

April 30, 2019

**Subject: February 2019 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes**

**Reporting Period: February 2019 – April 2019**

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

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**Recommended Action:**

Approval of the February 19, 2019 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

## **Strategic Growth Council February 19, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes**

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

Kate Gordon, Chair, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR);  
Bob Fisher, Vice-Chair;  
Nicole Capretz, Public Member;  
Mike Flad, Public Member,  
Deputy Secretary Lynn von Koch Liebert, Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH);  
Secretary Mike Wilkening, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS);  
Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA);  
Secretary Jared Blumenfeld, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA);  
Deputy Secretary Marlon Flournoy, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA);  
Undersecretary Jenny Lester Moffitt, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

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

Vice-Chair Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

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

The Council introduced themselves.

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

Crowfoot made the motion to approve the December 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes, Wilkening seconded. Motion passes 10-0.

The December 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes can be found [here](#).

### **Agenda Item #4: ACTION: Council Election**

Crowfoot nominated Kate Gordon for Chair of the Strategic Growth Council, Blumenfeld seconded. Motion passes 10-0.

Fisher nominated Mike Flad for Vice-Chair of the Strategic Growth Council, Wilkening seconded. Motion passes 10-0.



No presentation or staff report, please see the [video](#) for the item.

## **Agenda Item #5: Council Member Update**

Council members introduced themselves and shared their background.

Crowfoot updated the Council on Governor Newsom's executive order on communities vulnerable to wildfire. CAL FIRE will issue a report at the end of the week.

Capretz updated the Council on her tour of an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities project as well as a tour of a Transformative Climate Communities project.

Lester Moffitt updated the Council on CDFA's Request for Proposals, including Healthy Soils, State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, Dairy Digester Research & Development Program, and the Alternative Manure Management Program. More information can be found on their [website](#).

No presentation or staff report, please see the [video](#) for the update.

## **Agenda Item #6: ACTION: Consent Calendar**

*Louise Bedsworth, SGC*

Bedsworth briefly updated the Council on the Consent Calendar item.

*No discussion.*

Crowfoot moves to approve the Consent Calendar item, Lester Moffitt seconded. Motion passes 10-0.

The Consent Calendar staff report can be found [here](#). The attachment can be found [here](#).

## **Agenda Item #7: Executive Director's Report**

*Louise Bedsworth, SGC*

Bedsworth went over the Executive Director's report including an update on the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Round 4, SGC Programs in the Governor's Budget, Staff and Organizational Updates, and gave an update on SGC Operating Guidelines.

*No discussion.*

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

## **Agenda Item #8: DISCUSSION: Upcoming Council Activities**

*Louise Bedsworth, SGC*

Bedsworth updated the council on upcoming SGC activities including AHSC Round 4 and 5, Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program (SALC), Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, the Climate Change Research Program, and Technical Assistance.

Discussion:

Fisher asked about updates to AHSC guidelines.

Bedsworth responded that guidelines are updated during each round of the program and that staff do workshops leading up to the guidelines. Updated AHSC guidelines will be brought up at the October 2019 SGC Council Meeting.

Fisher followed up that we should look at past rounds and see how projects have been implemented. We should learn from what our successes and failures are.

von Koch-Liebert also commented that we are entering an era where the state has more housing funds through various programs. Suggest we take a step back and see what would be a more appropriate way to use AHSC funds.

Crowfoot wanted to underscore that point and mentions Governor Newsom's priorities on affordable housing. How do we leverage a limited set of public funds to do that?

Bedsworth responded that staff are identifying all the different pots of money and what they do. We can have our interagency team look at how to leverage what we have in a strategic way.

Lester Moffitt wanted to underscore the needs of rural communities as well. We want to ensure that the programs we have at SGC do not exacerbate the problems they are facing.

Gordon mentions the High Speed Rail (HSR) project and the focus on Central Valley economic development; it is a real opportunity to think about growth done well within a context on rural communities, sprawl, and climate resilience, among others.

Capretz asked about TCC. What is the average award size?

Bedsworth mentioned that it varies. The first round had \$140M dollars and the second round had \$50M dollars. About \$30-35M is a good amount to make a transformative investment. She also followed up later that it is not a requirement to apply for a TCC Planning Grant before applying for the Implementation Grant.

Capretz asked the Council broadly how we could think about sustaining the program going forward with the current budget. Currently, there may be enough money for one TCC grant this year.

Flad asked about TCC, what is the leverage percentage match for each grant?

Bedsworth responded that it is a 50% match, but most communities exceed that.

Capretz asked about a TCC Summit, what was the status of that?

Louise responded that staff is still in discussion about a timeframe. When TCC first started, there was a summit but now that several grants have been awarded, we want to look at what transformation look like. It does not look like same everywhere. Also want to look at how it complements or fits into other programs.

Gordon asked about the HSR component of SGC. How are we thinking about leveraging those lessons learned and how do we bring that to HSR.

Bedsworth responded that they are trying to think about opportunities within all of the cross programmatic programs. Questions around housing, rural communities, etc. Need to think about how we leverage those projects into HSR.

Gordon also asked how the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) fit into SGC.

Bedsworth responded that it has been an ongoing topic of conversation since the inception of AHSC. They have recently gone back and are trying to think through how they can use AHSC to support projects that align with sustainable communities strategies. SGC have been in conversation with the MPOs at what that can look like.

Flournoy mentioned that CalSTA sits on a lot of MPO boards, although it is mostly focused on transportation. There are opportunities to education departments such as Caltrans in how to engage in other areas other than just transportation.

Capretz said she heard a lot of great ideas and thoughts but wanted to know how we can put that into action and how we move forward.

Fisher mentioned that transportation is where a lot of money is spent in the state. How can we influence transportation money to other SGC priorities? It would be useful to see what is available for us to possibly influence.

Gordon said it would be useful to sit down and figure out where is the money, and where are those leverage points. Where are we already on an MPO board, who can we educate on these priorities?

Blumenfeld agreed and asked how we can work with all of our agencies and how to overcome internal barriers on collaboration.

Public comment:

*Meg Arnold, Valley Vision*

*Julia Jordan, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability*

*Phoebe Seaton, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability*

The presentation on Upcoming Council Activities can be found [here](#).

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

No general public comment.

## **Agenda Item #10: Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

The full video of the February 19, 2019 Strategic Growth Council Meeting can be found [here](#).