



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

To: California Strategic Growth Council Members
From: Matt Read, SGC Acting Executive Director
Re: **Executive Director Report to the Council – August 22, 2024**

Staffing Updates

- Ella Manashil joins SGC as an Associate Planner for the Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Program.
- Noni Ifyefobi joins SGC as an Associate Planner for the Transformative Climate Communities Program.
- Joyce Tse joins SGC as an Associate Planner for the Transformative Climate Communities Program.
- Caleb Swanson joins SGC as an Agricultural Land Equity Program Analyst for the Agricultural Land Equity Initiative.

Investment Program Updates

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC)

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

- The AHSC program is presenting Round 8 Award recommendations to the Council at this Aug. 22 meeting. HCD released the AHSC Round 8 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a total of \$675 million in funding on Jan. 19, 2024. Applications were due on March 19, 2024 after a 60-day window.
- 45 applications were received, but three were incomplete and unable to be scored. 42 applications were deemed viable and were reviewed by the AHSC team (SGC, CARB, HCD), but four did not pass threshold. After scoring was complete, one additional project withdrew from consideration. Of the 37 remaining applications, staff is recommending 21 projects for award.
- Drawing from auction proceeds and disencumbered funds, staff recommends Round 8 awards totaling \$685,354,807 to 21 projects across the state. Combined, these projects will help construct more than 2,179 rent-restricted units, the majority of which are dedicated to Very Low and Extremely Low-Income residents.
- In the neighborhoods around these 21 projects, AHSC will also invest millions in public improvements including approximately 50 miles of Context Sensitive Bikeways, more than 60 miles of new and repaired sidewalks, approximately 90 new bus shelters, and 44 Zero Emission Transit Vehicles. Additionally, the program will fund anti-displacement activities to help keep nearby low-income residents in their homes, and support community education including job training, financial education, and other community-supportive programs.
- These 21 projects meet all statutory required set-asides and council-identified goals, except for the tribal-related goal. Despite the state-funded Technical Assistance team

working closely with 3 tribal applicants in advance of the NOFA, no tribal entity submitted an application for Round 8, so there were insufficient applications to meet this set-aside. All other set-asides (50% to Disadvantaged Communities, 50% Housing Funding, three Project Area Types, and eight geographic areas) are achieved.

- The current Council Meeting Packet includes an updated list of recommended projects which was posted to the website the week of August 19, 2024. On Monday, August 12th, the AHSC team publicly posted an inaccurate list of 21 projects recommended for award for Round 8. Immediate action is being taken to implement measures to prevent such errors in future rounds. SGC will provide an extensive debrief with all unawarded applicants and look at Technical Assistance opportunities for future rounds of AHSC and other funding sources via our Connecting Communities strategy.

Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Nicole Cartwright, Jennifer Kim, Sarah Newsham, Jess Ison, Chynell Freeman, Noni Ifyefobi, Joyce Tse, and California Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff Team

- TCC is presenting a technical amendment at the August 2024 Council Meeting that revises Strategy 4: Solar Installation and Energy Efficiency. This amendment will impact Round 4 and Round 5 Guidelines.
- The program has hired three new Resilient Communities Associate Planners: Chynell Freeman, Noni Ifyefobi, and Joyce Tse.
- Staff has continued conducting the Post-Award Consultation process with the 11 grantees who were awarded a total of \$98.1 million during the December 2023 Council Meeting. To date, two Planning Grants and one Project Development Grant have been fully executed, with several others in the last portion of the Post-Award Consultation process.
- The program is entering closeout reporting for our Round 1 TCC Grantees, which includes Transform Fresno (\$66.5 million), Ontario Together (\$33 million), and Watts Rising (\$33 million).
- Staff is developing procedures to administer advance pay to Round 4 and Round 5 grantees as authorized by AB 156 (2022) and AB 590 (2023). Staff is providing training and support to grantees who choose to receive advance pay.
- On July 25, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that three community partners working with the Connecting Communities Initiative have been selected to receive funding for community projects. This includes La Familia Counseling Center, the City of Bakersfield, and the San Diego Foundation (SDF). All three federally-awarded projects were applicants to TCC, with Bakersfield and SDF being Round 5 Implementation Grant awardees.



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

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

- Staff reported six easement closings between May 29 and Aug. 2, 2024. These projects have resulted in the permanent conservation of 20,154 acres of land that support cattle grazing, dryland farming, and irrigated agriculture across six counties.
- Staff released updated Sustainable Agricultural Lands Draft Guidelines for public comment on July 24. Staff will host two hybrid workshops; one in Sacramento on Aug. 28 and one in Ventura on Aug. 29. Staff will also hold two online Tribal Roundtables on Sept. 11, one at 11 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m. The draft guidelines include new guidance regarding notification to tribes and were informed by months of staff research, partner interviews, and extensive SGC staff and Council review and feedback.

Climate Change Research Program (CCR)

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

- Round 3 of the CCR program has closed out, and staff are now reviewing final reports and deliverables from these projects. SGC staff will publish a brief assessment this quarter, and upload videos from project presentations on SGC's YouTube channel.
- CCR has funded collaborations with academic leaders in the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) and California State University (CSU) system's Chancellor's Office to further the study and practice of participatory research. The following highlights capacity-building efforts taking place to support researchers:
 - The UCOP "Advancing Community Engagement in Climate Research" project conducted the sixth webinar in the [Community-Engaged S/HERO Awards Workshop Series](#), promoting the value of community engagement in climate action research and supporting collaborative approaches to ensure genuine multi-institutional and community/end-user engagement in climate action research across the state. The July workshop focused on "[Indigenous Data Sovereignty: Honoring Tribal and Community Ownership and Decision Making in Academic-Community Collaborations](#)".
 - The [CSU Water](#) project, "Tracking the Impacts of Actionable Research", is currently conducting a survey to understand the breadth of researchers' practices, challenges, and incentives before, during, and after community-based participatory action research and award phases. Results from this survey will be used to compare how researchers are implementing participatory action research under current institutional and funding circumstances, and support recommendations that address both SGC needs for research outcomes and the challenges researchers face within existing institutional and funding frameworks.
- 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:



- Established nine Regional Report author teams through Interagency Agreements executed with the state. In July, staff hosted two facilitated workshops for these teams. One focused on applying participatory research principles and practices to their internal structures, and the other to learn about the practical application of concepts, resources, and strategies in developing teams' community engagement plans. Regional Teams were offered the opportunity to sign-up for individualized coaching sessions in August that build upon and apply strategies and resources provided in the workshops. These sessions were tailored to fit the needs and interests of each team in order to advance their community engagement effort.
- The Call for UC/CSU Coordinating Lead Authors closed on July 29. The call requested researchers to lead the development of California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment's three Topical Synthesis Reports on issues of statewide significance: Economics, Racial Equity and Climate Justice, and Migration & Displacement. Nine applications were received and are under staff review. Additionally, the team is accepting [interest forms](#) from individuals interested in contributing to any/all of these topical reports.
- An update about the rollout of California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment was released earlier this month discussing the progress being made and milestones achieved by the inter-agency Fifth Assessment Team in three areas: climate data and scenarios, original climate research, and the Assessment's regional and topical reports. This announcement can be found on the [Assessment's Webpage](#).
- Staff has been working with SGC's Communication Officer to produce a video about the Fifth Assessment for Climate Week (September 22-29, 2024). The video, featuring Director Assefa and Secretary Crowfoot, describes how the Assessment serves as a unique model of research compiling original research, existing information, and lived experience into a collection of resources that help inform climate adaptation and resilience policy, planning and action.

Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program

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

- Staff is undergoing Round 1 Post Award Consultations for the 24 Community Resilience Centers Program Round 1 Awardees which include: 11 Planning, four Project Development, and nine Implementation Grants. Program Staff are collaborating with technical assistance (TA) provider, Civix, to conduct the Post-Award Consultation process for Grantees and prepare for Grant Implementation, including development of grant agreements, grant management manuals, and preparing a Grantee Orientation.
- Program Staff continue to support all CRC Round 1 applicants (both unawarded and awarded) with capacity building in resource identification and matching for additional funding sources that align with CRC project proposals.



- 46 total unawarded applicants attended a debrief meeting with the CRC Program and our Application TA provider Civix for 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 continue to collaborate with the Connecting Communities team and Technical Assistance provider Horne for identification of CRC proposals that align with federal funding opportunities such as EPA’s Community Change Grant (CCG); seven unawarded applicants have begun TA with Horne for CCG as of July 30.
- Staff continue to collaborate with the Virtual Power Plant/Energy Investments team and King Energy to identify (in-kind) services to implement solar and battery storage on community resilience facilities. This energy infrastructure would provide clean energy for resilience centers during both day-to-day operations and emergencies. SGC will offer this opportunity first to the CRC Program’s large pool of unawarded applicants.
- Staff continues to develop an evaluation framework and process for the Round 1 Implementation Grants.
 - In June, staff conducted a state-wide listening session, and engaged with approximately 30 attendees across state, academic, and public sectors on components of future evaluation metrics, best practices, and lessons learned in similar programs. This feedback will be utilized to inform the development of a draft framework for future program evaluation.
 - CRC program staff is collaborating with the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation’s Extreme Heat & Community Resilience Grant Program team to share public input and collaborate on third party contracting with regards to evaluation.
 - Additionally, staff has secured a UCLA Luskin Graduate Student to conduct related research for the program starting in September 2024. Staff is working on finalizing a project proposal for this student’s capstone research objectives.

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:** CACE staff finalized 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. Staff also provided feedback to RCC Round 2 applicants, recognizing the time, energy, and resources that applicants devoted to their applications. CACE staff continues to manage the Round 1 grantees and prepared RCC Round 1 Annual Reports



that summarize milestones achieved in the first year. These reports will be a communication resource for demonstrating program success to funders and legislators.

- **Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program:** CACE staff held post-award consultation calls with the six awardees to finalize their grant agreements. Staff has also finalized the TA provider contract and will begin regular check-ins to facilitate the grant program, including development of the peer learning curriculum. Staff has also offered debrief calls to unsuccessful applicants in addition to applicant profiles that would highlight the unfunded proposals to other potential funding partners. In addition to the grant management, staff members have been selected to present two sessions at the National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC) in Anchorage, Alaska from September 9-12. The first session will dive into the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program, while the second session will provide an overview of SGC staff and Council work in the context of climate resilience and tribal stewardship of the land. These sessions will not only showcase SGC's active involvement in tribal climate resilience, but also contribute valuable insights to the conference.
- **BOOST Imperial Valley:** CACE staff is in the process of conducting kick-off calls with the seven cities, County, and Imperial Irrigation District in the BOOST program. In-depth launch meetings and site tours were held on Aug. 14-15 with each city's representatives, CACE staff, and the Institute for Local Government. Staff is also coordinating with the Governor's Office and Institute for Local Government in preparation for an on-site, high-level funders and dignitaries convening at the end of September. A portion of the Irvine Foundation grant for Connected Communities will be utilized for the convening logistics.

Collaborative Policy Initiatives

Health and Equity Program (HEP)

Staff: Hoi-Fei Mok and Michael Jimenez

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 Safe and Equitable Communities Roundtable.** On July 16, the HiAP Task Force hosted its second quarterly Safe and Equitable Communities Roundtable Meeting of 2024. The Roundtable is a subunit of the California Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force, which launched in late 2022 to address systemic issues in the way State government can promote safe communities and address violence prevention. The Roundtable featured guest panelists from Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice discussing their localized efforts to prevent violence, partnerships with local and State government, and how the state can continue to support innovative, community-driven, and research-proven models of community safety.



- **HEP Joins California Fifth Climate Change Assessment Public Health Topical Report Workgroup.** In support of the forthcoming Fifth Assessment, HEP staff joined a subject matter workgroup helping embed a health and equity lens into the Assessment. This will lead to a topical report of the overall assessment focused on public health, and HEP's participation will aim to ensure an interdisciplinary, equity-driven approach to the topical report.
- **HiAP Task Force Attends Racial Equity Commission Meeting in Riverside.** In representation of SGC and the HiAP Task Force, HEP attended the Racial Equity Commission's July 17 Data Subcommittee and Full Commission meeting in Riverside.

Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP)

Staff: HEP and SGC Program and Administrative Managers

- **HEP Leads Interagency Racial Equity Updates and Council Discussion.** In alignment with the [SGC Racial Equity Resolution](#), at least two Council meetings per year will include updates of racial equity advancement initiatives from SGC agencies and programs. The annual interagency update will take place on Aug. 22, with leadership and facilitation from HEP. The presentation to Council will be accompanied by a practitioner panel discussion featuring equity initiative leads from the Department of Public Health, Natural Resources Agency, and State Transportation Agency.
- **SGC Leadership Further Embeds Racial Equity into Strategic Plan.** In June 2024, SGC Leadership led an internal retreat on its Strategic Plan, including developing direction and planning for the second year of implementing it. In advance of this retreat, HEP provided an analytical summary of REAP activities to date, with an emphasis on activities carried out or started in 2024. The analysis outlined topical and thematic policy or collaborative areas that have arisen directly from SGC programs and portfolios informing Leadership how to further incorporate racial equity-driven approaches into Strategic Plans. Topics are diverse, including advance pay, community engagement, diversifying SGC funding approaches and sources, technical assistance, and more.
- **Racial Equity Action Plan Webpage Now Live.** HEP and SGC Communications & External Affairs launched 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, a link to the SGC Racial Equity Resource Hub, and provides a narrative timeline of SGC's racial equity-driven initiatives. 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.

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.

- For updates on CCORE’s accomplishments from June 27 to August 22, reference Item 7: Interagency Racial Equity updates prepared alongside this Executive Director report or contact ccore@phi.org.

Natural and Working Lands

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

Staff: Sean Kennedy, Camille Frazier, Tessa Salzman

- Task Force members established three subcommittees in May 2024: 1) Grants and Resources, 2) Community Outreach, and 3) Sustaining Natural and Cultural Resources. All three subcommittees held inaugural meetings in July and members are planning to reconvene in September.
- The fourth quarterly Task Force meeting is scheduled for Aug. 14 and 15 in Fresno. Members will attend local site visits and report back to the full Task Force on Aug. 14. On Aug. 15, members will hear presentations and discuss the impacts of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and shifting land and water markets on equitable land access and secure tenure in the San Joaquin Valley. Members will review and discuss a proposed work plan that establishes key goals, actions, and outcomes leading to the submission of final recommendations.

Federal Funding Initiatives

Connecting Communities

Staff: Adrienne Moretz, Aatisha Singh, and Camille Randolph

- To meet the Initiative's goal of supporting SGC grantees and unawarded applicants in accessing federal funding through technical assistance (TA), SGC contracted with HORNE to deliver wrap around technical assistance to SGC Partners. HORNE began working with grant awardees and applicants in January to provide support in applying for the US EPA’s Community Change Grant Program (CCG).
- In late July, the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Community Change Grants Program](#) announced more than \$325 million in awards for 21 selected applications, including five in California. This Program is the single largest investment in environmental and climate justice in history. Three SGC partners were selected for award. All three projects were applicants to Round 5 of TCC’s Implementation Grant and each applied for nearly \$20 million in funding from EPA (final award amounts TBA).
- *About the selected awardees:*
 - **The La Familia Counseling Center, Inc** in Sacramento was selected by the EPA to receive funding for their Greening North Franklin project—which will implement several projects to reduce pollution and build climate resiliency in south Sacramento. They will develop a community resilience hub to serve as a cooling center during extreme heat events and provide services to meet community



needs in an emergency. To reduce energy costs and pollution, the project will provide energy efficiency upgrades, install solar on qualifying homes, and provide workforce training in electrification, housing retrofits, and solar installation. The project will also create a public park in a neighborhood lacking green space.

- **The City of Bakersfield's** Southeast Strong project will receive funding to improve community connectivity in central and southeast Bakersfield by expanding residents' access to safe, clean, and convenient active transportation and public transit options. To reduce pollution and energy costs, they will fund energy efficiency retrofits at 30 single family residential units and retrofit another 60 homes with solar panels and battery technologies. They will also convert a community center into a resilience hub by installing a microgrid. The project will provide 150 residents with training to install solar panels, repair electric vehicles, and enroll in electrician apprenticeships.
- **The San Diego Foundation** will also receive funding for their Rooted in Comunidad, Cultivating Equity: Brighting Just and Electric Transit, Health Homes and Opportunity to San Diego's Central Historic Barrios project will focus on barrios in Southern Border communities. Providing a holistic approach to improve local air quality, mitigate extreme heat, and expand green space. The project will improve residents' access to clean and safe transportation by expanding a free micro-transit shuttle service and electrifying regional buses. The project also will electrify homes, add energy storage, install air filters, and perform weatherization upgrades. The project will connect residents to clean energy job opportunities and apprenticeships in electrical and construction work.

Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Pilot Program

Staff: Sean Kennedy, 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 Council Meeting.
- The Notice of Funding Availability was released in late July. The application will be launched in early August, and will remain open until Oct. 4.
- SGC will hold an application workshop in late August for applicants.

News Media Clips

California Strategic Growth Council

- [“Lendistry Hires Inaugural Head of Climate, Energy & Infrastructure, Lynn Von Koch-Liebert, Stepping Up Its Commitment to Equity in Clean Energy Capital.”](#) (WSILTV) July 9, 2024: “Lynn comes to Lendistry after seven years affecting change for the state of California, most recently as Executive Director of the Strategic Growth Council (SGC). The Council was created to work collaboratively with public agencies, communities, and stakeholders to achieve sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians.



- [“SD Foundation Receives \\$20 Million Grant to Fund Climate Projects in Central Historic Barrios.”](#) (CBS8 San Diego) Aug. 2, 2024: “In December we learned of a \$22 million grant from the State of California. The Strategic Growth Council.”

Community Resilience Centers

- [“California’s Solar Resilience Hubs May Generate 8GW Power”](#) (*Mirage*) June 27, 2024: “Because resilience hubs are permanent (compared to emergency relocation centers), they can provide year-round services to address the vulnerability of at-risk and disadvantaged populations. ‘Demand for resilience hubs remains high,’ says senior scientist Patrick Murphy, noting that California’s Strategic Growth Council awarded 11 grants for resilience hubs in February 2024 [...]”
- [“New report outlines possibilities of permanent California solar + storage ‘resilience hubs’.”](#) (*Solar Power World*) July 3, 2024: “‘Demand for resilience hubs remains high,’ said senior scientist Patrick Murphy, noting that California’s Strategic Growth Council awarded 11 grants for resilience hubs in February 2024, ‘but more than 100 communities requested funding.’ “

Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities

- [“Southern California’s First Excess State Land Site for Affordable Housing Development Breaks Ground in Riverside”](#) (*Sierra Sun Times*) June 11, 2024: “Phase 2 was also awarded nearly \$28 million from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program jointly administered by HCD and the Strategic Growth Council.”
- [“RIVERSIDE WELCOMES MULBERRY GARDENS SENIOR APARTMENTS, A PIONEERING AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON EXCESS STATE LAND”](#) (*Hoodline*) June 11, 2024: “A broader housing complex is on the horizon, promising an additional 150 affordable homes for low-income families as part of Phase 2, also receiving significant financial support from both state grants and the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program.”
- [“McFarland officials celebrate grand opening of affordable housing project.”](#) (*Bakersfield Now*) June 25, 2024: “It was a collaborative effort between the city of McFarland and the Milestone Housing Group. Their goal was to create affordable housing for residents. A \$16 million dollar grant from the California Strategic Growth Council funded the project.”
- [“McFarland celebrates addition of affordable housing project.”](#) June 26, 2024 (*23ABC Bakersfield*): “The new complex is reserved for people who fall into the “extremely low income” category. The Sherwood apartment complex was a project four years in the making and is partially funded with a \$16 million grant from the California Strategic Growth Council.”
- [“Work on \\$25 Million Imperial Avenue Bikeway Officially Begins with Groundbreaking”](#) (*Times of San Diego*) June 27, 2024: “A portion of the bikeway was funded through an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant awarded to Community HousingWorks. This grant helped build more than 70 affordable housing units and



enhanced infrastructure in under-invested neighborhoods, providing active transportation options while preserving community character.”

- [“Calexico Transportation Center moves forward”](#) (*Imperial Valley Press*) July 6, 2024: “In May, the ICTC approved the submittal of a grant application for use of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, or LCTOP — one of several programs that are part of the Transit, Affordable Housing, and Sustainable Communities Program set by the California Legislature in 2014 by SB 862.”
- [“BRIDGE Housing and The Unity Council Celebrate Grand Opening of Casa Sueños, a 181-Unit Affordable Housing Community in Oakland’s Fruitvale Village”](#) (*Post News Group*) July 8, 2024: “Casa Sueños, located at the intersection of East 12th Street and 35th Avenue, will help address Oakland’s critical housing shortage by providing studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments that will be affordable for families earning 20-80% of Area Median Income.”

Transformative Climate Communities

- [“Local Gems: South LA \(Western Ave\)”](#) (*Ciclavia*) June 10, 2024: “South LA EcoLab Zone / Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) Project: “[...] a collective of committed social and environmental impact partners in LA—has initiated a plan that will add much needed additional green spaces in South LA, improving the livelihood and health of its residents.”
- [“It’s time to retire the Ormond Beach gas plant and fund clean energy”](#) (*VC Star*) June 17, 2024: “Redirecting those funds to such programs Equitable Building Decarbonization, Transformative Climate Communities, Community Resilience Centers, and Community Renewable Energy and Storage could turn around a budget that thus far has not prioritized the most vulnerable populations.”
- [“First of 140 Solar Roofs Gets Installed in South L.A.”](#) (*Los Angeles Business Journal*) June 24, 2024: “All the programs target residents in a 4-square-mile area of South L.A. bounded by Vernon Avenue on the north, Western Avenue on the west, Central Avenue on the east and 61st Street on the south. Funding comes from a \$35 million grant from the California Strategic Growth Council’s Transformative Climate Communities Program; the funding period started last July and ends in June 2028.”
- [“California’s \\$10B Climate Bond Breaks Through Political Gridlock”](#) (*KQED*) June 30, 2024: “Environmental groups like NextGen California ‘are glad to see some of [their] priorities represented, like extreme heat mitigation and Transformative Climate Communities represented,’ wrote David Weiskopf, senior policy advisor with the group, in an email.”

Climate Change Research

- [“\\$100 million California Climate Action Seed and Matching Grants supports UC climate action research, tribal nation resource management”](#) (*The Daily Californian*) June 28, 2024: About one-third of all funded projects have direct partnerships with California tribal nations and organizations that center Indigenous communities. UCOP, in partnership with SGC’s Climate Change Research Program, provided additional funding to 10 of the projects to identify the best practices for engagement.



- ["Modeling and design of solar + storage-powered community resilience hubs across California"](#) (Risk Analysis, An International Journal) June 26, 2024: Funded by SGC's Climate Change Research Program, this study modeled the economic and climate impacts of outfitting candidate hub sites across California with solar + storage for everyday operations and identified designs and costs required to withstand a range of outages considering weather impacts on energy needs and availability.

