
December 17, 2020

Subject: Strategic Growth Council November Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: August-November 2020

Staff Lead: Fabiha Zaman, Special Assistant

Recommended Action

Approval of the August 26, 2020 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.



Strategic Growth Council

November 17, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Chair Gordon calls the meeting to order.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Council Members and Representatives Present:

Kate Gordon, Chair, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR);

Mike Flad, Public Member;

Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA);

Lourdes Castro Ramirez, Secretary, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH);

Nicole Capretz, Public Member;

Julie Souliere, Assistant Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS);

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

Amanda Hansen, Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA);

David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA);

Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

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

Motion was made (Castro Ramirez) and seconded (Kim) to approve the [August 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#). Motion passes 8-0-0*

*marks abstention or absence from vote.

Agenda Item #4: Council Member Updates

Souliere, CHHS: COVID-19 cases are rapidly rising, with surges more dramatic than when the pandemic first began in March 2020. Tiers will be examined weekly. There are 11 surge facilities prepared to assist across California, if necessary.

Hansen, CNRA: California faced one of the most destructive wildfire seasons in its history. The federal and state partnership to deliver on commitments to improve forest health, build climate resilience, and fund our first responders. The Governor released two executive orders for state agencies to accelerate action for climate change resilience through transportation and nature-based solutions. The nature-based solutions executive order calls on state agencies to deliver a climate-smart land strategy as well as a pathways document to achieve the established goal of conserving 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030. Stakeholder engagement will begin in Q1. The CNRA is excited to deliver on the goals of the Native American Ancestral Lands State Policy and to advance the co-management of natural resources with Tribes.

Blumenfeld, CalEPA: The 30 by 30 executive order aims for manufacturers to produce zero-emission vehicles by 2035. In addition, it focuses on the supply-side, such as how to make the transition to cleaner fuels effective and production setbacks. CalEPA is prioritizing equity and prioritizing economic recovery and public health of the community. The Governor's Office hosted a successful two-day Tribal Conference which allowed state agencies to hear from Tribal leaders and push equity and environmental justice into our work.

Kim, CalSTA: CalSTA is developing a Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) which guides the agency's efforts to utilize state transportation discretionary funds to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CalSTA has held public workshops with a lot of stakeholder engagement. CalSTA plans to release a draft CAPTI in early 2021.

Ross, CDFA: CDFA released their last round of grants to dairy families for methane reduction projects. CDFA is more than halfway towards reaching their goal of reducing methane by 40% in dairies. The Healthy Soils project is ensuring food security for the long-term future, helps with drought resiliency and water-holding capacity, and nutrient cycling. CDFA will be convening their stakeholders to identify farm-led solutions and partnering with the resources agency to find climate-smart solutions.

Flad, Public Member: There are unprecedented rates of unemployment, food insecurity, and homelessness in the Southeast Los Angeles region and it is taking a heavy toll on the community.

Castro Ramirez, BCSH: The State has issued around \$844 million in CRF funds towards the Homekey Initiative. These funds will support 94 unique projects across California and will provide 6,200 housing units. The housing units will assist those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The \$844 million in funds was awarded through the Housing and Community Development agency and required

collaboration across several state agencies. Additionally, BCSH is utilizing a four-piece approach to address housing and homelessness. BCSH has spent the last four months examining the affordable housing finance system to understand where greater alignment and greater coordination can occur for affordable housing preservation and production. BCSH has adopted a value set of principles which include: funding affordable housing units to the greatest degree possible, recommitting to affirmatively furthering fair housing principles to integrate place-based strategies, carrying out regulatory and enforcement powers to influence zoning and permitting, becoming more efficient in establishing affordable housing units through AB434, bringing in community development corporations to increasing equity and inclusion across the State's financing resources, and decreasing the time and costs needed for the States' affordable housing projects.

Capretz, Public Member: State agencies are balancing multiple crises across regions and vertical integration is necessary to meet needs in an equitable manner.

Agenda Item #5: Executive Director's Report

Louise Bedsworth, SGC

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

Public Comment: No Comments

Agenda Item #6: **ACTION**: Fiscal Year 2019-20 Round 6 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program Guidelines Adoption

Louise Bedsworth, SGC: How does every region and part of the State see an opportunity to participate in AHSC? Integrated approaches can occur in all communities and involve transportation, urban greening, and affordable housing agencies. SGC worked with its AHSC partners to examine how regional distributions and regional targets can improve while maintaining a focus on climate change. SGC created regional targets with scoring thresholds (total score and greenhouse gas scoring threshold) for the first time. SGC also worked in partnership with CalSTA and other transit agencies to think how to best score transit options with COVID-19 uncertainties in mind.

Ryan Silber, AHSC Program Manager, SGC: AHSC is funded through a continuous appropriation from cap and trade proceeds and SALC. AHSC funds projects that include walking, biking, and transit options in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled, as well as increase accessibility of housing, employment centers, and key destinations through supportive land-use design.

Recommended Action: *Adopt the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Round 6 Final Draft Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program Guidelines. Following the California Strategic Growth Council's adoption of the Guidelines, the AHSC program will release the Notice of Funding Availability and solicit projects eligible under these Guidelines using a competitive process for the sixth round of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program.*

Council Discussion:

Blumenfeld, CalEPA: These are a lot of changes to make to a program that was previously extremely successful. Equity and sustainability are the two biggest priorities with AHSC's geographic targets, but discretionary funds allow geographic equitable distribution. It is not necessary for these changes; the regional approach has philosophical merit but the application will be extremely difficult.

Capretz, Public Member: The new scoring threshold will make the geographic requirements moot for certain cities that were being allocated geographic awards. Geographic diversity is crucial in AHSC projects – it's not always about where affordable housing is located, but which populations are being served.

Bedsworth, SGC: AHSC conducted an analysis on previous rounds (set to focus on the top 70% of previous projects) and is aware of the difficulty of meeting the scoring threshold across different parts of California.

Silber, SGC: It's important to recognize disadvantaged communities are a place-based census tract level of measurement which don't measure household income, which is measured instead by infrastructure investments.

Public Comment:

Scott Littlehale, Northern California Carpenters Regional Council

Murtaza Baxamusa, San Diego Building Trades Family Housing Corp.

Adrian Granda, City of San Diego

Sally Greenspan, Enterprise Community Partners

Jared Johnson, Acterra

Seth Litchney, SANDAG

Natasha Reyes, Disability Rights California

Rebecca Merrell, Barstow

Bryan Elsey, Elsey Holdings

Eddie Irons, Transform



Laura Nunn, San Diego Housing Federation
Alicia Sebastian, California Coalition for Rural Housing
Mara Blitzer, San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing
Victoria Wong, MidPen Housing Corp.
Merrian Borgeson, NRDC
Grecia Elenes, Leadership Counsel
Shannon Dodge, BART
Tim Frank, Center for Sustainable Neighborhoods

Council Discussion cont.:

Gordon, OPR: Thanked everyone for their public comments and for adhering to the allocated three-minutes and asked the Council for their thoughts on the public comment. One of the values of SGC is the importance placed on building sustainable and inclusive communities. Shouldn't we be able to show that in every part of the State? It's crucial to remember the regional diversity across California and the Governor's focus on regional equity.

Blumenfeld, CalEPA: Funding is very limited, and we are talking from a place of scarcity. Cap and trade revenues have specific requirements for how they are used. The goals are to help the most disadvantaged communities and reduce as much greenhouse gas emissions as possible. We're dealing with competing priorities. Statewide polls and statewide scoring systems will be higher than region by region polls.

Capretz, Public Member: The geographic allocations are pivotal, fair, and future-looking. The playing field is not even across California's various regions. There is a bias towards putting funding towards Los Angeles and Northern California.

Crowfoot, CNRA: Funding is sizable, but limited and it is unfortunate. No strong position.

Flad, Public Member: Balancing competing values such as climate change goals and regional equity are challenging. If there are regional inequities, those should be examined. SGC is still a great unknown across local governments. Where is electrification in this discussion?

Bedsworth, SGC: The current draft does not include the removal of gas stoves and combustion appliances. It is being considered, but currently not in the draft. All-electric appliances may be considered in future rounds.

Castro Ramirez, BCSH: It may be beneficial to examine the Project Homekey's regional requirements and sitting with the HCD team to look at the outcome of



this approach. Pleased to hear support for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) during public comments. This is an area that may need to be further defined in the guidelines.

No motion was made.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment

Anne Wilson, San Diego

Agenda Item #8: Meeting Adjournment

Public Member Mike Flad adjourns the meeting.

