



# 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 – June 26, 2024**

## Staffing Updates

- SGC Executive Director, Lynn von Koch-Liebert, announced on June 4<sup>th</sup> that she will be leaving her position. Her last day will be June 26, 2024, to coincide with SGC's June Council Meeting. In July 2024 she will join Lendistry as the Head of Climate, Energy and Infrastructure. Lendistry is a minority-led national Community Development Financial Institution dedicated to providing economic opportunities and progressive growth for underserved urban and rural small business borrowers and their communities.
- Hoi-Fei Mok joins SGC as the Deputy Director for Equity & Government Transformation. Fei will oversee the Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program, Climate Change Research / 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Program, and Health and Equity Program.
- Adrienne Moretz joins SGC as the Special Advisor for Innovation and Partnerships. Adrienne will oversee the Connecting Communities Program.
- Chynell Freeman joins SGC as Associate Planner for the Transformative Climate Communities Program.
- Waverly Patterson joins SGC as a Summer Intern for the Community Resilience Centers Program.
- Madison Nugyen joins SGC as a Summer Intern for the Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Program.

## 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

- HCD released the AHSC Round 8 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a total of \$675 million in funding on January 19, 2024. Applications were due on March 19, 2024 after a 60-day window.
- 42 applications were deemed viable and were reviewed by the AHSC team (SGC, CARB, HCD). On June 12, 2024 HCD sent Threshold and Initial Score Letters to all viable applicants, who had a 5-day window to appeal decisions. The team is now reviewing the appeals.
- The program team's commitment to stability of guidelines and priorities resulted in significant reduction of questions and confusion among applicants and reviewers and allowed the program to remain on an annual cycle.
- AHSC Round 8 projects will be recommended for award at the August 2024 SGC Council Meeting.

### Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)

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

- Staff have continued conducting the Post-Award Consultation process with the 11 grantees who were awarded a total of \$98.1M during the December 2023 Council Meeting. To date, one planning grant has been fully executed. It is expected that remaining Planning and Project Development Grant Agreements will be finalized and signed by June or July and Implementation Grant Agreements by September.
- As part of SGC's Connecting Communities Initiative, the technical assistance provider HORNE is working with all Round 5 TCC Implementation Grant applicants to apply for US EPA's Community Change Grant. For the four TCC awardees, this effort aims to fill the \$7M gap between their requested funds (\$29.5M) and what was awarded (\$22.125M). The two unawarded TCC applicants will seek to fund their TCC proposals through the Community Change Grant.

### Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

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

- SALC staff reported one easement closing between April 4 and May 28, 2024. This project has resulted in the permanent conservation of 27,512 acres of land that supports cattle grazing, dryland farming, and irrigated agriculture. This is the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program's single largest conservation easement closed to date.

### Climate Change Research Program (CCR)

Staff: Hoi-Fei Mok, Elizabeth Grassi, Emely Anico, and Natalie Obaldia

- The CCR Team has completed the closeout process for the final round (Round 3) of program grants. Each of the six projects provided exit presentations exclusively to state policy staffs, featuring project Principal Investigators and their community partners discussing their completed research. Over 270 state employees participated in these presentations. The research team presentation part of each event has been recorded and will be uploaded to YouTube for public access.
- The CCR team continues to lead the engagement efforts of California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment and the development of the Assessment more broadly. This includes:
  - Establishing Regional Report author teams through Interagency Agreements with the state. In May, we hosted the Regional Author Orientation to equip them with the resources and guidance to kick off their work.
  - Scoping and identifying authors for the Topical Reports on issues of statewide significance, such as the report on Tribal and Indigenous Communities, Economics, Racial Equity and Climate Justice, and Migration & Displacement.
  - Leading communications efforts across Assessment partners for the Tribal Research Grant Program, Climate Data & Scenarios, and Core Climate Research Awards



- Planning author team trainings on the Participatory Research to Policy Model/Community Based Participatory Research in collaboration with one of CCR's capacity building contractors (UC Davis Center for Regional Change). The first of these trainings will take place on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The University of California S/Hero supplement to the California Climate Action Seed and Matching Grants continues to include staff in monthly meetings with Principal Investigators. Executive Director Lynn von Koch Liebert served on a panel of state leaders, and CCR Program manager Liz Grassi moderated a panel of Community Based Organization discussing community engagement in research at the Annual Convening of Climate Action Research grantees hosted by the UC Office of the President on June 21st.
- The CCR and 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment teams continue to meet quarterly with research leadership from the University of California and California State Universities. The most recent meetings focused on connecting with researchers with expertise in climate migration and displacement, economic impacts of climate change, and climate justice.

#### Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program

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

- Staff are undergoing Round 1 Post Award Consultation for all 3 grant types. Program Staff are collaborating with technical assistance (TA) provider, Civix, to develop the Post-Award Consultation process for Grantees, including development of grant agreements and the grant management manual.
  - **Planning Grants:** The SGC Council approved 11 CRC Round 1 Planning Grant award recommendations for award at the February 28, 2024 SGC Council Meeting.
  - **Project Development Grants:** The SGC Council approved 4 Project Development Grants for award at the April 24, 2024 SGC Council Meeting. Out of the four (4) Project Development Grant award recommendations, all applications are located in and benefit both SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities and AB 1550-Designated Low-Income communities. One (1) application is located in and benefits an unincorporated community and one (1) application is located in and benefits a rural community. The recommended Project Development Grants span CalOES Regions two (2), five (5), and six (6).
  - **Implementation Grants:** The SGC Council approved 9 Implementation Grants for award at the April 24, 2024 SGC Council Meeting. Out of the nine (9) Implementation Grant award recommendations, five (5) applications are located in and benefit SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities, six (6) applications are located in and benefit AB 1550-Designated Low-Income communities, two (2) applications are located in and benefit unincorporated communities, three (3) applications are located in and benefit rural communities, and one (1) application is led by a California Native American Tribe. The recommended Implementation Grants span CalOES Regions one (1), two (2), four (4), five (5), and six (6).



- Unawarded applicants are currently completing Unawarded Applicant Debriefs, providing them with an opportunity to meet with Program Staff and the TA provider to have individual consultations to discuss the strengths and opportunities of their applications as well as opportunities for finding similar funding sources that align with their projects and communities.
- Staff are continuing to develop an evaluation framework and process for the Round 1 Implementation Grants. Staff are conducting informational interviews with Principal Investigators and established evaluation TA providers as well as experienced staff members from other SGC teams who have managed evaluation processes in the past. Additionally, staff has developed and released a Request for Information (RFI), which was made public on May 22, 2024 to solicit feedback on program evaluation goals related to: administration, subject matter, and communicative collaboration. The CRC staff is currently planning for one state-wide listening session, which will complement the Request for Information (RFI) process by providing an additional and more accessible space for diverse partners to provide input on the development of the Evaluation Contract scope of work. Feedback gathered through the RFI submissions, and the listening sessions will be evaluated together to inform the development of a draft framework for the program evaluation (scope of work).
- Staff launched the CRC Networking Hub hosted on Milken Institute’s Community Infrastructure Center (CIC) platform. The Milken Institute hosted an informational kickoff session for CRC applicants on March 25. The CIC 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: Hoi-Fei Mok, Ena Lupine, Blanca Escobedo, Catherine Foster, Markie Price, and Nancy Cheng

- **Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) Program:** In April, the entire \$9.8 million in RCC Round 2 funding was reverted in the early action budget agreement (AB 106) to address the state’s budget shortfall. Staff had received 31 full proposals from 294 partner organizations on December 6, requesting a total of nearly \$48 million. Recognizing the time, energy, and resources that applications devoted to their applications, CACE staff continued the review process in order to provide feedback to applicants. Staff are also



in the process of developing RCC Round 2 applicant profiles that will be posted on the SGC website and plan to explore federal and philanthropic funding opportunities and partnerships to help applicants access other sources of funding.

- **Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program:** The SGC Council approved staff’s award recommendations for 6 tribal awardees at the April Council Meeting. CACE staff are holding post award consultation calls with the awardees to finalize their grant agreements. Staff have also offered debrief calls to unsuccessful applicants, in addition to applicant profiles that would highlight the unfunded proposals for other potential funding partners.
- **BOOST Imperial Valley:** In collaboration with the Governor’s Office and the CEC, SGC has secured \$500,000 from an anonymous donor to support a capacity building initiative modeled from SGC’s BOOST program for the Imperial Valley. BOOST Imperial Valley will focus on supporting the seven cities within Imperial County to help them access public resources, build community partnerships, and build critical staff capacity to ensure that the implementation of lithium valley brings significant community benefits to this region. This initial \$500k will cover one third of the budget needed to support the overall BOOST Imperial Valley effort and will allow SGC to launch this initiative in the coming months, in partnership with the Institute for Local Government.
- **Technical Assistance Toolkit:** On May 14, the HEP and CACE teams co-hosted a “Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Forum” to promote the Technical Assistance (TA) Toolkit and discuss various TA and capacity building efforts happening across state agencies. The forum featured a panel of TA experts and practitioners at CDFA, CDPH, CARB, and SGC.

## Collaborative Policy Initiatives

Health and Equity Program (HEP)

Staff: Hoi-Fei Mok, 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 nearly 30 agencies, departments, and commissions to integrate health and racial equity considerations into programs and policies that advance State priorities.

- **HiAP Task Force Hosts May 23 Quarterly Convening.** The Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force hosted its Quarter 2 Convening on May 23. The convening was held virtually and hosted a series of presentations from state and external partners. Featured State presentations included updates from the Agricultural Land Equity Task Force, the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications, and the Racial Equity Commission. In addition, staff from ChangeLab Solutions presented on the organization’s [Equitable Enforcement](#) framework for advancing health and equity through public policy.
- **HiAP Task Force Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Forum.** On May 14, the HiAP Task Force hosted an interagency forum focused on implementation strategies for



technical assistance (TA) and capacity building programs, including an overview of [SGC's Technical Assistance Toolkit](#) and a practitioner panel highlighting State programs and strategies. Panelists represented the California Air Resources Board, Department of Food and Agriculture, and Department of Public Health, with facilitation from the SGC Community Assistance for Climate Equity program. A key takeaway from panelists was their collective experience witnessing greater uptake of state grants when TA is provided, both for applicants and grantees. Panelists and participants also noted the need for trainings and support for interested applicants, staff capacity building to improve government-to-grantee relationships and alleviate the impacts of state staff turnover, and greater flexibility in state TA, specifically in timelines and with non-state TA providers. Panelists highlighted including small and rural jurisdictions for priority communities for TA and capacity building resources as well as tailoring TA to meet the needs of historically underserved communities.

- **HiAP Task Force Hosts Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable Quarterly Convening.** On April 30, the HiAP Task Force hosted a quarterly Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable. The Roundtable is a subset of HiAP Task Force members focused on exploring avenues for State agencies and departments to promote safe, violence free communities in California. The quarterly meeting featured a presentation from a UC Berkeley student researcher on a landscape analysis of State programs that advance safe communities and recommendations for further work. Following the presentation, participants discussed the research recommendations and opportunities for collaboration. This convening was primarily facilitated by State of Equity Staff, with support from SGC HEP.

#### *Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP)*

Staff: HEP and SGC Program and Administrative Managers

- **Racial Equity Action Plan Webpage Now Live.** HEP and SGC Communications & External Affairs are thrilled to announce a new webpage featuring SGC's racial equity initiatives. The webpage hosts the SGC REAP, links to initiatives and resources related to racial equity and government transformation, and provides a narrative timeline of SGC's racial equity-driven initiatives. The website also hosts links to reports, publications, and resources related to racial equity, including the SGC Racial Equity Resource Hub. The launch of this webpage is a significant milestone to further illustrate SGC's vision to embed racial equity across all facets of its work.
- **SGC Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) Implementation.** HEP facilitated Quarter 2 2024 meetings with SGC teams to discuss the REAP and track and advance implementation. The focus of meetings for Quarter 2 included ongoing implementation of REAP goals across programs as well as emerging impact areas. Progress and successes include (but are not limited to):



- For technical assistance, select programs (such as Transformative Climate Communities) have surveyed recipients and hosted debrief conversations to ensure SGC staff receive feedback and can prioritize future improvements;
- Sharing results and data of state-funded research (including SGC’s Climate Change Research Program) with communities through accessible fora and platforms while creating ownership of research within the community and via trusted partners;
- SGC Executive Leadership is exploring workforce equity strategies for SGC following the organization-wide to civil service; and
- Preparing for continued implementation of advance pay for applicable SGC programs (including Transformative Climate Communities).

#### *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.

- The Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE) launched the CCORE Learning Cohort on June 5, 2024. This foundational racial equity capacity building program for California State entities is facilitated by State of Equity (a program of the Public Health Institute) and the Strategic Growth Council is the state co-host. The session on June 5 is an orientation welcoming participants from First 5 CA, the Department of Industrial Relations, Department of Transportation, Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Public Health. A number of interested State entities were not able to enroll due to the statewide budget deficit, enrolled smaller numbers of staff (such as individuals instead groups) due to contracting challenges, and had staff unable to enroll because of leadership gaps (e.g., lack of approval for enrollment). The Learning Cohort season will run through December 2024. For more information about the CCORE Learning Cohort visit: <https://stateofequity.phi.org/learning-cohort/> or email [CCORE@phi.org](mailto:CCORE@phi.org).
- Early planning is underway for a 2025 CCORE Transformative Leadership Cohort. TLC enhances the existing work of CCORE and takes it to a new level of impact by supporting California’s growing cadre of state-level racial equity leaders. This cohort is designed with the intention of centering the experiences of workers and learners of color. More details to come.

## 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 third quarterly meeting at the San Diego Foundation on May 9, 2024. The meeting included two roundtable



discussions about existing state, federal, and non-governmental programs for land access and practitioners' experiences navigating the resource landscape.

- On May 8, Task Force members visited five farm sites in the San Diego area to learn about regional experiences and efforts for equitable agricultural land access. The sites ranged from a Black- and resident-led urban farm (Project New Village) to an 85-acre farm in the Pauma Valley that is owned and operated by the Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians (Pauma Tribal Farms). Members reported on site visits to the full Task Force at the May 9 meeting.
- During the May 9 meeting, Task Force members established and populated three subcommittees: 1) Grants and Resource Landscape, 2) Community Outreach, and 3) Sustaining Natural and Cultural Resources. These subcommittees will hold introductory meetings in July 2024.
- The fourth quarterly Task Force meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2024 in Fresno.

#### 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, but the May revise proposes restoring it. HCD leadership continues to determine next steps.
- The Interagency Team is finalizing the Annual Reporting Template for grantees.

### Federal Funding Initiatives

#### Connecting Communities

Staff: Adrienne Moretz, Amar Cid, Aatisha Singh, and 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 SGC Partners (including TCC Grant awardees and applicants) as they apply for and unlock federal funding.
- SGC contracted with technical assistance (TA) provider, HORNE, to deliver TA services to SGC Partners. HORNE began working with recent TCC Round 5 (R5) Implementation Grant awardees and applicants to provide grant writing support for the US EPA's Community Change Grant Program (CCG). Starting in January 2024, HORNE and the Connecting Communities team worked with four awardees and two applicants to repackage their applications for the CCG program.
  - Four of these groups submitted CCG applications:
    - La Familia Counseling Center submitted on February 29, 2024.
    - San Diego Foundation and The Energy Coalition: Pomona Acts submitted on March 15, 2024.
    - The City of Bakersfield submitted on April 23, 2024.
  - These applications will be among the first in the nation to be considered for funding. (The CCG NOFO opened November 2023 and closes November 2024.)





- HORNE is providing TA to a second cohort of TCC applicants, including Allensworth Progressive Association (Round 4 Planning Grant) and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability (Round 5 Pre-Development Grant).
- Simultaneously, since January, the TA Team has been conducting follow-up sessions with all TCC Partners who completed the landscape analysis survey to better understand and meet their TA needs.
- The Connecting Communities team is now fully staffed and has begun coordinating with SGC programs and external partners (state, federal, philanthropic, nonprofit) with the intention of connecting disadvantaged communities statewide to more and more diverse funding for climate projects.

#### Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Pilot Program

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

- The final guidelines for the Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Pilot Program were approved by the Council during the April 24, 2024 Council Meeting.
- Staff are recommending a technical amendment to the guidelines during the June 2024 Council Meeting, to increase clarity on the eligible application process.
- The Notice of Funding Availability and application will be released early July 2024.

### News Media Clips

#### California Strategic Growth Council

- [“California Consulting Presents at the Community Grant Writing Workshop hosted by Congresswoman Nanette Barraga.”](#) (*California City News*) May 9, 2024: “We were honored to join esteemed entities like the U.S. Department of Justice and the California Strategic Growth Council in sharing valuable resources and insights with the community.”

#### Community Resilience Centers

- [“Banning receives \\$1 million grant to create community center”](#) (*Record Gazette*) May 2, 2024: “The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) reported approving \$93.6 million to help build climate resiliency centers in neighborhoods most impacted by extreme heat and other climate related issues, fulfilling part of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s \$48 billion California Climate Commitment, whereby the city of Banning will receive over \$1 million in grant funding to further those objectives for its proposed Banning Armory Community Resilience Center Project.”
- [“COACHELLA AWARDED \\$10 MILLION COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTER GRANT”](#) (*Uken Report*) May 2, 2024: “This city is a step closer to becoming a more climate-resilient community with the help of a \$10 million grant. The California Strategic Growth Council has awarded the city of Coachella a Community Resilience Center (CRC) Implementation Grant Award to help further the city’s goal of making Coachella a more climate-resilient community.”
- [“RAMONA GETS GRANT FOR SUSTAINABLE SHUTTLE SERVICE”](#) (*East County Magazine*) May 2024: “A \$10 million grant to the Ramona Community Center/Ramona Senior Center has been approved to cover the first four years of the shuttle, which is expected



to feature electric-powered vans and a new shuttle garage, solar panels and meeting space at the center, the San Diego Union-Tribune reports. The grant is from the California Strategic Growth Council.”

- [“Planned shuttle service in Ramona gains traction with funds from \\$10M grant”](#) (*Ramona Sentinel*) April 30, 2024: “The grant, awarded April 24, is from the California Strategic Growth Council, said Erica Wolski, general manager of the Ramona Municipal Water District, who applied for the grant on the water district’s behalf last September.”
- [“City of Coachella Secures \\$10 Million Climate Grant for Multipurpose Facility”](#) (*mynewsLA*) May 2, 2024: “Community Resilience Center (CRC) Implementation Grant Award will be used to modify the current Hidden Harvest facility on Peter Rabbit Lane into the Coachella Community Resilience Center, according to a press release. The CRC will function as an emergency shelter, garden space, food hub, resource center and workforce training location, among other purposes.”
- [“\\$600,000 grant offers new scope for Gold Country’s senior clients and the entire community”](#) (*YubaNet*) May 8, 2024: “The California Strategic Growth Council, Community Resilience Centers Program recently approved the Nevada County Community Resilience Grant application for \$10 million. Gold Country Senior Services, Nevada County, Interfaith Food Ministry and FREED Center for Independent Living collaborated, and funds will soon be available and allocated over a four-year term.”

#### Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities

- [“Legacy Square affordable housing receives prestigious 2024 Project of the Year award”](#) (*City of Santa Ana*) April 19, 2024: “‘Our pursuit of the AHSC funding reflects National CORE’s intense focus on neighborhood investment,’ said Alexa Washburn, senior vice president of planning and acquisitions. ‘These funds allowed us to elevate an already innovative development into a beacon of sustainability and community service.’”
- [“Two New Affordable Housing Communities Topped Out At Sunnydale Hope SF”](#) (*SFYimby*) May 12, 2024: “Mayor London Breed and the city celebrated the topping out of two new affordable housing communities at Sunnydale HOPE SF.”- “Additionally, funding from the State Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC), Housing Accelerator Fund, and Infrastructure Infill Grant programs, administered by the California Strategic Growth Council and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), are supporting the development [...]”
- [“Construction underway for affordable housing at 7220 Maie Avenue in Florence-Firestone”](#) (*LAUrbanize*) April 25, 2024: “Additionally, the California Strategic Growth Council awarded \$30.8 million for the project last year through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, which will go toward the cost of on-site supportive services, laundry facilities, outdoor recreation areas, and the purchase of nine zero emission buses.”

#### Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

- [“Alarming Farm And Ranch Losses In State Push Conservation Efforts”](#) (*myMotherLode*) April 18, 2024: “The Trust collaborated with key groups to fund the conservation of Yates Ranch, using the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and the



California Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) funds from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.”

- [“Nonprofit group touts partnership with Calaveras County ranching family”](#) (*Union Democrat*) May 2, 2024: “A nonprofit organization that advocates for ranching families and for conserving California’s working rangelands has teamed up with a Wallace family in northwestern Calaveras County to legally conserve the family’s 500-acre cattle ranch as a working ranch, the group announced Tuesday.” “The conservation easement for the Yates Ranch was completed with funding from the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, and the California Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, in a collaboration with the state Department of Conservation.”
- [“Land Conservancy of SLO County conserves 27,512 acres in largest project in organization history”](#) (*News Channel 12,3,11*) April 29, 2024: “‘This was a make-or-break opportunity for the ranch. This property is [going to] be here way past me and my family. Our time here is short, but this property is protected forever.’ The Camatta Ranch conservation easement was funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board, the California Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC)”

#### Transformative Climate Communities

- [“Riverside celebrates planting of 1,000th new tree in Eastside neighborhood”](#) (*HeySoCal*) May 13, 2024: “Part of an ongoing collaboration with the State of California’s Strategic Growth Council under its Transformative Climate Communities Implementation Grant Program (TCC Grant), this 1,000th tree marks a milestone to meeting the overall goal of planting 2,000 trees in the greater Eastside neighborhood.”
- [“Metro Extends GoPass Pilot Program for Thousands of Students Through 2025”](#) (*Pasadena Now*) April 26, 2024 : “At the state level, Metro is looking into AB 610 to acquire state funding for student transit passes, and AB 181, which offers Home to School Transportation reimbursement up to 60%, and last, Transformative Climate Communities Grants, which fund infrastructure projects that benefit California’s most disadvantaged communities.”
- [“South Stockton’s McKinley Park set for \\$15.6 million makeover”](#) (*Stocktonia*) April 24, 2024: “[...] \$750,000 from the Transformative Climate Communities Program, and \$1.88 million from the city’s Measure M Strong Communities Fund. ‘One of the things I’ve always believed in and practiced as a public administrator is that it is important for residents and tax payers to see their money,’ Stockton City Manager Harry Black said. ‘Any opportunity where they can see something brick and mortar, something tangible, only strengthens the cohesion of the community.’”
- [“Chinatown lives”](#) (*The Collegian*) April 17, 2024: “The community is currently undergoing urban renewal projects with the intention to breathe life back into Chinatown and revive it. This project, a \$66.5 million grant from the Transformative Climate Communities Collaborative, hopes to infuse Chinatown with much-needed economic and environmental changes.”



- [“This park is historical’: South Stockton's McKinley Park groundbreaking, opens fall 2025”](#) (*Recordnet*) April 26, 2024: “South Stockton's largest municipal park is being renovated. McKinley Park is a 22-acre park at the corner of El Dorado and Eight Streets. On Tuesday, April 23, Stockton celebrated the McKinley Park Renovation Project with a groundbreaking ceremony in front of the pool house at 2332 S. El Dorado St.”

BOOST

- [“Participation Is Key, No Matter the Project Size”](#) (National Association of Realtors) May 3, 2024: “And through its BOOST Program, a partnership with the state’s Strategic Growth Council, it helps limited-capacity and under-resourced agencies address a variety of needs. Brown said increasing public engagement and doing it early in the decision-making process can help local public agencies avoid costly pitfalls and mistakes. Involving residents and others in the process also can generate more support for the final decisions reached by city or county decisionmakers.”

