

ACTION ITEM

Agenda Item #3

June 25, 2020

Subject: February Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: February 2020 – June 2020

Staff Lead: Sarah Samdin, Strategic Growth Council

Recommended Action:

Approval of the February 25, 2020 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

Strategic Growth Council

February 25, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Call to order (Chair Gordon): 1:05pm

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);

Kristin Peir, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA);

Elissa Konove, Undersecretary; California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA);

Jenny Lester Moffitt, Undersecretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA);

Alexis Podesta, Secretary; California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)

Nicole Capretz – Public Member

Agenda Item #3: **ACTION:** Approval of Minutes

Motion was made (Flad) and seconded (Crowfoot) to approve [December 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes](#). Motion passes 5-0-4*

*ABSTAINED: Podesta, Peer, Olson-Morgan, Capretz

Agenda Item #4: Council Member Updates

Crowfoot: CNRA: Ocean Protection Council is meeting to discuss their strategic plan for the upcoming year titled Strategy to Protect California's Coasts and Oceans. Also working to advance proposed climate budget under direction of Kate Gordon.

Moffitt: CDFA: Next round of Healthy Soils Program RFPs to be released soon. Multiple Council Members also working on Water Resilience portfolio. Draft of the portfolio was released in the January and public comments are currently being reviewed.

Olson-Morgan: CHHS: Proposal for new vaping tax to address rapid increases in rates of vaping among youth and young adults. New initiative CalAIM is a multi-year initiative that will implement broad delivery system, program and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program. Healthcare officials and agency leadership are working closely with CDPH leadership and leadership at the federal level to plan for Coronavirus. CHHS also doing a concerted effort to integrate behavioral health services and medical delivery systems, and understand the main drivers of homelessness.

Podesta: BCSH: Legislation passed in the last few years will increase housing production, so BCSH is in implementation mode. An RFP announced in the State of the State will put out a new data system to help identify homelessness population and their needs.

Peer: CalEPA: Currently accepting applications for environmental justice small projects. \$1 million available in this cycle that will support EJ-related projects. Community based organizations and federally-recognized tribal governments that promote community resilience are encouraged to apply. Friday April 17th is the deadline to apply for these grants, and awardees will be announced June 2020. CalEPA website has more information on the program.

Capretz: Public Member: San Diego region continues to struggle with a push for sprawl projects that are a huge threat to the state achieving GHG goals. There are 18 new lawsuits involved within the 18 sprawl projects approved by the county, though lawsuits have been stopped at the District Court. There should be a push to codify Governor's Executive Order on climate law past 2030.

Konove: CalSTA: Increased stakeholder engagement on the N-19-19 plan, and an action plan for implementation of transportation portions coming soon. On SB 743, Caltrans will be releasing guidance on how to implement VMT for transportation projects.

Gordon: OPR: Precision Medicine Team put an advisory board in place and included medical professionals and community health leaders from across the State. Learning Lab team also released put out a number of grants that make STEM education more accessible. Emphasize that climate budget needs to include Climate Resilience Bond and Catalyst Fund to ensure California reaches its goals.

Bedsworth: SGC: SGC is doing active outreach on behalf of TCC to gain support and spread awareness of the program to find potential paths for funding for future rounds. Many planning grantees looking to apply for implementation grants, and Round 3 applications are closing soon.

Agenda Item #5: Executive Director's Report

Louise Bedsworth, SGC

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

Agenda Item #6: **ACTION:** Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Guidelines

Virginia Jameson, Department of Conservation

Recommended Action: Adopt the draft final Round 6 Guidelines for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program. With Council adoption, program staff will proceed with project solicitation. Staff will recommend project awards in a separate California Strategic Growth Council action later in the year.

Discussion:

Crowfoot: Is there any proactive assessment where sprawl risks are the greatest in the state? Has there been any periodic assessment of the effectiveness of SALC Program, to ensure that the tool is performing as anticipated?

Moffitt: Commending program for the inclusion of management plans as a fundable item for the easements. Great opportunity for growers who are entering into SALC easements to do a management plan if they choose. The management plan can then help with application process for Healthy Soils Program.

Peir: Excited to see inclusion of Groundwater Sustainability agencies as applicants.

Public Comment:

Jeanie Meryl: California Climate and Agriculture Network: Farmers are ready for these changes, they are on the frontlines of fighting climate change, they are engaging in CDFA's programs. But encourage Council to go beyond optional management plans.

Katie Patterson: American Farmland Trust: Echo comments made earlier on the Climate Catalyst Fund. Respond to Secretary Crowfoot's comments on trickiness in planning and addressing where highest risk is. American Farmland Trust has a tool (Data Basin) which will add layers based on SALC to identify exactly which projects would be really valuable to SALC.

Motion was made (Crowfoot) and seconded (Capretz) to approve the [Round 6 Guidelines on the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program](#). Motion passed 9-0.

Agenda Item #7: ACTION: Strategic Growth Council – 2020 Workplan

Louise Bedsworth, SGC Executive Director

Recommended Action: Approve Proposed 2020 Strategic Growth Council Workplan.

Discussion:

Flad: Local government piece was very important. Especially as we look to integrate and coordinate horizontally, we also need to focus on vertical. Appreciate the inclusion of the local listening sessions.

Crowfoot: Interested in finding a way outside of our grant programs that the Council can engage. Clear that housing is and should be the priority that we focus on. CNRA isn't directly related in housing production, but Strategic Plan might help to give some direction on what these agencies can be doing. But appreciate the effort to grow more and grow appropriately.

Moffitt: Ensure that we include nexus of water and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation and how SGMA implementation in agricultural areas and throughout the state will affect land-use changes, and how that interacts with housing, transportation, and natural working lands.

Peir: The 2020 SGC Workplan is a great starting point, but needs to be more specific otherwise it could create more process without a clear vision for the purpose.

Olson-Morgan: Represents tremendous work by the staff. Appreciate the effort to breakdown the silos in which we approach different issues. Ensure there is a concrete outcome.

Podesta: There are ways we can work together and community how we work with local governments to help them plan. Maybe develop best practices in what we see works well in certain areas. We need to tackle resiliency as VMT goes up and housing goes down, there are also communities being affected by natural disasters, so including ways on how we can protect and rebuilt those affected communities. Incredibly important that we hear the needs of local government.

Konove: Workplan aligns with all the work that is being done by Housing and Transportation workgroup and steering committee. Having a workplan and common set of priorities that we can discuss with our respective agencies and departments, and then bringing back the results from those conversations back to this forum is the next step in evolving those discussions and pushing this work forward.

Capretz: Echo other's comments and lift up the portion about local governments. Also get top legislators involved to invest and buy-in to this process. This includes MPOs as well, which will increase autonomy and buy-in to the shift and development we need to make. Local officials don't make the connections that State-level folks do. Can this go beyond 2020?

Gordon: There could be a motion to approve the priorities, but SGC Staff and Key Staff can help to reassess the proposed workplan.

No motion was taken.

Agenda Item #8: Public Comment

No Public Comments

Agenda Item #9: Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned (Gordon): 3:39 pm