanently protect approximately 50,500 acres of croplands and rangelands, as well as lands utilized by California Native American tribes for the cultivation of traditional resources.”

Transformative Climate Communities

- [\[KEYT News Channel\]](#) February 2, 2024: “The County of Santa Barbara and community partners such as Blue Sky Center and Quail Springs, and the Community Environmental Council, have been awarded \$1 million of grant funding from the California Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities program to transform the community climate resilience in New Cuyama.”
- [\[San Diego Business Journal\]](#) January 2, 2024: “San Diego’s historic neighborhoods are getting \$48 million towards projects aimed to make them climate resilient. The funds are from a \$22 million California Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities grant award to the San Diego Foundation and Environmental Health Coalition, as well as \$26 million in matching funds and other funding to invest in San Diego’s central historic barrios – the Logan, Stockton, Grant Hill, Mount Hope, Sherman, Southcrest and Shelltown neighborhoods.”
- [\[CBS 8\]](#) December 20, 2023: “\$22 million dollars in grant funding is coming to some of San Diego’s historic barrio neighborhoods. CBS 8 has learned how the money will be spent to improve the quality of life for people in these communities. ‘Really great, a sign of what can happen when a community gets to be involved with what’s going on in their neighborhood,’ said José Franco García, Executive Director of the Environmental Health Coalition.”



- [[Desert Sun](#)] December 20, 2023: “The city of Coachella will receive over \$22 million in state funding to improve green spaces, provide affordable housing, and create workforce development opportunities all centered on addressing climate change at the local level.”
- [[Random Length News](#)] December 19, 2023: “Gov. Gavin Newsom Dec. 18 highlighted the latest round of state grants to plan and implement neighborhood-level climate resilience projects and conserve agricultural land across the state. The California Strategic Growth Council has approved \$98.1 million for 11 climate resilience projects in disadvantaged, unincorporated, and tribal communities through the Transformative Climate Communities or TCC program, as well as \$116.8 million to conserve about 50,500 acres of agricultural and working lands through the in Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation or SALC program, making further progress on the [state’s 30x30 conservation goal](#).”
- [[NBC Palm Springs](#)] December 19, 2023: “The City of Coachella received a \$22 million Transformative Climate Communities Grant Tuesday morning, to continue their efforts of bettering the city. This grant will help implement multiple different projects throughout the city under a community-led initiative called “Coachella Prospera.””
- [[Sierra Sun Times](#)] December 18, 2023: “ \$98.1 million from the latest round of [Transformative Climate Communities](#) grants was awarded to 11 community-led climate resilience projects throughout the state. \$116.8 million in [Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation](#) grants were also approved to conserve agricultural lands statewide, including the program’s first funding to support California tribes with land acquisitions.”
- [[KBPS News](#)] December 18, 2023: “The San Diego Foundation and Environmental Health Coalition have been awarded \$22 million by the California Strategic Growth Council intended to help preserve, protect and strengthen San Diego's central historic barrios, it was announced Monday.”
- [[Streetsblog California](#)] December 18, 2023: “The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) today announced the winners of its fifth round of Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grants, awarding \$98 million to eleven projects.”

