June 21, 2019

Subject: April Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: April 2019 – June 2019

Staff Lead: Ulisses Arzola, Strategic Growth Council

Recommended Action:

Approval of the April 30, 2019 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.
Strategic Growth Council  
April 30, 2019  
Draft Meeting Minutes

Council Members and Representatives Present:
Kate Gordon, Chair, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR);  
Mike Flad, Vice-Chair, Public Member;  
Nicole Capretz, Public Member;  
Bob Fisher, Public Member,  
Secretary Alexis Podesta, Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH);  
Secretary Mark Ghaly, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS);  
Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)*;  
Secretary Jared Blumenfeld, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA);  
Secretary Brian Annis, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA);  
Undersecretary Jenny Lester Moffitt, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA);  
*Deputy Secretary Amanda Hansen, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order
Chair Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call
The Council introduced themselves.

Agenda Item #3: **ACTION**: Approval of Minutes
Lester Moffitt made the motion to approve the February 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes, Flad seconded. Motion passes 7-0-3*.

*Podesta, Annis, and Ghaly abstained as they were not present at the last meeting.

No public comment.

For more information, please see the [February 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes](#).

Agenda Item #4: Council Member Updates
Annis announced that he will be departing the Transportation Agency to take a job at the High Speed Rail Authority.

Crowfoot mentioned Governor Newsom’s executive order to develop an integrated water resilience portfolio for California. He also mentioned that the Governor announced Jennifer Montgomery as the Chair of the Forest Management Task Force, the interagency coordinating body focused on forest management, forest health, and wildfire safety. Lastly, he acknowledged the passing of former Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, the Governor issued a statement on her passing.

Lester Moffitt mentioned that there were several applicants for their Healthy Soils Grant Program and mentioned the importance that the SGC partnership with Technical Assistance (TA) had. Hopes to hear the results of TA at a future council meeting. She also announced that the California Air Resources Board, California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Food and Agriculture launched a partnership with the restaurant industry to give consumers the option to pay into a healthy soils carbon fund that can then go to farmers and ranchers.

Blumenfeld thanked the staff on the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program. He recently went to Fresno and was impressed with the planning process and complexity of getting all the agencies to get the project together.

Podesta referred to the Governor’s Executive Order to Develop on State-Owned Property. They are communicating with other state agencies on underutilized properties and hope to get projects off the ground soon.

Dr. Ghaly introduced himself to the Council. Gave some words on the grant programs. Looks forward to meaningful opportunities with the SGC.

There are no materials associated with this agenda item.

No public comment.
Agenda Item #5: Executive Director’s Report

Louise Bedsworth, SGC
Sloane Viola, OPR

Bedsworth gave an update on SGC staffing, program updates, and outreach and events.

Viola updated the council on bills affecting SGC. There are 14 active bills that affect our programs.

Discussion:

Capretz asked what the interface between the legislature and SGC is. Do we take official positions on bills?

Viola responded that we communicate support/opposition to the Governor’s Office, suggest amendments and request permission to pursue those amendments with the author. It is a little bit of a different process.

Capretz followed-up and asked if there was interface with the Council members and the bills.

Bedsworth said that in the past we have not taken an official position. We usually provided technical analysis and support. Official analysis channels go through the Governor’s Office.

Fisher stated that because a majority of the Council is made up by Governor appointees, we generally do not take public positions.

Capretz asked about the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program. Do we all do the technical analysis for what greenhouse gas reduction would be with each specific easement?
Bedsworth responded that quantification methodology was developed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). It is based on avoided conversion of that land.

Capretz followed-up and asked if we have seen anyone else use that tool?

Bedsworth responded that she is not sure but would follow up.

Lester Moffitt responded that Sonoma and Marin County have it in their climate plans.

Capretz asked about the Climate Change Research Program Listening Tour. Asked about the last round and the focus on emerging technologies, is that going to continue to be the focus, or is there an opportunity to partner with community based organizations?

Bedsworth responded that it is part of the focus of the listening tour. We would like to include and advance that principle and help the researchers understand how to do that outreach work.

Blumenfeld proposed some actions that could have a larger catalytic impact on the state. One, to understand what our current investments are in the Tahoe Basin and Fresno areas, look at the total amount of money in those two places - to get a real sense of how much money we are spending. A second action would be to organize a workgroup to help extract the template and methodology that SGC has for the Affordable Housing, Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program, to understand how applying this methodology would impact the actions on the ground.

Gordon asked for clarification on Blumenfeld’s proposal.

Blumenfeld clarified and responded that he modeled his proposal after the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative.

Crowfoot asked what is his thinking behind those two locations and if we are able to do this, how do you see this fitting into next steps?
Blumenfeld said that the reason for those two is that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is already doing that in the Tahoe Basin and Fresno, because it is the single largest investment from the state. The goal would be to look at the AHSC Program and TCC and serve as a template for how we would want all of California’s funding to look like.

Capretz said that the place-based idea is fine but is wondering what is the mechanism for identifying how many state dollars are being spent in their connection to climate goals.

Blumenfeld responded that it would not be just dollars for climate goals, but total dollars going to a place. Our goal would be to see what a climate and sustainability overlay would do to those dollars. What is the state investing? Using the methodology and template, how would that overlay affect funding in those places?

Ghaly said we would need to think about categories. Some investments are one-time investments, others are ongoing service investments. Need to be clear what the categories would include.

Gordon asked if there is a set of criteria that would not be incredibly time intensive in applying.

Bedsworth responded that we could do that with infrastructure investments, but would need more time to think about how the services investments look like. Suggests SGC start with Key Staff and come up with a proposed work plan at a future meeting.

Podesta said that they did something similar in housing, there is legislation that directs all housing funding from the state to require Housing First principles. Could possibly take a few of our principles and apply them to agencies that issue dollars.

Crowfoot suggests the public relay their ideas on this topic.

No public comment.
For more information, please see the Executive Director’s report.

**Agenda Item #6: ACTION: SGC Operating Guidelines**

*Douglas Bojack, SGC*

Bojack presented on the updated SGC Operating Guidelines.

**Discussion:**

Capretz wanted clarification on the last bullet of Section I. Asked if it could be changed to reference AB 32 goals.

Crowfoot echoed those same comments.

Bedsworth responded that they could amend the section to include that.

Gordon asked if we could move a motion with that amendment.

Flad made the motion to approve the updated SGC Operating Guidelines with amendments, Capretz seconded. Motion passes 10-0.

*No public comment.*

For more information, please see the SGC Operating Guidelines Staff Report and attachment.

**Agenda Item #7: ACTION: SGC Racial Equity Action Plan**

*Jessica Buendia, SGC*

*Ashley Conrad-Saydah, CalEPA*

*Mauro Lara, Housing and Community Development*

Buendia gave an overview of the SGC Racial Equity Action Plan. Conrad-Saydah and Lara gave testimonies on their participation in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).
Discussion:

Gordon asked if there are metrics that we can track. Has there been a measurable impact?

Lara responded that since GARE, his department has an annual report showing all the different data points relating to the organization and how that maps against the state statistics.

Lester Moffitt asked if they were tracking employment statistics.

Lara responded that yes, they are looking at the makeup, classification, where are they coming in, where are they staying.

Lester Moffitt followed up and asked how and if we engaging and interacting with the general public with a racial equity focus.

Buendia says that yes, they are collecting the best practices, not just in hiring, but in their grant making process. SGC has good models already around anti-displacement, community engagement, and economic inclusion.

Blumenfeld asked if the state collects race/national origin data. He did not think the state collected that.

Buendia says that they voluntarily collect the data at the point of hire. They aggregate that data and compare it to statewide statistics.

Lara also responded and said that the data collected is not required. On the onboarding process, they ask if they would like to voluntarily give that information out. The majority of hires volunteer to give that information out.

Blumenfeld said that for civil service positions - that demographic data does not exist. How can we improve that?
Podesta thanked staff for the efforts. In response to Blumenfeld, she says the state can set-up the civil service application to voluntarily collect that data. Suggested the Council take an implicit bias test.

Hansen said that agencies need to have space and opportunity for folks who are multiracial to have a voice at the table. Has been personally frustrated in some of those questions because she does not always fit into a box and that it is an important element of the conversation, particularly in California.

Ghaly said that the state is pretty narrow in the categories on both race and gender. Is there an opportunity to expand? We want to do it in the most inclusive way. Asked how many departments are new in the second year? Is there a goal?

Julia Caplan, Program Director of the Health in All policies at SGC responded that they had 19 departments in year one. For year two, they chose to extend and focus on implementation. Year one was an introductory learning year in developing their racial equity action plans.

As they are looking at year three, they are hearing that departments would like continued support but also new departments would like to join. They need to grow and invest in a pace that does not short current departments in the program. There is a need for capacity and resources and looks forward to new departments joining if there is a year three.

Flad asked about the timeline for performance measurements criteria.

Buendia responded that Bedsworth will have this as an ongoing council item annually.

Lester Moffitt thanked staff for their work. Says their agency did not have the capacity to be in year one. Mentions how her department is excited about this work and are thinking of ways to incorporate it going forward.
Gordon shared how OPR has changed their hiring process since the GARE program has started. Asked that as larger agencies are developing their policies, to pass along any ideas that OPR could easily adopt or collaborate.

Public comment:

Juliet Sims, Prevention Institute  
Kara Reddig, City of Elk Grove  
Aimée Barnes, City of Sacramento  
Marcus Castrejon, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
Jackie Cole, Veritable Good

Blumenfeld made the motion to approve SGC’s Racial Equity Vision Statement, Podesta seconded. Motion passes 10-0*.

Lester Moffitt made the motion to endorse the SGC Racial Equity Action Plan. Podesta seconded. Motion passes 10-0*

*Hansen replaced Crowfoot on the Council who had to leave.

For more information, please see the SGC Racial Equity Action Plan Staff Report and attachment.

**Agenda Item #8: DISCUSSION: Update on Senate Bill 150 Progress Report**

Steve Cliff, California Air Resources Board

Cliff reported on the progress made under Senate Bill 150.

Discussion:
Annis made the remark that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) plateaued in the early 2000s and at the start at the recession, but started to rise in 2012/2013. The VMT per capita is higher now than in 2005.

The cost of hailing a ride, car ownership, etc., has made driving a cheaper option. Transit during this period became more expensive as cuts in state, local funding, and the frequency of transit fell. Trends are going the wrong direction but there is source of optimism like in the Bay Area and the conversion of high occupancy lanes to toll lanes, but there is still work to be done.

Blumenfeld asked what percentage of the increase in VMT was freight. The increase in ecommerce may have contributed to this. Removal of the clean cars rule, how will that change what the MPOs’ burden is for reducing emissions.

Cliff responded that he could not answer the first question directly as he did not have the data with him. As to the second question, assuming that the final rule is close to the proposed rule, it is a fairly large total of reduction that we are expecting from these rules. Everything will need to be reevaluated to be in compliance with statewide mandate. Will have to look at the transportation sector to get reductions through reducing the amount of driving, which may impact MPO regional targets. Everything will have to be on the table.

Fisher mentioned the disparities in successes in the MPOs. What is the plan to drill down on those who were successful and how to incentivize the unsuccessful ones.

Cliff said the report does not give recommendations, just evaluates the data.

Fisher asked if we knew what the impact of transportation network companies is.

Annis responded that there was a direct correlation in transit going down and rideshare services going up.

Gordon also responded that the City of San Francisco has seen a direct correlation as well as increases in VMT.
Capretz asked if ARB has done this presentation in the regional, local level?

Cliff responded that it has been presented at a few other conferences and meetings but is welcome to suggestions to present.

No public comment.

For more information, please see the Update on Senate Bill 150 presentation.

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

*Michael Sigala, City of Madera*

*Arnoldo Rodriguez, City of Madera*

**Agenda Item #10: Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting at 3:57pm.

The full video of the April 30, 2019 Strategic Growth Council Meeting can be found on our [YouTube page](https://www.youtube.com).