

June 28, 2018

**Subject:** April 20, 2018 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes

**Reporting Period:** April 2018 –June 2018

**Staff Lead:** Ulisses Arzola, Strategic Growth Council

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**Recommended Action:**

Approval of the April 20, 2018 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

## **Strategic Growth Council June 28, 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes**

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

Chair Ken Alex, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR);  
Vice-Chair Bob Fisher, Public Member;  
Manuel Pastor, Public Member;  
Michael Flad, Public Member  
Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA);  
Secretary Matthew Rodriguez, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA);  
Deputy Secretary Kate White, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA);  
Associate Secretary Jim Suennen, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS);  
Deputy Assistant Secretary Julie Alvis, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA);  
Deputy Secretary Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)

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

Chair Alex called the meeting to order at 10:06am.

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

The Council introduced themselves.

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

Public Member Flad made the motion, Secretary Rodriguez seconded. Motion passes 10-0.

### **Agenda Item #4: Council Members Update**

Deputy Secretary White announced multimodal transportation funding award announcements including the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, and Transit and Intercity Rail Program will be announced next week through SB1 and CCI investments. Requests to present those awards at the next SGC meeting. The Deputy also thanked SGC staff member Monica Palmeira on a partnership with CalSTA to advance technical assistance.

## Agenda Item #5: Executive Director's Report

*Randall Winston, SGC*

*Natalie Kuffel, OPR*

### *a. Director's Report*

Executive Director Winston updated the Council on Technical Assistance, the California Climate Investments Summit, Health in All Policies, the Parks and Healthy Tree Canopy, and the Climate Change Research Program.

The Climate Change Research Program will be making award recommendations in July 2018. In addition, Urban Footprint 2.0 will be released free of charge to over 500 cities, counties, and regional agencies in California.

### *b. Legislative Report*

Legislative Director Kuffel updated the Council on five bills involving SGC in the legislature including AB 2434, SB 1072, AB 2258, AB 2528, and AB 3037.

### Discussion:

Public Member Fisher asked what kind of funding SGC is getting from these bills. Fisher noted that SGC is becoming a grant making institution, and noted that the mandate for the Council is to do a lot more than allocate monies. He noted that without funding SGC could continue to give out grant, but was not sure the promise of Council would be realized without funding.

He also stated it would be useful to see what the SGC has been tasked to do and what we have been able to accomplish for the next group of council members. Lastly, he called for the need to prioritize activities rather than continuing to add more activities.

Public Member Pastor added to Mr. Fisher's comments, and mentioned that the Sustainable Communities Strategies may come back as a responsibility for the SGC in the future.

The full Executive Director's Report can be found [here](#).

## **Agenda Item #6: Information: Outsmart Disaster Campaign**

*Lnn von Koch-Liebert, BCSH*

Undersecretary Koch-Liebert gave an overview presentation on the Outsmart Disaster Campaign which focuses on resiliency and mitigation in the event of a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault. The California Seismic Safety Commission launched the campaign last week. A full statewide rollout will begin in October 2018 to coincide with the Great ShakeOut.

The full presentation on the Outsmart Disaster Campaign can be found [here](#).

More information on the Outsmart Disaster Campaign can be found on their [website](#).

## **Agenda Item #7: ACTION: Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program**

*SALC Program Staff*

*Kathryn Lyddan, California Department of Conservation*

Lyddan presented on the recommended approval of the 2017-2018 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Final Guidelines.

Discussion:

Public Member Fisher wanted to know what qualifies as a successful outcome. Did not want to have farm islands amidst urban areas. He asked to review program activities in a five-year period to see what type of development has occurred around conserved land through the program.

Lyddan agreed and said that after a few round of funding the program will need a third party evaluator to monitor performance and analyze properties funded under the program. She would like to see if grants have changed the way cities develop, whether

they change the way farmers handle their property, and what happens when we permanently protect property.

Executive Director Winston agreed and hoped to come back to the Council later this year with further information on what an evaluation of the impact of easements would look like.

Secretary Rodriguez wanted clarification on engagement with open space districts and the questions around insurance requirements.

Lyddan said they dropped the insurance requirement out of the guidelines. She is supportive in having the open space districts included in the Strategy and Outcome grants which are not currently included in the guidelines.

Deputy Secretary Alvis wanted to thank staff for the work on this round of the program. The program had a vision on incorporating local planning with permanently protected easements and management practices. It was always a challenge combining those elements, but in this version of the program, the Deputy felt it had been accomplished.

Secretary Ross complimented the staff as well. She mentioned she did not want to look at farmland in a silo. Instead, she wanted to look at farmland as an integrated working landscape management area. She mentioned that the program should be mindful of the wildfire aspect of farmland and the need to look at it in a holistic way.

Secretary Ross Made the motion, Deputy Secretary Alvis seconded. Motion passes 10-0.

*Public Comment on SALC:*

*Elena Ortiz, Peninsula Open Space Trust*

*Melanee Cottrill, California Farmland Trust*

*Jeanne Merrill, California Climate and Agriculture Network*

*Michele Clark, YOLO Land Trust*

*Sara Schremmer, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts*

*Tracy Ellison, Solano Land Trust*



The full staff report, guidelines and public comments received on the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

## **Agenda Item #8: Discussion: Integrated Regional Conservation and Development**

*Denny Grossman, SGC*

Grossman presented on Integrated Regional Conservation and Development (IRCAD). He briefly touched upon the advancements IRCAD has made, including advancing a framework for the implementation of regional conservation assessments, demonstrating the value of IRCAD products, developing a technology platform to access regional planning data and advancing financial strategies and institutionalization of the IRCAD approach.

Chair Alex wanted to note that the Wildlife Conservation Board is interested in IRCAD because they purchased conservation lands and it helps the Board identify the value of those lands in a much more transparent way. High Speed Rail has funded a lot of work that Grossman has done. In part because they are looking at doing better mitigation for the project, and do it more quickly and effectively. Would also help large-scale SB 1 projects with mitigation and impact.

The full staff report on the Integrated Regional and Conservation Development can be found [here](#).

## **Agenda Item #9: **ACTION:** Transformative Climate Communities Program**

*Randall Winston, SGC*

Executive Director Winston briefly updated the council on proposed options for expenditure of \$10 million of FY 2017-2018 TCC Program Funds to Round 2 (FY 2018-2019).

Option 1: Add \$10 million to Round 2 of the TCC program. Round 2 guidelines will be developed throughout 2018, with a proposed call for applications in August 2018 and award recommendations made in December 2018. A shorter application process could be made for those applicants who previously submitted TCC applications in Round 1.

Option 2: Use Round 1 TCC guidelines to award the \$10 million of FY 2017-2018 TCC Program funds through an expedited, competitive process, in which only those applicants who completed previously could apply.

Discussion:

Secretary Rodriguez was impressed with the dedication of the community and work that went into the Green Together: Northeast Valley proposal. He noted that he understands the TCC program provide financing for multiple types of projects and, therefore, it makes sense to combine the \$10 million to the \$25 million in the proposed budget, to achieve the overall goals of the TCC program.

Encourages staff to see what they can do to get through the process by December and encourages them to retool the guidelines based off of the experience in Round 1. Suggests the guidelines recognize the work previous applicants have done in terms of community engagement. They should get credit for what they have done at this point and also look at the scoring process to give them additional points. Would also like to find a way to provide them with technical assistance (TA) so they can continue to work through the process.

Executive Director Winston responded that they are closely looking at providing TA for the next round of applicants. TA is a strong part of TCC and needs to remain so.

Public Member Flad wanted clarification if the funding for FY 2018-2019 is \$25 million.

Executive Director Winston clarified that the \$25 million in the Governor's proposed budget has not yet been finalized and may change.

Public Member Pastor noted the desire to award bigger grants in amounts of \$35 million, and if that specific number is written anywhere. He also asked if more money came in and if the awards could be divided into different amounts.

Executive Director Winston replied that with the formation of the program and guidelines, the \$35 million was the proposed number that was determined to be transformative and in the process of updating the guidelines, with direction from the Council, that number could change.

Public Member Pastor also asked one thing that could be changed, based off the first round of funding to inform previous applicants.

Executive Director Winston stated that in updating the guidelines, it would a goal to make it easier and less burdensome to apply. One example is the application period itself with regards to the concept phase and full application phase. Having heard from applicants, it is unnecessarily burdensome and duplicative. Second, the quantification methodology with each project type. After having conversations with the Air Resources Board that could be approached in a different manner, like looking at the project area more holistically to reduce the work load on applicants.

Chair Alex said either way, if the amount is \$10 or \$35 million, the guidelines will be reworked but if it is \$10, it is a different program.

Public Member Pastor asked what a shorter application process for previous applicants looks like.

Executive Director Winston stated that those who applied previously submitted a lot of information about their process, such as financial capacity, various levels of readiness etc. Potentially, many of those materials will not have to be resubmitted. Saying more might be too speculative as the guidelines have not been updated yet.

Public Member Pastor asked if there is a faster way to do this.

Executive Director Winston said it is the speediest way in which SGC could do this. They want to make sure they give applicants time to apply for the program and give time for staff time to develop guidelines and process applications.

Public Comment on TCC:

*Nury Martinez, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles 6<sup>th</sup> District*

*Maria Guzman, Pacoima Beautiful*

*Fidel Vasquez, Pacoima Beautiful*

*Veronica Padilla-Campos, Executive Director, Pacoima Beautiful*

*Mary Creasman, The Trust for Public Land*

*Laura Muraida, SCOPE/ LA Equity Alliance*

*Malcolm Harris, LA Equity Alliance/ Trust South LA*

*Keshia Sexton, LA Equity Alliance/ Trust South LA*

*Mubarack Ali, LA Equity Alliance/Trust South LA*

*Jessica Medina, LA Equity Alliance/ SCOPE*

*Effie Turnbull Sanders, South LA Transit Empowerment Zone*

*Wendy Mitchell, Pacoima Beautiful*

*Michael Swords, LACI*

*Uriel Hernandez, Canopy/ City of East Palo Alto Resident*

*La Shelle Dozier, SHRA*

Secretary Rodriguez motioned to approve staff's recommendation for Option 1 with additional direction to staff to consider modifications to the requirements that incorporates information from previous applications to alleviate burden on repeat applicants. Second, consider whether the scoring process should be modified to look at the sustained community engagement of previous applicants. Third, requests that staff come back with proposals on how to fund TA for applicants in the next round.

Public Member Pastor wanted to know how to weigh the role of community based organizations vs. just community engagement.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Alvis directed staff when updating the guidelines, to make careful note of any parts that have changed from previous guidelines and cross block so that previous

applicants can easily reference the changes. If new documentation is needed for the new guidelines that was not needed before, make sure that is clearly pointed out. Create some sort of tool to cross reference for previous applicants.

Public Member Pastor asked what a minimum viable dollar amount for a TCC project is once they have a better sense of the money allocated in the budget. \$35 million seems arbitrary. Maybe \$15, \$25 million?

Secretary Rodriguez asked to see where we are in June or July, when the final dollar amount is appropriated. We might look at a slightly different TCC program in the next round.

Chair Alex wants people to understand that the \$10 million dollar process might be more difficult. Right now there is \$35 million dollar application, with match that we have seen with Pacoima and one in South LA. Reformulating it as a \$10 million dollar program with a different match and different priorities is a rewrite in the guidelines and might be more difficult for staff and applicants. Is not convinced it is faster to award the \$10 million than if the process played out. The transformative piece is that this is a significant amount of money with a significant match. Need to figure out what amount gets us to “transformative”. It is not an easy decision, but we will see what funding we get in the finalized budget. Need to figure out how the communities stay with us and so we can address their needs.

Public Member Pastor wanted to note the tremendous passion from the environmental justice communities and the creativity in addressing greenhouse gasses, jobs, climate adaptation etc.

Deputy Secretary White made the motion to approve Option 1 with amendments. Seconded by Secretary Rodriguez. The motion passes 10-0.

The staff report on the Transformative Climate Communities Program can be found [here](#).

## **Agenda Item #10: General Public Comment**

*Troy Hightower, Affordable Housing Coalition of Kern County*

## **Agenda Item #11: Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Alex adjourned the meeting at 1:04 pm.

A full video of the April 20, 2018 Strategic Growth Council meeting can be found [here](#).

