October 31, 2019

Subject: August Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: August 2019 – October 2019

Staff Lead: Ulisses Arzola, Strategic Growth Council

Recommended Action:

Approval of the August 27, 2019 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.
Strategic Growth Council  
August 27, 2019  
Draft Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order
Chair Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:11 pm.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call
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;  
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS);  
Amanda Hansen, Deputy Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA);  
Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA);  
David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA);  
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA);  
Melinda Grant, Undersecretary, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes
Flad made the motion to approve the June 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes, Ross seconded. Motion passes 8-0-2*.

*Fisher and Kim abstained as they were not present at the last meeting.

The June 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes can be found here.

Agenda Item #4: Council Member Updates
Blumenfeld mentioned that Governor Newsom signed SB 200, the Safe & Affordable Drinking Water Fund. He hopes this will now be seen as part of the SGC family of activities. He also mentioned the progress of a scoping plan that looks at demand/supply of fossil fuels through 2045.
Ghaly brought up the Governor’s executive order on the creation of a Master Plan for Aging. First meeting is in September. He also mentioned the Governor’s Advisory Task Force on Homelessness, the first meeting in September will start with a tour in Sacramento, then Modesto.

Gordon updated the Council on OPR’s Precision Medicine Program. One of the areas they are focusing is on childhood trauma including climate events and natural disasters.

She also brought up the Regions Rise Together project that the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), OPR, and SGC are working on. Leading up to a November symposium, there will be listening sessions in Merced, Bakersfield, San Bernardino, and Stockton.

**Agenda Item #5: Consent Calendar**

Louise Bedsworth, SGC

Doug Bojack, SGC

*Reconfirm award recommendation approved at the June 21, 2019 Strategic Growth Council meeting for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, maintaining West Carson Villas as a substitute project.*

Bedsworth and Bojack clarified the consent calendar item.

Public comment:

Alicia Sebastian, California Coalition for Rural Housing

Julia Jordan, Leadership Council for Justice & Accountability

Blumenfeld moved the Consent Calendar Item, Ross seconded.

Roll call vote:

Blumenfeld: Yes

Ross: Yes
Capretz: Yes
Fisher: Abstain
Gordon: Yes
Flad: Yes
Ghaly: Yes
Kim: Abstain
Hansen: Yes
Grant: Yes

Motion passes 8-0-2*.
*Fisher and Kim abstained as they were not present at the last meeting.

The Consent Calendar Item can be found [here](#).

**Agenda Item #6: Executive Director’s Report**

*Louise Bedsworth, SGC*

*Sloane Viola, OPR*

Bedsworth updated the Council on a few SGC items including updates on staffing, the Tribal Government Challenge, and SGC programs.

Discussion:
Kim mentioned that he and CalSTA are on board with the Healthy Transportation Action Plan.

Blumenfeld wanted more information on project data analysis on what is being funded. Given the membership of the Council, we want to think about what we can do differently to energize themselves as a team to be effective to address climate change, beyond just responding to agenda items at these meetings.

Fisher responded that the SGC is operating on a three or four year plan. Given the fact there is a new governor and new members, we run the risk without clear direction of going in a lot of different directions; would be good to narrow the focus, figure out the mission, objectives, etc.
Bedsworth responded that the SGC currently does not have a strategic plan, but it is something she has been thinking about. Has been working really hard on internal structure and processes on programs. Would be happy to confer with Gordon and figure out a plan forward.

Fisher emphasized that because it is such an important part of SGC’s mandate to foster collaboration among agencies, that it needs to be done at the Council level, not just internally.

Capretz asked how we going to reach these ambitious climate goals that we have. Have experience on the ground that they are not getting there. VMTs are going up; we can emphasize the adverse health effects. A shift needs to happen.

Thanked Bedsworth for coming to San Diego for a few events related to housing coordination and the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC).

Also mentioned that the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen are eligible for planning grants but only the top 5% are eligible for the implementation grants for TCC. Something to keep in mind as we are considering the guidelines to expand it to the top 10%.

Viola gave the Council a legislative update.

The full Executive Director’s Report can be found here.

**Agenda Item #7: ACTION: Review Proposed Updates for Round 3 of the Climate Change Research Program**

*Leah Fisher, SGC*

*Elizabeth Grassi, SGC*

*Recommended Action: Approve Research Priority and Focus Areas for Round 3 of the Climate Change Research Program;*
**Direct staff to develop and release research solicitation for 2019-2020 Climate Change Research Program funds.**

Leah Fisher went over the proposed updates for Round 3 of the Climate Change Research Program.

Discussion:
Kim asked about the evaluation process. L. Fisher responded.

Ross asked about whether there is a formal relationship with UC Extension to help with engagement.
   L. Fisher responded that many of the projects do partner with them already, but it has not been added explicitly. They added optional thresholds to better show what they are looking for.

Fisher asked if the five program areas were developed by staff or mandate?
   Bedsworth responded that those were developed when we first got the budget direction to build the program and it was amended last year during Round 2.

Blumenfeld asked who is the intended audience of the research, who will it influence?
   L. Fisher responded that it varies depending on the project. Some it would be the State, others it would be the communities.

   He also stated that it would be helpful to have a timeline of actions that would be needed to implement the results of the research.

   Asked why and how they go beyond CalEnviroScreen when classifying disadvantaged communities.
L. Fisher responded that they use OPR’s integrated climate adaptation and resilience program’s definition of vulnerable communities.

Capretz asked where the results are posted.

   L. Fisher responded that it will be posted on the website and it must be open access.

   Capretz also asked that the information be posted on social media.

Ross made the point that CDFA got a consultant to organize a very searchable user-friendly database for their research program.

Hansen expressed the support of the idea of integration between mitigation and adaptation and the idea to make it clear that meaningful engagement is important.

Gordon reiterated the importance of integrating communications to policymakers. She also mentioned to always engage early with decision makers and policymakers about how the research can, might, or will be used on the ground.

Flad made the motion to approve the item. Blumenfeld seconded. Motion passes 10-0.

The full staff report on the Climate Change Research Program can be found here, along with attachments 1, 2, 3, and 4.

**Agenda Item #8: INFORMATION: Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program Update**

*Virginia Jameson, DOC*

*Andrea Mackenzie, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority*
Jameson gave an update on the Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program. Mackenzie, SALC grant recipient, gave an overview of their grant.

Discussion:

Fisher: the 10% SALC cut of AHSC, is that part of statute, or decision by Council?

Bedsworth responded that it was a decision by Council action.

Ross clarified the background.

Fisher followed up with what is the value we’re getting in terms of GHGH reduction in SALC vs. other types of projects?

Bedsworth clarified that SALC is very cost-effective compared with other projects.

Fisher asked for the Council’s education purposes, it is useful to put the different programs into their context and show: here is what a $100K investment does in SALC vs. in another program.

Hansen: What are some of the voluntary financial incentives the program explored?
Mackenzie responded that payment for ecosystem services, upcoming ballot initiatives etc., is or has been explored.

Jeanne Merrill combined her public comment on Item #9.

The update on the Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program can be found here.

**Agenda Item #9: INFORMATION: CA Department of Food and Agriculture Update on Technical Assistance**

*Jenny Lester Moffitt, CDFA*
Doug Parker, Ph.D., California Institute for Water Resources, University of California

Lester Moffit gave an update on the CA Department of Food and Agriculture Update on Technical Assistance.

Discussion:
Grant applauded the efforts of CDFA.

Ross thanked SGC and mentioned CDFA is committed to find the funds to keep this kind of TA for at least three years to truly measure it.

Public comment:
Jeanne Merrill, CalCAN

The presentation on the CDFA Update on Technical Assistance Partnership with the University of California and Natural Resources can be found here.

Agenda Item #10: General Public Comment
Katie Patterson, American Farmland Trust
Julia Jordan, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Stefan Heisler, City of Rancho Cordova

Agenda Item #11: Meeting Adjourned
Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting at 3:58pm.

The video of the August 27, 2019 Strategic Growth Council meeting can be found here.