

August 22, 2024

**Subject:** Strategic Growth Council June 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes  
**Reporting Period:** June 2024 – August 2024  
**Staff Lead:** Alex C. Walker, Executive Fellow, SGC

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## Recommended Action

Approval of the June 26, 2024, Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

## Strategic Growth Council DATE - Meeting Minutes

### ***Agenda Item #1: Call to Order***

Chair Sam Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

### ***Agenda Item #2: Roll Call***

#### **Council Members and Representatives Present:**

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

Noaki Schwartz (Designee), Deputy Secretary, Equity and Environmental Justice, California Natural Resources Agency, on behalf of Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency

Yana Garcia, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency

Tomiquia Moss, Secretary, California Business Consumer Services & Housing Agency

Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency

Jim Suennen (Designee), Associate Secretary, External Affairs, California Health & Human Services Agency, 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)

*Secretary Omishakin entered the meeting at 1:08pm. Quorum met; 9/10 members present.*

*Jim Suennen, Associate Secretary for External Affairs, California Health & Human Services Agency, designee on behalf of Secretary Ghaly, entered the meeting at 1:08pm. Quorum met; 10/10 members present.*



***Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes***

*Approval of April 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes.*

**Council Discussion**

No Council discussion.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

Motion was made by Munoz and seconded by Jameson.

**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:** Thanked Executive Director von Koch-Liebert for her service.

**Cardenas:** Expressed appreciation for Executive Director von Koch-Liebert. I have never seen anyone like you. Great privilege to work with you.

**Omishakin:** Thanked Executive Director for her service, creating SGC’s glory years, providing guidance through important policy decisions. Grateful for your leadership. Congratulated her on her next endeavors.

**Moss:** Thanked Executive Director for being a fierce champion and her leadership. The next opportunity will be amazing because you are amazing. You have set the example, demonstrated how the work should be done, and the Council is one of the best examples of how work should be done for the state.

**Garcia:** Thanked Executive Director, great privilege to work with you both in former roles and your role as Executive Director of SGC. Really excited for you and your next opportunity, and excited to continue partnering together.

**Schwartz:** You have such a unique leadership style, you are kind, gracious, and lean into it. Attention to detail exceptional. Phenomenally impressed by you and your accomplishments. Delighted to see her at the pride parade last year and being a leader in many spaces. Thanked her on behalf of CNRA.

**Capretz:** I had the distinct honor of interviewing her for this job, and said she should be Secretary of State, bigger than California. You are unique leader, somebody who says “yes”, which is refreshing as I am in an organization where we hear “no” all the time. You are that extraordinary, we will miss you.

**Suennen:** Grateful for all the excellent work you are doing, balancing process and envisioning outcomes. Our agency is thankful for your time and service.

**Jameson:** Wanted to add how much I appreciate how calm, cool, collective, thoughtful, and creative you are. It has been a pleasure.

**Assefa:** If you want to change your mind, I have not signed your resignation letter yet, but seriously, thank you for everything.

**von Koch-Liebert:** It is the hardest thing to walk away from something you care so much about, but hearing this message from you is inspiring. Really appreciates and am so humbled by your comments. Thank you.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

***Agenda Item #5: Action: Consent Calendar***

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

*Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Pilot Program: Guidelines Technical Amendment Council Discussion*

**Council Discussion**

No Council discussion.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

Motion was made by Garcia and seconded by Omishakin.

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

***Agenda Item #6: Discussion: Council Priority 3: Housing, Climate, & Equity Progress Report***

•2024 Progress Report •Council Agency Updates and Discussion

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Sean Kennedy, Deputy Director of Energy Investments, SGC

Alex C. Walker, Executive Fellow, SGC

**Council Discussion**

**Garcia:** It is great to hear the progress we've heard around this realm; it is undeniably a need across the state. At CalEPA, most of the work is housed in CARB and leveraging the historical work reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), supporting infill housing development, and supporting climate friendly housing development. Looking to enhance our partnership through this effort, through other departments like HCD, OPR, and Council Staff, to integrate principles across these... For instance, integrating Pro-Housing within CCI programs. We have executed several research projects like research for climate & housing benefits of adaptive reuse and Factory-Built Housing, coordinated policy goals across housing producing, VMT reduction, and

affordable housing. In the upcoming year, really excited about the focus for infill and climate development. Need to continue coordination on RHNA and SCS. There is a significant opportunity with the agriculture conservation and farmworker housing. Drawing connection between farm working and conservation and ways to bridge SALC and AHSC more directly. Finally, with additional tools and strategies, ensuring we are really drilling down to all our shared goals.

**Moss:** One thing special about SGC that we are integrating work across policy departments, programs, and people. Excited about how we then translate both our intent with all the action areas, especially to people and community. What does it really mean when we say we have integrated strategies across these things, what does that mean to community? We come together collaboratively because that is how people live – we need to make it easy, accessible, and understandable for people to understand how we’re improving the quality of their lives. The spirit of this work can really be transformative. There are areas in this plan that are already looking at our priorities, like farmworker housing. Also, with the passage of Prop 1 – looking at health, housing, transportation – etc. Where are the opportunities to leverage federal and state resources to make housing an all-state responsibility? Really great coordination between CNRA and OPR to ensure housing and homelessness are included.

**Capretz:** It would be wonderful for the state to try to translate the state language and academic speak into a message that actually resonates to people on the ground. As someone who works in community, it is important to ensure the impacts are felt in the ground. The idea of infill and climate friendly housing is gaining a lot of traction. We have the complexity of the insurance market, extreme heat, and fires, drawing attention to where we place housing. This is making all the work come together. In terms of where to go in the coming year, love the idea of finding pathways to federal funding. Also love additional tools, would like to explore what is possible with social housing -recognizing what we have is not enough and we need to think differently. We don’t have the tools to get to the scale we need, so need to think differently. Lastly, the oil and gas industries continue to stall progress on ensuring homes are all electric. This has safety and health impacts.

**Moss:** Reminded me about the importance of equity in all of this. We need to reaffirm what equity really looks like in communities and be explicit about our strategies that target disrupting the disparities that exist around communities, as shared in the GGN EO. African American and indigenous folks are disproportionately impacted and need explicit strategies to understand if we are actually moving the needle around this.

**Garcia:** Wanted to uplift focus on equity and spirit of thinking about the climate friendly development, or just healthy development, in terms of reducing exposure to emissions from gas stoves inside the home. Also need to consider impact of focus on utility, bills, and affordability writ large. Second all of what was said.

**Omishakin:** Challenge in transportation, especially with highways continue to be expanded and lack of focus on multi modal transportation system. CAPTI is our guiding document around this, and we have core four priorities. The challenge is that not all local governments are there, and the pipeline of projects is lengthy. Through H&T WG, developed an anti-displacement memo,



which is so crucial to this work, especially considering the gentrification that occurs through our investments. This is incredibly important especially as affordability in the state becomes a challenge. Caltrans also rolled out a Highways to Blvd Program. Transportation equity index – to help drive investments for equity. Thinking about how SGC can continue help align state agencies become more competitive.

**Capretz:** Is there a way we can ask CEC or CPUC join this work? It feels like there is a gap. They are instrumental to affordability.

**Kennedy:** Energy burden is a key part of this portfolio, and we can work with CEC. We can integrate some of that work with P3.

**Capretz:** Wanted to clarify CPUC role in affordability and the opportunity to work together.

**Assefa:** Critical part is showing results on the ground – getting things done faster. OPR recently completed Site Check – a mapping tool that makes it easier for developers, and the CEQA mapping tool. Gentrification is an issue everywhere. To resolve this, need to think of ways to increase land ownership. Interested in ways to map developing, with OPR also working with CNRA, GoBiz, and CEC. Recently, OPR submitted an application to Department of Energy to map renewable energy projects.

**Jameson:** CDFA is in the process of finalizing their strategic plan and addressing equity in all of these goals, which also builds on their Racial Equity Action Plan. Also beginning the development of a Climate Resilience Strategy for Agriculture – hoping to host public meetings on this and think it can help address a lot of the issues today. For proposed areas of focus, farmworker housing was a key issue. Appreciate suggestion for a farmworker housing inventory and special relation to ag land and sufficient relation to housing stock. Key research this year through Western Center for Ag Health & Safety. On agriculture and conservation topic more broadly – we have one of the most productive agricultural climates in the world. While we think about strategic growth, want to make sure we're thinking about ware housing development and impact to agricultural areas and natural lands. Also want to look at confluence of SGMA which may cause some farmlands to lose productivity and the increase of renewable energy. Think about how these are affecting the central valley and ensure they are not displacing jobs without thinking of new economic opportunities. Within SALC program, think there are opportunities. Important to stay connected with CA Jobs First Process, as we are building a workforce around climate resilience around natural and working lands. Wanted to uplift work on a multi-modal resource and OPR's general plan update.

**Schwartz:** Agreed on communications, pathways to federal funding, and critical equity. Equity should be at the core of all the work. Within CNRA, as part of the Fifth Climate Assessment, CNRA is funding 15 research projects to understand how to adapt housing in CA. Also with the CA Adaptation Strategy, which is now open for public comment, thinking of actions and success metrics around housing and climate. CalFIRE is funding greenspace.

**Suennen:** Secretary Moss and Secretary Ghaly are Co-Chairs of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. As part of transformation of California's Medicaid program to

CalAIM, includes 14 community supports to eligible Medi-Cal members. Cross-sectoral work is crucial to move the needle on these complex topics.

**Garcia:** Council Champions will meet in July, expressed they are looking forward to debriefing the discussion and coming back to the Council will more.

**Assefa:** Expressed they would like staff to work with Caltrans to look into the transfer of development rights – its intersectional to the work that we do here.

### Public Comment

No public comment.

*Secretary Garcia left the meeting at 2:40pm. Quorum met; 9/10 members present.*

*Sarah Izant, Deputy Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency, designee on behalf of Secretary Garcia, entered the meeting at 2:40pm. Quorum met; 10/10 members present.*

### **Agenda Item #7: Discussion: Strategic Plan Annual Update**

•Year 1 Progress and Accomplishments • Year 2 Prioritization and Strategy

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Amar Cid, Deputy Director of Community Investments & Planning, SGC

Sean Kennedy, Deputy Director of Energy Investments, SGC

Hoi-Fei Mok, Deputy Director of Equity & Government Transformation, SGC

Adrienne Moretz, Special Advisor Innovation & Partnerships, SGC

*Secretary Omishakin left the meeting at 2:54pm. Quorum met; 9/10 members present.*

*Darwin Moosavi, Deputy Secretary, California State Transportation Agency, designee on behalf of Secretary Omishakin, entered the meeting at 2:54pm. Quorum met; 10/10 members present.*

*Secretary Moss left the meeting at 3:00pm. Quorum met; 9/10 members present.*

*Sasha Kergan, Deputy Secretary of Housing & Consumer Relations, designee on behalf of Secretary Moss, entered the meeting at 3:00pm. Quorum met; 10/10 members present.*

### Council Discussion

**Assefa:** Access to grants important. SGC can do more to consider the goals of member agencies and align goals with each other to connect dots. OPR is looking into having UC Berkeley looking at strategic plans and have a collective dashboard for alignment and remove redundancy and duplication.

**Kergan:** Opportunities to reduce complexity in grant applications, remove barriers, and streamline processes. Increase access to Tribes, technical assistance, strengthening government to government relationships. Uplift SGC's work in Lithium Valley, accounting for community benefit in a meaningful way and promoting economic growth. Focus on equity aligns across member agencies, coordination with Racial Equity Commission.

**Munoz:** Housing, climate, transportation, sustainability, affordability in higher education. Opportunity carefully cultivated. Some of the best minds are in California campuses, people all over the world come to California to learn.

**Assefa:** Thanks Councilmember Munoz for comments.

**Moosavi:** Leaning into opportunities is important. Federal opportunities, looking for spaces beyond SGC and agencies that can really benefit from Council discussion. Cross-sectoral opportunities.

**Capretz:** Easily accessible and transparent accounting of where we are at would be amazing. Loved Councilmember Munoz's comment on state seeking out more feedback from partners, such as higher education.

**Assefa:** Dashboard to have planned alignment, track results, and promote accountability. Similar effort on state's infrastructure strike team. Transparency and accountability.

**Schwartz:** Grants are front and center. Barriers need to be address, create a better way to do this. Innovative ideas to address barriers and make it easier for folks.

Assefa: Agree, access through a single portal.

**Suennen:** Expressed need to focus on language access. GovOPS will develop models on how language access plans will be developed. Providing linguistically and culturally appropriate services.

**Izant:** Whether for these updates or next round, how does SGC plan to gather data and share wit with the public and how will SGC work with communities and tribes and meeting their needs? CalEPA in the process of updating their Strategic Plan, will be available in the coming months.

**Cardenas:** Take step back and look around. Two years ago, was my first meeting, where the Executive Director shared the Strategic Planning Process. From hosting the Catalyst Conference to ideate, incubating, and scaling, Lynn's legacy and leadership is incredible.

#### **Public Comment**

Lianne Dillon.

### ***Agenda Item #8: Discussion: Connecting Communities Initiative Overview & Framework***

- *Introduction of Team and Framework* • *Discussion on Strategy*

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Adrienne Moretz, Special Advisor Innovation & Partnerships, SGC

*Deputy Secretary Schwartz left the meeting at 3:35pm. Quorum met; 9/10 members present.*

#### **Council Discussion**

**Capretz:** Welcomed Moretz, appreciates her energy and optimism. Incredible that SGC is creating this opportunity to connect communities to funding.



**Cardenas:** Where do you see opportunities and synergy with philanthropy? CACE team is an excellent example, looking at existing relationships. Another example is the James Irvine Foundation grant. Part of what we need to do going forward is prioritization, so much need for this type of work, and we need to lean on other entities for support, while mobilizing our plan, exploring additional opportunities.

**Moosavi:** Thanked Moretz for presentation and energy.

**Kergan:** history of community coordination to bring to bear

**Izant:** Expressed appreciation to staff for their work. Question on tribal support, really great to understand limitation on tribes getting connected to funds, given not all tribes are federally recognized. Would be great to hear about lessons learned once initiative is finished.

**Moretz:** Level of burnout from Tribes, capacity to apply. Explore beyond state and federal resources, examining how to support capacity, staffing, convening, etc.... A lot more to come.

**Assefa:** We need to take advantage of federal funding coming in. Whether local matching funds can be incorporated into this, places like Colorado do this, exploring federal matching. Model on DOE grants and partnership opportunities.

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### ***Agenda Item #9: Public Comment***

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### ***Agenda Item #10: Meeting Adjournment***

Before adjourning the meeting, Chair Sam Assefa shared remarks about his Armenia trip and thanked Lois Kim for her work on Factory-Built Housing. The Council presented flowers to Executive Director Lynn von Koch-Liebert and Lois Kim, thanking them for their service to the California Strategic Growth Council, the State of California, and the people of California.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

