

*April 30, 2025*

**Subject:** Strategic Growth Council Feb. 26, 2025 – Meeting Minutes  
**Reporting Period:** Feb. 2025 – April 2025  
**Staff Lead:** Lisa Duong, Administrative Associate, SGC

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## **Recommended Action**

Approval of the Feb. 26, 2025, Strategic Growth Council (SGC or the Council) Meeting Minutes.

## **SGC Feb. 26, 2025 – Meeting Minutes**

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

Chair Sam Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

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

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

Sam Assefa, Director, Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)

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

Jaimie Huynh (Designee), Acting Deputy Secretary, Environmental Justice and Equity, on behalf of Secretary Yana Garcia, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

Tomiquia Moss, Secretary, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)

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

Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS)

Juan Sánchez Muñoz, Chancellor, Public Member

Frank Cárdenas, Vice Chair, Public Member

Nicole Capretz, Public Member (Virtual)

#### **Council Members and Representatives Absent:**

*Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)*

*Quorum met; 9/10 members present.*

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

*Approval of Feb. 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes*

Motion was made by Muñoz and seconded by Johnson.

**Motion passes (8-0-1\*).** \*Marks abstention or absence from vote

**Council Comment**

No Council discussion.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

***Agenda Item #4: Executive Director's Report***

Erin Curtis, Executive Director, SGC

**Council Comment**

**Moss:** Voiced appreciation for staff's work to address comments raised at the previous Council meeting regarding developer fees. Acknowledged that the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Round 9 Guidelines reflect input that the Council received from the public and expressed excitement about the elements which have been incorporated. Added that aligning AHSC's developer fees with those of other state programs was also responsive to requests received via public comment and recommended Council consider a Round 8 adjustment for the developer fees as well. Asked staff to agendaize for further discussion at the April meeting.

**Cárdenas:** Offered his profound thanks to the Governor, members of his team and administration, and to the Council members for their leadership and commitment as the Altadena-Pasadena area begins to pivot from relief to rebuild and recovery after the recent fires.

**Assefa:** Noted the remarkable transformation since the fire, citing the Governor's recent announcement about California setting a new record in the country in terms of the amount of debris that was cleaned up. Credited not only the responsiveness of leadership, but also the solidarity of the communities of Altadena and Pasadena.

Acknowledged the impact of standing in the ashes of burned homes and businesses, noting that it is easy to see the infrastructure that is impacted, but the scars to the affected communities are also very real. Expressed gratitude for the work done at the local level which inspires hope, and broadly for the California spirit which brings people together in times of disaster.

**Public Comment**

Marina Espinoza, CA Housing Consortium

J.T. Harechmak, Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California

Elizabeth Kuwada, Mercy Housing California

Ann Silverberg, Related NorCal and NW Affordable

Tiphaine Abarca, Linc Housing

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

*Motion to move the Consent Calendar*

*a. AHSC: Round 9 Guidelines*

Erin Curtis, Executive Director, SGC

Amar Cid, Deputy Director of Investments & Planning, SGC

**Council Comment**

**Johnson:** Thanked staff for the overview of the AHSC Round 9 program. Applauded increased incentives to build and retrofit homes and communities. Shared that she has spent most of 2025 in Los Angeles and appreciates the phenomenal community of Altadena. Recognized the work that needs to be done to recover. Highlighted the importance of how housing resilience goals are reflected in the guidelines.

Expressed appreciation for the conversation related to priority populations and emphasized the importance of that inclusion, also with respect to tribal sovereignty, health and equity as well as broader efforts related to supportive services.

**Moss:** Reflected that it has been an incredible honor to be in community with folks advancing these kinds of programs in real time. Expressed appreciation for California's ability to be responsive to emergencies like this while also moving AHSC to Round 9. Noted appreciation for the professionalism and intention of the changes made, particularly regarding tribal engagement. Highlighted the importance of these improvements to the guidelines and engagement in order to address the lack of successful tribal applications in Round 8. Anticipates the changes will be tremendously helpful to ensure a level playing field resulting in diverse applications.

**Assefa:** Echoed comments from Secretary Moss and Secretary Johnson. Noted that the Council is constantly building and improving on what we do. Celebrated that Council is a place to pilot new ideas and listen, learn, and change.

**Public Comment**

Clancy Taylor, California Coalition for Rural Housing

**Motion passes (9-0-0\*).**

Motion was made by Moss and seconded by Johnson.

***Agenda Item #6: Public Comment***

No public comment.

***Agenda Item #7: Meeting Adjournment***

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.