

September 25, 2018

Subject: July 2018 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: July 2018 –September 2018

Staff Lead: Ulisses Arzola, Strategic Growth Council

Recommended Action:

Approve the July 31, 2018 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

Strategic Growth Council July 31, 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;
Undersecretary Jenny Lester Moffitt, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA);
Secretary Alexis Podesta, Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH);
Assistant Secretary Janne Olson-Morgan, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS);
Secretary Matthew Rodriguez, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA);
Assistant Secretary Bryan Cash, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA);
Deputy Secretary Kate White, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Chair Alex called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

The Council introduced themselves.

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes

Secretary Rodriguez made the motion to approve the June 28, 2018 meeting minutes, Secretary Podesta seconded. Motion passes 8-0.*

*Deputy Secretary White arrived after the vote.

The June 28, 2018 meeting minutes can be found [here](#).

Agenda Item #4: Council Members Update

Secretary Podesta updated the Council on the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC). The Governor's 2018-2019 budget included moving the HCFC from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), to the Business, Consumer Services and

Housing Agency (BCSH), and also created a new Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), which is designed to be a one-time \$500 million dollar block grant to support local jurisdictions to tackle immediate homeless issues. The first Council meeting was held on July 11, 2018. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), will be announced in mid-September.

To learn more about the Council and HEAP, please [visit their website](#).

Agenda Item #5: ACTION: Consent Calendar

Louise Bedsworth, SGC

- a. *Proposition 84 Planning Grants: Proposed expenditure of \$1.15 million in reimbursed funds.*

Executive Director Bedsworth gave an overview of the Consent Calendar item.

Secretary Rodriguez made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar item, Public Member Fisher seconded. Motion passes 9-0.

The full staff report on the Consent Calendar Item can be found [here](#).

Agenda Item #6: Executive Director's Report

Louise Bedsworth, SGC

Executive Director Bedsworth updated the Council on a few informational items including the California Climate Investment (CCI) Program funding guidelines, SGC FY 2018-2019 program appropriations, and gave a HiAP update.

Public Member Fisher asked whether the updated CCI funding guidelines affect SGC programs and what the changes may be.

Executive Director Bedsworth responded that SGC programs represent a large portion of CCI investments. The employment generation has been a priority in both long-term and immediate constructing of projects. SGC is looking at sitting down with the Air Resources Board (ARB) and discussing what approaches could be used to take advantage of where reporting is already happening and what ways to capture these benefits. ARB already does some modeled analysis to estimate jobs.

Fisher followed up with a question on the HiAP racial and pay equity in state government report and what the findings were.

HiAP Program Director Julia Caplan stated that the report shows there are disparities in pay by race, gender and that certain racial groups have higher pay than others, some of that has to do with job classifications and the types of jobs. Some limitations on analysis based on the data was found. HiAP has been having conversations with Department of Human Resources and Government Operations Agency on strategies to improve the data collection and reporting so they are able to do more thorough analysis.

Fisher asked how the report might impact the work the Council is doing.

Caplan stated that were a number of things the Council might be able to do and that so far, the study has been able to assist the 18 state departments participating in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), in understanding what is happening across government. The Council has an opportunity to think about racial equity work as an enterprise-wide approach, not just individual departments. Caplan also mentions an opportunity in bringing a health and racial equity lens to grant making in all state departments.

Deputy Secretary White thanked Caplan and the HiAP Task Force for their work on the Active Transportation Action Report.

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

Public Comment on the Executive Director's Report:



Kimberly Chen, CPEHN

Agenda Item #7: ACTION: Climate Change Research Program: Recommended Awards for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Louise Bedsworth, SGC

- a. *Recommended projects for awards totaling \$10.5 million dollars.*

Executive Director Bedsworth gave an overview of the proposed 10 research projects that facilitate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions; addresses benefits to disadvantaged and low-income communities; and focuses on clean energy, adaptation and resiliency.

Bedsworth also gave an update on the program for FY 18-19 which includes \$18 million in funding that will emphasize on priorities not funded in Round 1, with outreach and research solicitation taking place late summer and fall 2018.

Public Member Fisher asked to what degree they looked at the implementation of this research in judging the number of dollars awarded, or in scoring the project.

Bedsworth responded that it was a large part of the criteria. One of the main goals was that the research be very outcome oriented. All of the proposals link directly to an outcome. Some of the proposals were very locally-based types of projects, others were tools that could be scaled up or rolled out.

Fisher followed up, asking to what degree the dollars committed relate to the potential impact that a project has, or if they tied to the number of hours that are required of the research.

Bedsworth responded that it was more tied to the request. Some research costs more than others to do.

Public Member Pastor commented that as someone has done a lot of research in the field, it was a superb group of proposals being funded.

Secretary Rodriguez asked what the process is for the next round.

Bedsworth responded that they have the research investment plan and that they will develop a new set of guidelines and a Request for Proposals (RFP) that they will come back to the council with. Outreach will be done to additional partners to see what that will look like.

Assistant Secretary Cash asked when the criteria will be coming back.

Bedsworth responded that it will be at the next council meeting in September.

Undersecretary Lester Moffitt wanted to acknowledge SGC staff member Liz Grassi and the work she has done on behalf of the program.

Chair Alex also wanted to thank the Scientific Advisory Panel who helped score all the proposals.

Public comment on the recommended awards:

Dan Sperling, UC Davis

Richard Sadowski, Morro Bay Planning Commissioner

Huguette Albrecht, UCLA

Hannah Creger, Greenlining Institute

Grecia Elenes, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Jim Hawley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Public Member Pastor made the motion to approve list of recommended awards, Deputy Secretary White seconded. Motion passes 9-0.

The full staff report and list of recommended awards can be found [here](#). The presentation can be found [here](#).

Agenda Item #8: **ACTION:** Health in All Policies Task Force: Parks and Healthy Tree Canopy Action Plan

Lianne Dillon, Health in All Policies

a. Consider endorsement of Parks and Healthy Tree Canopy Action Plan

Deputy Program Director Dillon gave an overview of the HiAP Task Force: Parks and Healthy Tree Canopy Action Plan. The plan engages more sectors and partners, includes a longer list of state agency commitment in support, and leverages the state task force's mandate related to equity.

Jean Lacher and Viktor Patiño from the Department of State Parks and Recreation, Robert Little from the Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention, and Matt Henigan from the Government Operations Agency gave remarks in support of the Healthy Tree Canopy Action Plan.

Assistant Secretary Olson-Morgan gave her gratitude to the HiAP staff and task force members for their work.

Public Member Pastor asked if there was any articulation with the offset program under Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The previous rounds of Cap and Trade had a significant use of offsets that went out of state.

Dillon stated that it was not included in the plan but was open to take a look at the report Pastor mentioned.

Public comment on the HiAP: Parks and Healthy Tree Canopy Action Plan:

Richard Sadowski, Morro Bay Planning Commissioner

Deputy Secretary White made the motion to approve the HiAP: Parks and Healthy Tree Canopy Action Plan, Assistant Secretary Olson-Morgan seconded. Motion passes 9-0.

The full staff report on the HiAP Task Force: Parks and Healthy Tree Canopy Action Plan can be found [here](#). The presentation can be found [here](#).

Agenda Item #9: ACTION: Transformative Climate Communities Program

Saharnaz Mirzazad, SGC

- a. *Recommend adoption of final draft guidelines for the 2018-2019 Transformative Climate Communities Program*

Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program Manager Mirzazad updated the Council on the 2018-2019 program timeline, talked about the goals for the guidelines update, spoke on stakeholder input and major concerns they had, and gave an overview of the proposed final guidelines.

Assistant Secretary Cash had a question on the indicator tracking plan, specifically how the requirement to contract with a pre-qualified evaluation team would work.

Mirzazad said they would have a Request for Information (RFI) in the next couple of months to have a list of qualified entities to make sure they can handle the reporting requirements of the program.

Cash followed up, asked how they came up with the minimum 3% requirement of the total budget for tracking and measuring activities.

Mirzazad stated they sat down with their University of California partners to come up with the indicators they wanted to track. Based off the calculations, if an award of \$35 million is granted, approximately \$150,000 dollars per year, per site would be a minimum requirement for tracking. They felt that was sufficient and that more would constrain the budget of awardees.

Secretary Rodriguez referred back to the April SGC meeting, where there were three specific requests from the Council. One was to ensure they could provide Technical Assistance (TA) to applicants. The second was if they could streamline the application for those who had previously applied. Third, the consideration of giving previous applicants more points during the scoring process.

Mirzazad clarified that last year, the TA provider Estolano LeSar Perez (ELP), which will be the same provider this year, had to deal with a concept phase and full application phase, so they will be able to focus their resources better as there is no concept phase. Also, based off on previous applicant's comments, issues arose on how TA was delivered and they will be restructuring that so there is more oversight and consistency on the assistance provided.

As to the second request, Mirzazad mentioned that the updated guidelines focus on where they could provide clarity, like the prevailing wage requirements, and that there will not be many changes so previous applicants can reuse the same information on their applications.

Rodriguez stated that it was not just a question of understanding or clarity, but the work and money that went into preparing an application. What can be done to reduce the amount of work previous applicants did.

Chair Alex interjected that previous applicants will be able to use most of the same information from the previous application.

Mirzazad agreed, saying that most of the requirements are the same.

Rodriguez asked to make that a priority and that the Council will be depending on TCC staff to work with applicants so there is not unnecessary duplication as the application is very complex and costly to applicants.

For the third consideration, Bedsworth noted that the guidelines refer to sustained community engagement and that these could be expanded. One was to add a

description of any sustained community engagement activities under the Community Engagement Plan, which would give communities an opportunity to describe the sustained engagement. Another, under the scoring criteria, *Capacity to Implement* section, under *Collaborative Stakeholder Structure* to add language that could also help applicants in scoring.

Public Member Pastor asked of the language Bedsworth is suggesting to changing, that there are many kinds of community transformation and in neither of the suggestions provided, is the word “climate” in there. Pastor suggested adding those words in there as there are many different kinds of community engagement and transformation.

Pastor also commented on including unincorporated communities to the program. There is a perception that these communities have a small population but noted that half of east Los Angeles County is unincorporated and the communities are indistinguishable in terms of density. He also noted that unincorporated parts of the county were previously awarded grants under the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program and if one of the previous applicants in South Los Angeles were able to include nearby unincorporated territory, it would have made it more competitive. Wants to bring that topic up for future consideration of TCC.

Alex noted that there is tension with that and the previous applicants who may reapply as it may gave some applicants an advantage.

Mirzazad stated that they were considering including unincorporated county territory but that when looking at it state-wide, there is not enough knowledge to put checks in place. They need more analysis to have parameters in place to avoid any unintended consequences.

Pastor also asked about community engagement. In the guidelines there is a suggestion about distinguishing between inform, engage, and ensure but it seems like the engage and ensure are a higher level of activity than inform. In the engage section, there is a mention of participatory budgeting, it would be more encouraging to go beyond inform, to engage and insure in the activities that are there. He also mentioned on expanding the cap on spending on community engagement.

Mirzazad stated that if the cap were expanded, with all the other expenses, it might stretch the project and they want to allow for some flexibility and not dictate what they have to budget for. As far as the ranking of participatory engagement activities, they can reflect that in the evaluation process.

Rodriguez appreciated the changes made by staff. He noted that for future reference, some of the things to look at would be opening the program up to unincorporated areas and look beyond the 5% threshold. Would like to make sure the workforce component works and would also want to make sure there is sustained community engagement after the funding is approved. Lastly, he encouraged the Council and staff to look into bringing more funding into the program.

Pastor also appreciated the responsiveness from staff but there were two things he wanted to look at. One, if the threshold is expanded to 10%, how wide would it get? Would it allow it to reach more geographic diversity and still reach communities? Second, with regards to the evaluation suggestions, whether communities were engaged in discussing the policies – such as the anti-displacement policies. Looking for evidence that they were not just presented the vision, but if were they actually engaged in discussion of mitigation and policy.

Alex noted that the Planning Grants go to the top 25% and the idea of that is to build the program with the hope that it will be expanded over time. He also wanted to recognize how much work it is for staff to go through and work with the full application process. We have to be a little careful in opening it up too far.

Public comment on proposed 18-19 final guidelines for TCC:

Tiffany Eng, California Environmental Justice Alliance

Emi Wang, Greenlining Institute

Erika Rincón, PolicyLink

Anna Solorio, Community Housing Opportunities Corporation

Grecia Elenes, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Secretary Rodriguez made the motion to adopt the 2018-2019 final draft guidelines for the Transformative Climate Communities Program with the amendments to the Community

Engagement Plan and Collaborative Stakeholder Structure sections suggested at the meeting by the Council and staff. Public Member Pastor seconded. Motion passes 9-0.

The full staff report on the TCC Guidelines along with public comments can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). The presentation can be found [here](#).

Agenda Item #10: General Public Comment

Tara Lynn Gray, Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce

Marla Jo Sadowski, Home Front

Richard Sadowski, Morro Bay Planning Commissioner

Agenda Item #11: Meeting Adjourned

Chair Alex adjourned the meeting at 3:24 pm.

The full video of the July 31, 2018 Strategic Growth Council meeting can be found [here](#).

