



Proposed 2020 SGC Workplan
An Agenda to Support Strategic Growth

Draft for consideration by the California Strategic Growth Council
at the February 25, 2020 meeting

SGC's Vision: Healthy, thriving, and resilient communities for all

The Mission of the Council is to coordinate and work collaboratively with public agencies, communities, and stakeholders to achieve sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians.

Background

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is a cross-agency body established to support sustainable community development in California by advancing activities that promote environmental, health, equity, natural resource, land use, and economic outcomes that benefit all. These include improving air and water quality, protecting natural resources and agriculture lands; increasing the availability of affordable housing and transportation options; promoting public health and equity; advancing adaptation and resilience; encouraging infill and compact development; and strengthening the economy and revitalizing urban and community centers.

Over the past ten years, SGC has demonstrated success through the design and implementation of its funding programs, implementation of technical assistance and capacity building, and its collaborative policy initiatives, including the Health in All Policies Task Force and the Council's partnership with the High-Speed Rail Authority. Each of these efforts grew through collaboration and partnership across SGC's member agencies, other State agencies and departments, local and regional governments, community leaders, and other non-governmental partners.

SGC's programs distinguish themselves in several important ways. They employ integrated, place-based approaches; reflect significant engagement in program development and implementation; and, most importantly, prioritize and advance equity.

The Need for Strategic Growth

While SGC's programs have shown success, more work is needed. Greenhouse gas emissions from transportation continue to rise and the state is facing a housing crisis. These two challenges are deeply entwined and how they are addressed will have significant effects on the environment, public health, natural resources, and equity. Reducing transportation emissions requires transitioning vehicles and fuels, but also ensuring that the state grows and develops in a manner that reduces the amount of driving, protects natural and working lands, and delivers healthy, efficient, and resilient communities for all Californians. How the state develops and grows its housing stock will have significant impacts on travel patterns, land conversion, and associated emissions. California is also experiencing growing threats from a changing climate, poor air quality, and growing inequality. Therefore, the State's climate change, environmental, and equity goals need to be considered as part of the dialogue on how the state grows and develops.

Addressing each of these challenges is a formidable task that requires the collaboration, commitment, and creativity of State agencies, alongside partnership with local and regional governments. It will require seeking opportunities to advance on all of our goals, while also explicitly understanding where compromises are needed.

Through its membership and partnerships, the Strategic Growth Council provides a unique opportunity to develop and implement that needed collaboration and partnership.

This memo proposes a 2020 Workplan for the California Strategic Growth Council developed through a series of key staff and SGC staff meetings that took place over the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020. The workplan includes a set of priorities for strategic growth and an agenda for 2020 focused on supporting growth and housing production in a manner that aligns with the Priorities for Strategic Growth.

A 2020 Workplan for SGC

In this second year of the Newsom Administration, we propose that the Council lead a strategic and focused initiative to develop a set of principles and strategies to help the Administration meet its housing goals alongside its goals for climate change, equity, and resilience.

To that end, we request that the Council adopt the proposed workplan, which contains two elements:

1. A set of shared Priorities for Strategic Growth to guide the collaborative efforts in the workplan and inform Council member agencies' portfolios, when applicable.
2. A focused set of Council-led activities to develop a Strategic Growth Action Plan to guide the state's growth and development in a manner that also promotes reduction in vehicle miles travelled, conservation of natural lands, equity, health, and resilience.

Each element is discussed in more detail below.

2020 Priorities for Strategic Growth

These priorities reflect the shared priorities of the Council member agencies on climate change, housing, natural resources, health, and equity. They are also informed by the direction in SGC's enabling statute (attached), SGC program statutes, and Administration priorities. Key Staff recommended starting with a focused set of initial principles that can be augmented and adjusted as needed.

To that end, SGC Staff and Key Staff propose the following 2020 Priorities for Strategic Growth:

1. Increase housing supply and support other development through infill and efficient development patterns, taking advantage of existing infrastructure.
2. Protect and manage natural and working lands and open spaces for agriculture, recreation, habitat, resilience, and other ecosystem services.
3. Increase mobility options so that Californians can access jobs, schools, and other destinations through transit and active transportation.

4. Advance equity by targeting investments toward communities and people who have faced historic disadvantage and giving voice to community residents in shaping their community and region's future.
5. Improve public health by building healthy and complete communities and neighborhoods.
6. Increase community resilience in the face of climate risk.

Together, these principles advance SGC's objectives and statutory direction.

SGC staff will work with a consultant to develop measurable outcomes for each of these principles.

2020 Agenda – Advancing Priorities for Strategic Growth

Staff propose that the Strategic Growth Council lead a statewide dialogue that will advance the State's housing production goals, while also considering and advancing equity, GHG emission reduction, health, and resilience.

SGC and Key Staff met several times to identify areas of focus for the Council's collaborative activities for 2020. Staff recommend articulating the Council's priorities for strategic growth in order to advance and inform the State's efforts around housing the transportation. These are critical issues that touch on all SGC member agencies. In particular:

- Access to affordable, safe, and accessible housing and healthy transportation options is an important determinant of health and economic outcomes and critical for achieving the vision of California for All;
- Increasing housing production is an important priority for the Newsom Administration;
- Housing production, transportation investments, and other development will affect travel patterns, land conservation, and associated emissions of criteria and GHG emissions; and
- Supporting housing production and development in a manner that reduces vehicle miles traveled and protects natural and working lands is necessary for meeting the State's climate goals.

In order to advance this work, we propose using the Council to host cross-agency strategic conversations on development and housing production, lifting up the ongoing work of several State efforts (e.g., Housing and Transportation Workgroup and the Health in All Policies Task Force) and related local and regional efforts. The final product will be a Council-adopted Action Plan for Strategic Growth.

Initial Steps

To begin the work, SGC will convene Key Staff and other partners to map out ongoing and planned activities related to housing, transportation, and community

development. From this, we will identify opportunities for collaboration and outreach to advance the Priorities for Strategic Growth.

Specifically, this mapping activity will inform development of a set of strategically focused activities, including:

- *Convening State Agencies to Identify Priority Strategies to Advance Housing Production in Alignment with SGC Priorities*

SGC will convene focused dialogues to build on ongoing efforts to identify strategies and opportunities to advance the principles for strategic growth across state policies and programs.

- *Local-Regional Government and Stakeholder Listening Sessions*

SGC will convene local and regional governments and stakeholders in focused listening sessions that compliment ongoing activities, including to explore cross-cutting perspectives on local and regional development in the context of climate change, environmental, and public health goals.

Workplan Goals and Deliverables

The goal of this workplan is to provide a forum for statewide discussion of housing and development in the context of the Priorities for Strategic Growth. This will build on ongoing housing and development collaborations to advance policies and investments that advance the Priorities for Strategic Growth. The result of this work will be an Action Plan for Strategic Growth.

The Action Plan will consider specific actions that the Council can advance to support realizing the Principles of Strategic Growth in the State's efforts on housing and transportation. This will include several categories of actions, including:

- Investment strategies, especially in SGC programs;
- Opportunities for policy and program alignment; and
- New partnerships and collaborations.

The Action Plan will also develop a set of metrics to help evolve and guide state efforts as they relate to the Priorities for Strategic Growth.

SGC's Statutory Direction (Public Resource Code Sec. 75125)

1. Identify and review activities and funding programs of state agencies that may be coordinated to improve air and water quality, improve natural resource protection, increase the availability of affordable housing, improve transportation, meet the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006... and the strategies and priorities developed in the state's climate adaptation strategy known as the Safeguarding California Plan.
2. Recommend policies and investment strategies and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and to appropriate state agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities, such as those communities that promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety...
3. Provide, fund, and distribute data and information to local governments and regional agencies that will assist in developing and planning sustainable communities.
4. Manage and award grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities