

June 26, 2024

Subject: Strategic Growth Council April 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes
Reporting Period: April 2024 – June 2024
Staff Lead: Alex C. Walker, Executive Fellow, SGC

Recommended Action

Approval of the April 24, 2024, Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

Strategic Growth Council April 24, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Chair Sam Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Council Members and Representatives Present:

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

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

Sarah Izant (Designee), Deputy Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of Secretary Yana Garcia, California Environmental Protection Agency

Sasha Kergan (Designee), Deputy Secretary, Housing and Consumer Relations, on behalf of Secretary Tomiquia Moss, California Business Consumer Services & Housing Agency

Darwin Moosavi (Designee), Deputy Secretary, California State Transportation Agency, on behalf of Secretary Toks Omishakin, California State Transportation Agency

Rohan Radhakrishna (Designee), Deputy Director, California Department of Public Health Office of Health Equity, on behalf of Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly, California Health & Human Services Agency

Virginia Jameson (Designee), Deputy Secretary, California Department of Food & Agriculture, on behalf of Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food & Agriculture

Juan Sanchez Munoz, Public Member

Frank Cardenas, Public Member

Nicole Capretz, Public Member (Virtual)

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes

Approval of February 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

Council Discussion

No Council discussion.

Public Comment



No public comment.

Motion was made by Crowfoot and seconded by Cardenas.

Motion passes (10-0-0*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Agenda Item #4: Executive Director's Report

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Council Discussion

Assefa: Recognized Scott Lathrop, CEO of the ytt Northern Chumash Tribe.

Crowfoot: Thanked the Executive Director for their report. At CNRA, proud of recent shared progress. Shared three announcements: 1) Dedication of California's first state park in over a decade in Stanislaus County. Park will give local communities access to rivers and provide flood protection. Excited to support state parks. Believes this is the first state park founded with a commitment to provide bilingual services, such as bilingual staff and written signage. 2) On Earth Day, CDFA, CARB, and CNRA, partnered to launch nature-based targets, focused on reducing pollution and help our land absorb the carbon, helping state achieve net-zero goals. 3) CNRA's environmental justice convening to listen and learn from communities, shared Equity Year in Review 2023, available online, to account how work is changing to achieve a California for All. Thanked Noaki Schwartz for their role and support.

Assefa: Thanked Secretary Crowfoot for their leadership and work at CNRA. Expressed how the work is interconnected and the unique position of the Council to serve the state. Further thanked Executive Director for their report and efforts on grant management. Excited for more engagement with the public and SGC's projects. Welcomed new staff at SGC. Excited for the year ahead for SGC.

Munoz: Amplified Secretary Crowfoot's event, heard about it both in English and Spanish, expressed enthusiasm in the Valley. State Parks are an affordable way for working families to engage with nature. Celebrated the first ever Arbor Day at UC Merced, dedicating the trees to campus community members.

Public Comment

John Witchel.

Agenda Item #5: ACTION: Community Resilience Centers: Round 1 Project Development and Implementation Awards

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Amar Cid, Deputy Director, Community Investment and Planning, SGC

Anna Jane Jones, TCC Program Analyst, SGC

Jessica Cervantes, Community Resilience Centers Program Associate, SGC

Approve Staff Recommendations for CRC Round 1 Project Development and Implementation Awards

Council Discussion

Capretz: Voiced their recusal from this vote.

Public Member Capretz left the meeting at 1:37pm.

Moosavi: Thanked SGC Staff for their work and the public for their comments. Requested information about the interview process.

Anna Jane Jones: The interviews were conducted virtually, worth twenty-five (25) points total. All applicants were asked the same four (4) core questions, of which applicants were allowed to prepare in advance. Staff asked clarification questions specific to each applicant during the interview. All questions had a standardized score. Staff recorded the interviews and took notes. Held a deliberation session based on the interview.

Crowfoot: Thanked the public for attending today's meeting and for their comments. These awards define tangible investments. Expressed that demand exceeds supply, and this round of funding does not meet all the need. Appreciates concerns raised by public, regardless, ready to make a motion in favor of staff recommendations.

Munoz: The distribution map illustrates geographic diversity, with several inland communities represented. Expressed the process will inherently be imperfect yet echoed the appreciation to staff and the Executive Director for their work to improve inequities. Appreciates public comment, voiced support for the recommendations, and asks for process moving forward to clarify the distinction between applicants with close scores.

von Koch-Liebert: Clear there is a quality and quantity of proposals coming in. SGC is thinking expansively to connect unawarded to other programs.

Munoz: That is exactly what we want to see.

von Koch-Liebert: We are in a space where we can help unawarded applicants to transition into other programs, looking at synergy between SGC application and federal applications.

Kergan: Expressed appreciation to SGC staff and alums who created this program and the public for attending and sharing their input. Requested information on remaining dollars. How much available funding was there, and how much remains? Curious about decision on partial awards.

Cid: Less than a million dollars remaining after utilizing the entire package. Felt we did not have enough funds sufficient for a partial award. Recommendation to use remaining funds to reconcile previous partial awards.

Kergan: Is there any funds remaining if we approve staff recommendations?

Cid: This recommendation utilizes the majority of the funds. We would have about \$600,000 remaining that may go into the post award process for implementation or it's a reserve for the evaluation process that we still need to entertain.

Kergan: Echoed Councilmember Munoz's comments about staff recommendation on improving process in the future on close scores.

Radhakrishna: Supported colleagues' comments and staff for their work. The oversubscription was clear. Appreciates Deputy Director Cid and Executive Director von Koch-Liebert's remarks on supporting unawarded applicants. Thanked the public for joining today and for their comments.

Izant: Expressed thanks to staff and commentors. Great to hear specific examples from across the state. Shout out to inter-agency collaboration.

Cardenas: Voiced support for the process and communicated that SGC should get used to competitive applications. The need will continue to be present and grow. Expressed to use this as a reminder of the reality of our programs. Requested clarification on CRC's budgetary status.

von Koch-Liebert: We are waiting to see what happens in the legislature.

Cardenas: The demand and need are only going to increase. We should use this as an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and advocate appropriately.

Assefa: Times of disaster are also opportunities for transformative change. Sees the CRC system as transformative for communities and receptive to community needs. Expressed appreciation to SGC staff. SGC is in a unique position, and continues to explore opportunities to support applicants, especially in times of challenge.

Public Comment

Steven Hernandez, Ken Quiner, Morokot Uy, Dillon Delvo, Denise Delgado, Goyo Ortiz, Annabel Grimm, Scott Schumann, Amalia Rodas, Alison Lehman, Erica Wolski, Brandon Harris, Sara Bosse, Joirius Matthews, Amy Gobden, Cathryn Couch, Toni Scott, Frank Figueroa, Darryn Harris, and Robin Bowen.

Motion was made by Crowfoot and seconded by Cardenas.

Motion passes (9-0-1*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

*Public Member Capretz recused themselves from this vote.

Agenda Item #6: ACTION: Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Awards

Approve Staff Recommendations for Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Awards

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Ena Lupine, Program Manager, CACE, SGC

Nancy Cheng, CACE Program Analyst, SGC

Secretary Crowfoot left at 3:08pm.

Noaki Schwartz (Designee), Deputy Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency, on behalf of Secretary Wade Crowfoot, present the whole duration of the meeting (virtually), assumed their role as designee at 3:08pm.



Public Member Capretz returned to the meeting at 3:09pm.

Council Discussion

Assefa: Thanked the public for their comments, and Kirin Kumar, who is a former SGC colleague.

Izant: Thanked SGC staff for their work.

Kergan: Expressed appreciation to SGC staff and applicants. Excited to see the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program come to fruition, and for the lessons we will learn.

Jameson: This program addresses a tension we have heard from Tribes and meetings. Expressed appreciation to applicants and SGC staff.

Radhakrishna: Shared a Yee-Haw with the Tribes. Appreciates the representation from non-federally recognized tribes in this round of awardees.

Schwartz: Echoed appreciation to staff. Thankful there will be follow up consultation with unawarded applicants.

Assefa: Echoed colleagues' comments. The distribution of funds to federally and non-federally recognized tribes is good to see. I think the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program is a fantastic program.

Public Comment

Scott Lathrop, Tom Little Bear Nason, Lucy Gill, Jana Nason, Dessa Drake, Jessica Gravelle, Matthew Hatcher, Moriah McGill, Deja Gould, and Kirin Kumar.

Motion was made by Radhakrishna and seconded by Jameson.

Motion passes (9-0-1*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

*Public Member Munoz absent from this vote.

Agenda Item #7: ACTION: Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Pilot Program Guidelines

Approve guidelines for the Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Pilot Program.

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Sean Kennedy, Deputy Director, Energy Investments, SGC

Lois Kim, Project Analyst, SGC

Deputy Director Izant left the meeting at 4:12pm.

Council Discussion

Kergan: Expressed appreciation to staff and Department of Energy Loan Programs Office. Wanted to clarify some of the terms used. The state of California applies its state building standards, Title 24, which are above and beyond federal standards. Factory-Built Housing can go by many conventions, SGC is using a specific convention. Excited to see how the program

develops as we pursue our goals. Critical need for homes right now. California is currently using factory-built materials from other states and countries, and these guidelines will help benefit Californians through jobs and greenhouse gas reductions.

Assefa: Appreciates clarifications from Deputy Secretary Kergan. Having the materials in California will benefit California, supporting jobs and climate. SGC continues to be innovative with its pilots and its efforts to advance solutions to the state's greatest issues. Connection to DOE is critical, and excited to see next steps.

Radhakrishna: This is a strategic measure to help California. When California sets high standards, factories out of state respond immediately. Let it resonate we support affordability. Excited about program.

Public Comment

Arnab Pal, Richard deGorter, Heather Szymanski, Anthony Carroll, Matt Smith, Joanne Price, Nathaniel Hanson, and Tyler Pullen.

Motion was made by Cardenas and seconded by Kergan.

Motion passes (8-0-2*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

*Public Member Munoz absent from this vote.

*Deputy Secretary Izant absent from this vote.

Agenda Item #8: Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda Item #9: Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.