February 25, 2020

Subject: December Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: December 2019 – February 2020

Staff Lead: Sarah Samdin, Strategic Growth Council

Recommended Action:

Approval of the December 17, 2019 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.
Strategic Growth Council
December 17, 2019
Draft Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order
Chair Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:10pm

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;
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS);
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA);
Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA);
Darwin Moosavi, Deputy Secretary Environmental Policy; California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA);
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA);
Melinda Grant, Under Secretary; California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)

Not present:
Nicole Capretz – Public Member
Bob Fisher- Public Member

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes
Gordon made the motion to approve the October 31, 2019 Meeting Minutes, Blumenfeld seconded. Motion passes 7-0-3*.

*Moosavi, Flad, and Ghaly abstained from the vote.
The October 31, 2019 Meeting Minutes can be found here.

Agenda Item #4: Council Member Updates
Ghaly: CHHS: Continuing to pursue Governor Newsom’s direction on a master plan for aging. The Department of Health Care Services that runs Medicaid program for state is working on reforming Medicaid over the next five years, with a focus on social determinants of health.

Blumenfeld: CalEPA: Reported on Cal-Enviro Screen. One of the most important improvements is looking at cardiovascular disease, in relation to pollution. Cal Enviro Screen 4.0 update will cover lead poisoning and wildfire exposure

Crowfoot: CNRA: Participated at UN Climate Change Conference. Topics included growing economy while combating climate change. New initiative related to quicker, more effective, and cheaper method of environmental restoration called Cutting Green Initiative

Ross: Reported on Methane Reduction Program, Healthy Soils Program

Moosavi: CalSTA: Reported on Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP)

Gordon: OPR: Reported on OPR’s Precision Medicine’s collaboration with Surgeon General Office’s work on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE); looking at long-term wildfire resilience with CalFire; ICARP has a definition of vulnerable communities which is different than the definition of disadvantaged communities. Noted the importance of the CalEnviroScreen tool and encouraged the use of this tool across agencies.

### Agenda Item #5: Council Member Item

*Louise Bedsworth, SGC*

Recognition of Bob Fisher for his ten years of service as a member of the California Strategic Growth Council.

The [Executive Director’s Report](#) can be found on our website.

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

*Direct staff to prepare and release a request for proposals to solicit applications for planning grants in wildfire-affected communities, making approximately $750,000 in re-appropriated Proposition 84 funds available to communities.*

Gordon made the motion to approve the guidelines. Motion passes 8-0.

The [consent calendar item](#) can be found on our website.
Agenda Item #7: Executive Director’s Report

Louise Bedsworth, SGC

Bedsworth updated the Council on the Executive Director’s Report.

Discussion:

Blumenfeld: Commented on Thriving Earth Exchange regarding TCC Program.
Blumenfeld: What are cumulative benefits with state funding?
Crowfoot: Suggests the Council tackles VMT issues and climate resilience work
Gordon: Seconds Crowfoot’s ideas and thanks Bedsworth for bringing up the issues
Flad: Suggests we integrate local government and counties in all the work SGC engages in.
Thanks Bedsworth and the SGC staff for their work this past year.

Agenda Item #8: ACTION: Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Awards

Virginia Jameson, Department of Conservation

Recommended Action: Approve the staff recommendation to award $56,896,857 in FY 18-19 funds to support thirty-one agricultural easements and six planning grants through Round 5 of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.

Discussion:

Gordon: Noted that Amanda replaced Crowfoot on Council, Blumenfeld departed and replaced by Lauren Sanchez

Public Comment:

Leslie Chang, The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County
Tracy Ellison, Solano Land Trust
Russ Lester, Winter/Solano Farmer
Kevin Troter, Dixon Farmer
Christy Jameson,
Charlotte Mitchell, CA Farmland Trust
Catherine Ledan, Marin Agriculture Land Trust
Jeanne Memill, California Climate and Agriculture Network
Ross: Thanked SGC staff for putting funding towards Technical Assistance and Pilot Projects. Appreciated all the SALC Planning Grants that were approved.

Flad: Thanked all SALC grantees for coming to SGC’s December Council Meeting. Asked Jameson from DOC about improving SALC engagement in Southern California.

Jameson: Water is priced differently in San Diego County; lower desire for conservation easements in Southern California.

Flad: How does land use risk aversion work?

Jameson: Grantees must show that that land use risks are clearly being accessed.

**Gordon made the motion to approve the SALC awards, Flad seconded. Motion passes 8-0.**

The staff report on the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program can be found on our website.

**Agenda Item #9: Discussion: High Speed Rail Authority Update**

**Brian Kelly, High Speed Rail Authority**

Kelly reported on what HSR is hoping to achieve in 2020 and onward.

**Margaret Cederoth:**

Cederoth reported on the Sustainable Development Plan of HSR.
Discussion:
Ross: Thanked HSR for the relationship building has occurred through the work HSR has done with the Central Valley
Moosavi: How can SGC and key staff engage in the station and SALC work?
Cederoth: The Council should look closely at the immediate needs of the local communities that HSR impacts.
Ross: How do we speak with one voice? The goals across the state are so diverse Suggests that the under-resourced planning departments in the Central Valley
Gordon: HSR is a big state project; stationary planning is a main way to reduce VMT goals, conservation goals, and planning goals. Suggests HSR shares their presentation with the GO’s Cabinet.
CHHS: Is HSR connected to the autonomous vehicle competition?
Kelly: Autonomous vehicles are not competing against the push for HSR.

Agenda Item #10: Discussion: Regions Rise Together
Egon Terplan, SGC:
   Reported on Regions Rising: Achieving inclusive and sustainable growth across all of California’s regions.
Discussion:
Gordon: How do we change the mental map that individuals perceive of regions throughout the state?
Jenny: CDFA: How does agriculture look like in 2050?
   Terplan: It is important to make sure that we are bringing up the inland areas
Amanda: CNRA: What can we do to improve regions throughout the state?
Terplan:
Gordon: Funding alignment is difficult; as well as messaging alignment are difficult to push.

Public Comment:
Julia Jordan, Leadership Council for Justice & Accountability

Agenda Item #11: Public Comment
No general public comment
Agenda Item #12: Meeting Adjournment

Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting at 4:11pm.