



**To:** Strategic Growth Council Members  
**From:** Louise Bedsworth  
**Re:** Executive Director's Report for December 17 Council Meeting

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## Organizational Updates

- SGC staff has updated its 2018-2019 Annual Report and publicized it on the SGC website: [http://sgc.ca.gov/about/docs/20191122-SGC-2019\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://sgc.ca.gov/about/docs/20191122-SGC-2019_Annual_Report.pdf). The Annual Report is an excellent resource for stakeholders interested in learning more about SGC's approach, activities, and impact, and Council members are welcome to distribute it. Staff is now launching planning and production for the 2019-2020 Annual Report, due to the Legislature by June 30, 2020.
- In late January, SGC staff will attend their annual retreat where they will focus on strategic planning for the upcoming year.

## Staffing Updates

- Sarah Samdin joined SGC as its 2019-20 Executive Fellow. The Executive Fellowship Program is a partnership with California State University. Sarah has a Bachelor of Science from UC Davis with a major in environmental policy analysis. Her previous work experience includes internships at the Center for Environmental Policy & Behavior; the Office of State Senator Mike McGuire, the UC Davis Arboretum & Public Garden, and the Center for Educational Effectiveness.
- TCC's Senior Program Analyst, Julia Nagle, will be transitioning out of SGC and moving back to the Bay Area. SGC will post a job duty statement for a Program Analyst by the end of the year.
- SGC staff is in its final interviews for the AHSC Housing Specialist and AHSC Program Associate.
- SGC staff will post job duty statements for the three HiAP positions approved in the 2019-20 budget by the end of the year.

## Special Projects Updates

- Tribal Government Challenge  
SGC staff, in partnership with the California Energy Commission, are beginning to administer the Tribal Government Challenge Grant Program. This Program will make grants to tribes across the state to develop energy- and climate-related plans using the Commission's remaining American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds. The Program will also fund a statewide gap analysis that will work with tribes to identify areas where future investment and knowledge will be most beneficial. Staff are currently drafting both solicitations and will engage with tribes around their release in the coming months.

## Program Updates



### Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

Staff: Ryan Silber and Coral Abbott

- Following the adoption of the AHSC Round 5 Guidelines at the October 31 Council Meeting, AHSC staff at SGC, HCD, and CARB released the Round V Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), AHSC application workbook and AHSC benefits calculator tool. Round V applications are due to AHSC staff on February 11, 2020.
- The Round 5 TA contract was awarded to Enterprise Community Partners and their team of subcontractors, who began direct application assistance in November.
- AHSC staff conducted workshops and project consultations around the state to encourage application to the fifth round of AHSC.
  - November 12: Online webinar
  - November 13: Madera
  - November 15: Riverside
  - November 18: San Diego
  - November 19: Santa Ana
  - November 21: Chico
  - November 22: Oakland

### Transformative Climate Communities Program

Staff: Saharnaz Mirzazad, Julia Nagle, Sophie Young, and Alex Gallo

- Following the adoption of the TCC Round 3 Guidelines at the October 31 Council Meeting, TCC staff released the Round III Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), final program guidelines, and application materials in early November. Round III applications are due to TCC staff on February 28, 2020.
- Technical assistance will be available for Implementation Grant applicants to assist with vision development, project readiness, and greenhouse gas emissions calculations. All Implementation Grant applicants are required to complete a technical assistance survey prior to receiving technical assistance and the complete set of application materials.
- TCC staff received inquiries from 12 different jurisdictions interested in applying for a TCC Implementation Grant. As of November 26, 2019, five are moving forward and are connected with a technical assistance provider.
- TCC staff are having ongoing conversations with different jurisdictions interested in applying for a TCC Planning Grant.
- TCC staff is working with the Round 2 awardees to finalize project scopes, readiness documentation, and budgets and execute the grant agreements.

### Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Staff: Emily Tibbott

- SALC DOC staff attended the SGC key staff meeting on November 12, 2019 and presented the received project applications. The key staff set out recommendations for funding for Council consideration at the December 17 meeting, which included 31 easement and six planning projects.



- SALC DOC staff worked with the SALC Interagency Committee to set out recommendations for Program Guidelines for Round VI, which will be put out for public comment in mid-January and presented to the Strategic Growth Council on February 25, 2020.

### Climate Change Research Program

Staff: Elizabeth Grassi and Leah Fisher

- SGC released the CCR Round 3 solicitation and application materials on November 15, 2019. Applications will be received until February 12, 2020. CCR staff will request Council approval of recommended awards at the June 2020 Council meeting.
- Application assistance and technical support will be provided to potential applicants through a webinar on December 18, 2019.
- CCR staff hosted the inaugural SGC Climate Change Research Symposium on November 5, 2019, in partnership with Climate Resolve and several Council member agencies, including the Department of Conservation and the California Environmental Protection Agency. Around 200 participants, including scientists, local and regional government organizations, tribal representatives, and community and advocacy organizations engaged in active dialogue and workshopping to discuss how partnership with communities and stakeholders can inform actionable climate science. CCR staff will release a summary report in early 2020.

### Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Staff: Kirin Kumar, Ena Lupine, Coral Abbott, and Sarah Risher

- TA and Capacity Building staff have been traveling to jurisdictions across the state to kickoff the BOOST pilot program in the following 10 cities and 2 regions:
  - Arcata,
  - Mammoth Lakes
  - Arvin,
  - Paramount
  - Bakersfield,
  - Salinas
  - East Palo Alto,
  - San Diego
  - El Centro
  - Ventura
  - San Joaquin Council of Governments
  - Coachella Valley Association of Governments/Lift to Rise Initiative
- TA and Capacity Building staff will launch a stakeholder listening sessions in December to better understand capacity building needs and barriers to accessing state investment for under-resourced communities.
- TA and Capacity Building staff is working with Caltrans and CalSTA to develop the scope of work for new TA contracts for the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program and the Transit and Intercity Rail Capitol Program.
- Partnership with CDFR and UC Cooperative Extension to support education and application assistance to support the Climate Smart Agriculture Programs.
- TA and Capacity Building staff is continuing to manage the following TA activities:
  - AHSC TA
  - TCC TA
  - SALC Planning Grants TA



### Health in All Policies

Staff: Julia Caplan, Lianne Dillon, Karen Ben-Moshe, Colin Gutierrez, and Holly Nickel

- On November 13, 2019, 19 departments and agencies were recognized for their commitment to racial equity at the Capitol Cohort's commencement celebration. Teams gave short "showcase presentations" on their progress working to operationalize racial equity strategies, received certificates for their work, and heard a keynote address from Glenn Harris, president of Race Forward. Participating organizations included:
  - Arts Council
  - Coastal Commission
  - Department of Public Health, Department of Housing and Community Development
  - Department of Transportation
  - Department of Education
  - Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
  - State Lands Commission
  - Strategic Growth Council
  - Governor's Office of Planning and Research
  - Department of Community Services and Development
  - Department of Social Services
  - Environmental Protection Agency (includes Air Resources Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, CalRecycle, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, State Water Resources Control Board, and Department of Toxic Substances Control)
- On November 21st the HiAP Task Force convened for a quarterly plenary meeting to hear updates from CalSTA on new transportation and climate change directives, provide input to HCD as part of their Consolidated Housing Plan process, and map out key organizational priorities for 2020.
- The HiAP Task Force hosted an Equity Speaker Series event on December 2, 2019 featuring California's State Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris. This event was open to all state employees and brought together approximately 250 staff from over 15 departments and agencies.
- On December 19, 2019 HiAP staff at the SGC and the Public Health Institute will host Race Forward to provide an executive info session for state entities interested in signing up for the 2020-2021 Capitol Collaborative on Race & Equity learning cohort.

### High-Speed Rail Partnership

Staff: Denny Grossman, Emily Tibbott, and Egon Terplan

SGC's partnership with high-speed rail supports integrated activities focused on advancing effective conservation and development strategies.

- SGC HSR staff is providing strategic support to the Planning and Sustainability Department of HSR. In collaboration with the Environmental Services Department, HSR staff wrapped up facilitation of gatherings between HSR staff and conservation interests in the Grasslands Ecological Area for the purposes of informing designing and mitigation activities.



- Staff engaging with HSR Planning and Sustainability Department to advance RePlan applications to provide information and presentation products documenting the benefits of HSR mitigation actions.
- Staff engaging state agencies and other stakeholders in developing RePlan applications to inform and support regional planning, analysis and decision-making.
  - Working with HSR to use the IRCAD RCA and RePlan methods and tools to evaluate and report on mitigation lands.
  - Working in partnership with DWR to advance strategic application of conservation funding in the Central Valley. A Regional Conservation Assessment for the Central Valley will be completed as part of this partnership which will provide valuable conservation planning and analysis information for HSR.
  - Completed retrospective study of SALC grants for DOC in preparation for their use of RePlan as a future program implementation tool.
  - Working with CDFA to advance their use of RePlan for the strategic implementation of their Healthy Soils Program.
- In partnership with DOC, staff is advancing research on transfer of development rights as a mechanism to use in high-speed rail station cities and elsewhere, in support of denser urban development and agricultural lands conservation.
- Working with HSR Environmental Services Department, staff is monitoring progress on Regional Conservation Investment Strategies and Mitigation Credit Agreements for potential use by the train.

SGC's partnership with HSRA has enabled the launching of the Regions Rise Together initiative (which is a partnership between OPR and GOBiz). The initiative has become an organizing principle and "lens" for state policy about regions. The goals of Regions Rise Together are inclusive economic development and sustainable growth across California's regions, in part through promoting three key pillars:

1. Changing the mental map of the state to identify opportunity in all areas, especially inland regions;
2. Promoting a regions-up approach to growth that leverages existing assets in each region while also modeling new collaborative ways of working regionally;
3. Strengthening the connective tissue between regions such as through expanding broadband, access to post-secondary opportunities and a statewide rail and transit system (building on the high-speed rail backbone).

The following are a few of the outcomes of Regions Rise Together in recent months:

- Completed two months of joint strategy sessions that brought together over 500 civic, business and government leaders across inland California. The joint strategy sessions were conducted in partnership with CA Forward and were individually planned and organized with a leadership group from each region consisting largely of regional economic development organizations, councils of government, cities, community foundations, and universities. Day-long joint strategy sessions were held in the Inland Empire, Southern San Joaquin Valley, Central and Northern San Joaquin Valley and the Far North.
- Provided briefing to the Governor's cabinet as well as numerous state agencies.
- In collaboration with GOBiz and GO, prepared the briefing document and talking points for Governor's keynote address at the California Economic Summit in Fresno.



- Worked directly with HSRA executive staff, Board Chair Mendonca and others, staff finalized Regions Rise Together messaging about high-speed rail for the Governor's address and subsequent media conversations as part of the California Forward Economic Summit
- Staff also developed a set of recommendations for state policy and funding based on stakeholder input gathered from outreach to conservation and environmental justice communities on behalf of the Regions Rise Together initiative.
- Produced a "story map" about Regions Rise Together in partnership with Esri. The narrative of the story map followed an op-ed released during the California Economic Summit. See: <https://gov-opr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=d056b93e3116413cbd1ad25cc4245221>