



# CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

**To:** California Strategic Growth Council Members  
**From:** Lynn von Koch-Liebert  
**Re:** Executive Director Report to the Council – January 26, 2022

## Organizational and Staffing Updates

- SGC welcomed two Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) staff, including Analysts Jennifer Kim and Associate Sarah Newsham.
- SGC welcomed one new Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC) staff, Associate Justin DeWaele.
- The California Council on Science and Technology placed a Science and Technology fellow with SGC's CCR program for the third consecutive year. Welcome Montraí Spikes, PhD!
- SGC welcomed Melissa Quintero, as Associate Counsel to support our legal compliance, procedural excellence, legislative, and advisory activities.
- OPR and SGC welcomed a new Legislative Director, William Robinson.

## Investment Program Updates

### Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC)

Staff: Saharnaz Mirzazad, Marc Caswell, Shep Wilbun, Jessica Lopez, Justin DeWaele, and California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) Staff Team

- Round 6 Award Recommendations are scheduled for adoption at the January Council Meeting.
- The staff recommendations include 37 projects across the state, satisfying all of the Council's priorities found in Section 108 of the Guidelines including Project Area Type, DAC investments, housing investments, Tribal projects, and Geographic Distribution. Once Council approves project awards, SGC staff will offer to meet with all applicants who were not selected for funding to discuss opportunities to increase their competitiveness for future rounds.
- SGC staff has also begun planning internal and external outreach efforts and identifying opportunities to implement the Council Priorities for modifications to the guidelines for Round 7 and beyond.
- SGC staff and our AHSC partners remain confident in our ability to deliver updated guidelines for Council approval in October 2022, along with a NOFA for Round 7, where the review process can return to the timeline found in pre-pandemic times.

### Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)

Staff: Saharnaz Mirzazad, Sophie Young, Jerry Rivero, Jennifer Kim, Sarah Newsham, and California Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff Team

- The Final TCC Round 4 Program Guidelines are scheduled to come to the February Council Meeting for adoption. Public comment closed on December

- 15, 2021; stakeholder comments were supportive of the Round 4 Guidelines changes and included a handful of suggestions and requests for clarification.
- Staff from SGC, the Governor's Office, and Assemblymember Rendon's office toured the TCC project sites in Fresno and Bakersfield on December 15-16, 2021.
    - Transform Fresno received a \$66.5 million implementation grant in 2018 and is halfway through implementation; Fresno is demonstrating great progress with their affordable housing, community college, urban agriculture, and displacement avoidance projects.
    - TCC Bakersfield received a \$200,000 planning grant in 2018 and has completed a community visioning process and plan focused on affordable housing, clean mobility, urban greening, and workforce development.
  - Round 3 Implementation Grantee Stockton Rising has completed the first of four solar installations on multi-family affordable housing developments. This is the first completed climate resiliency infrastructure project for Stockton Rising, which received a \$10.8 million grant in 2020.

### Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

Staff: Saharnaz Mirzazad, Emily Tibbott (OPR), and Department of Conservation Staff

- Staff are preparing Round 8 SALC Draft Guidelines for public comment in February 2022. Proposed revisions are based on feedback provided by stakeholders during listening sessions and working group meetings conducted throughout 2021. These will include:
  - The addition of a capacity grant type to fund the development of agricultural conservation acquisition projects.
  - The addition of funding targets for acquisition projects that:
    - Provide secure land tenure to new or Veteran farmers or ranchers, or farmers or ranchers who are residents of a disadvantaged community, low-income community, or low-income household; or that provide meaningful benefits to a disadvantaged community, low-income community, or low-income household.
    - Involve a California Native American tribe either as the applicant, co-applicant or project partner.
  - Revisions to improve accessibility to the program for tribes.
  - Pending policy direction from the Strategic Growth Council, possible revisions to how the threat of residential/commercial property conversion and a project's infill supportive elements are evaluated.
  - Administrative revisions.
- In December, SALC executed one of two contracts with tribal-affiliated consultants to review the Guidelines and associated program materials to improve the program's accessibility to tribes. We anticipate the second contract to be executed in January 2022, with initial results from both available in late-spring.
- Staff are preparing grant agreements for the 19 acquisition projects awarded funding at the November 16, 2021 Council meeting. We anticipate grants to be executed by late February 2022.

### Climate Change Research Program (CCR)

Staff: Elizabeth Grassi, Nicole Hernandez, and Montrai Spikes

- The program is positioned to serve a key role in California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment. Two new staff positions focused on lifting the CCR's Program model of community and partner-driven research to inform engagement will be onboard by March 1, 2022.
- The CCR team has successfully closed out six CCR Round 1 research grant projects. As part of this process, CCR staff has hosted exit presentations with up to 70 staff participants from SGC member agencies and legislative staff at each event. Presentations focused on coastal impacts and adaptations for local communities, extreme heat and wildfire impacts on vulnerable communities, and strategies to increase environmental resilience and improve socioeconomic opportunities in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Staff is working with grantees to compile a case study for the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Clearinghouse on each completed project and conducting exit surveys with grantees and partners about their experiences participating in the program. The final four Round 1 projects will closeout on March 31, 2022.

### Tribal Government Challenge Program (TGC)

Staff: Elizabeth Grassi, Coral Abbott, Ena Lupine, and the California Energy Commission (CEC) Staff Team

- CEC and SGC staff will execute a no cost extension to this agreement later this month that will provide Tribes an additional six months to complete their projects. The pandemic and wildfire seasons have made it difficult for grantees to complete their work within the original 18-month timeframe.
- The Statewide Gap Analysis of California Tribal Lands is currently conducting analysis and synthesis on a diverse set of primary and secondary data and survey responses to identify patterns, themes, and trends in the development of a complete data set and set of initial findings. We expect to receive a draft report on the gap analysis in spring 2022. SGC and CEC staff will collaborate to disseminate the final findings and recommendations to our partners across State government.

### Proposition 84 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grant Program (WRRG)

Staff: Clay Kerchof (OPR), Elizabeth Grassi, Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff Team

- OPR staff is working with the four "Prop 84" grantees on invoicing and quarterly progress reports.
- OPR staff produced a case study for the California Adaptation Clearinghouse that synthesizes the Prop 84 projects and how they can inform future integrated wildfire resilience planning efforts.
- All Prop 84 grants will close October 31, 2022.

## Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

### Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)

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

#### Regional Climate Collaboratives and Partners Advancing Climate Equity:

- Staff are currently writing draft program guidelines for the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program, which will be released for a thirty-day public comment period in early February. During this time, staff will also host public workshops to get feedback on the draft guidelines from stakeholders and potential applicants in order to inform the final proposed guidelines that Staff will bring to council in April.
- In collaboration with CARB and Grid Alternatives, staff hosted the Community Capacity Building Summit on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. The event featured cohort members from SGC's Partners Advancing Climate Equity Pilot Program and CARB's Clean Access California Pilot Program and uplifted why State investment in community-based and Tribal-serving organizations is critical to advancing State climate and equity goals.

#### California Climate Investments Technical Assistance Program:

- The second round of the BOOST program is underway. Within the first couple of months of the program, the Cities are already experiencing the benefits of the TA. With application support, the City of Maywood was announced as one of the three cities to receive the \$50,000 SoCal Gas Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Grant. This will enable the BOOST TA providers to help the City of Maywood develop their first Climate Action and Resilience Plan.

## Collaborative Policy Initiatives

### Health and Equity Program (HEP)

Staff: Kirin Kumar, Jazmine Garcia Delgadillo, Alexandra Gallo, and Michael Jimenez

#### Health in All Policies (HiAP)

Staff: SGC partners with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Institute (PHI) to staff the Health in All Policies Task Force. The Task Force brings together approximately 20 agencies to integrate health and equity into programs and policies that advance State priorities.

- **Finalized analysis of stakeholder input to inform future HiAP Task Force work and published summary documents online:** On December 6, the HEP Team finalized, published and disseminated a summary highlighting key findings from the stakeholder engagement process facilitated by the HEP Team in partnership with the Othering Belonging Institute, to all participants. Additionally, as part of this process the HEP Team identified key structural barriers for the HiAP Task Force to pursue in 2022 in order to advance health and racial equity across State government.
- **Finalized membership for interagency HiAP Task Force:** The HEP team held consultations with over 25 State entities to identify HiAP Task Force membership

and vet goals and priorities around structural barriers identified via the stakeholder engagement process. The HEP Team has confirmed the participation of an estimated 20 individuals from over 10 State entities to serve as Task Force Members. (Additional agencies and departments contacted for engagement on the HiAP Task Force include: CalEPA, CalHR, CalOES, CalRecycle, CNRA, DOF, DSS, Energy Commission, Fi\$cal, GovOps, HCD, OAG, OPR, Parks, Waterboards, and Workforce Development Board.)

Agency or Department	Council Agency	Participation Status	Number of Staff
CALFIRE	CNRA	Confirmed	3
California Housing & Finance Agency	BCSH	Confirmed	1
CalTrans	CalSTA	Confirmed	Pending
California Air Resources Board	CalEPA	Confirmed	2
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation		Confirmed	2
California Department of Education		Confirmed	1
California Department of Food & Agriculture	CDFA	Confirmed	Pending
California Department of Public Health	CHHS	Confirmed	2
California Public Utilities Commission		Confirmed	2
Community Services Department		Confirmed	2
California Transportation Commission	CalSTA	Confirmed	2
Department of General Services		Confirmed	1
First 5 California		Confirmed	2-3
Housing & Community Development	BCSH	Confirmed	Pending
Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission		Confirmed	2

- Scheduled and finalized the agenda for the first 2022 HiAP Task Force Convening:**  
 The first HiAP Task Force convening is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 17, from 1-4pm. The HEP Team in collaboration with CDPH and PHI have finalized the agenda for the first convening.

#### Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP)

Staff: Kirin Kumar, Jazmine Garcia Delgadillo, Alexandra Gallo, Michael Jimenez, and SGC Program and Administrative Managers

- SGC REAP Implementation:** Updated the SGC REAP Tracker used to track progress over time to monitor and assist SGC Teams in the REAP implementation

process throughout 2022. The updated REAP Tracker includes a landing page with instructions for program teams to ensure the continuous updates are captured, identify programmatic work flows necessary to implement REAP activities, and includes REAP changes based on the September 2021 update. The REAP Tracker also includes a snapshot of implementation for 2022, including evaluation and planning for new REAP development in 2023. The HEP Team presented the updated REAP Tracker to staff during an SGC meeting and has held initial meetings with SGC Teams to discuss existing commitments and to develop draft timelines for implementation of REAP action items.

- **CA State Agency REAP Technical Assistance:** HEP staff met with Deputy Secretary Moisés Moreno-Rivera at the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and Deputy Secretary Avital Barnea the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) to provide technical assistance on the development of their REAPs based on lessons learned from SGC's REAP development and implementation process.
- **2022 Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Annual Membership Meeting Proposals:** The GARE Annual Membership Meeting will take place on April 19-21, with the theme, "Reimagining Government to Advance Racial Equity and Justice". SGC staff submitted two proposals to the GARE annual membership meeting. One proposal was submitted under the Organizational Change track in coordination with Public Health Institute (PHI). This session will highlight the accomplishments of the Capitol Collaborative on Race & Equity (CCORE) and discuss SGC's REAP as a case study for organizational change to embed racial equity into investments, policies, programs, and operations. The second proposal was submitted under the Cultivating Resilience track by SGC and OPR teams and will focus on implementing racial equity objectives into programs. This proposal includes examples from the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program expansion to include Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs) through the development of an Investment Framework; the development of the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Vulnerable Communities Platform to build climate resilience with a strong equity lens in the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR); and an innovative adaptation of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program within a community to be served by High-Speed Rail.

#### Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE)

Staff: SGC partners with the Public Health Institute (PHI) to host a racial equity capacity-building Program for California State government institutions and employees. CCORE brings together approximately 30 agencies, departments, boards, and offices to build a people-power movement inside of California State government to advance racial equity by deploying organizing principles inside and outside of the system.

- **CCORE Learning Cohort reached a milestone on October 27, 2021:** CCORE celebrated the culmination of an 18-session program, with 25 California state departments, offices, agencies, commissions, and conservancies, completing a 15-month learning cohort to build their institutional capacity to advance racial equity. At the commencement event, State staff and leaders showcased their

key learnings and progress from the program, including highlights that can be viewed here: [California State Government Teams Complete Racial Equity Learning Program](#).

- **2022 CCORE Learning Cohort planning is underway:** PHI staff are working to finalize CCORE offerings for 2022-2023 and are planning to host another CCORE Learning cohort for CA State entities without REAPs and also host a CCORE Implementation Cohort for the CA State entities that have draft REAPs in order to continue to build their capacity. For more information, email [CCORE@phi.org](mailto:CCORE@phi.org).
- **States convene to discuss racial equity:** On December 2021, SGC Deputy Director of Equity and Government Transformation, Kirin Kumar shared highlights from CCORE and SGC's racial equity work at a convening that brought together racial equity leaders from 9 state governments as well as several national organizations. The convening was organized by PHI, in partnership with Race Forward and others, as part of an effort to develop a coordinated strategy for racial equity at the state government level.

### Land Use Planning and Economic Development

Staff: Emily Tibbott, Egon Terplan, and Bo Chung. Supported by a partnership with High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA)

- Staff are partnering with HSRA to support and complement project delivery, specifically reviewing site and station community planning activities in the Central Valley.
- Staff is coordinating with HSRA to explore immediate projects to partner with Fresno partners, including station area site beautification, site activation, and community engagement. Staff coordinated with local stakeholder Central Fish Co. of Fresno to support the "559 Night Market" event supporting local Fresno Chinatown businesses with food, entertainment, and family activities.
- Staff is exploring the potential to work with a more rural station community regarding integrated planning scenarios that address development and agricultural lands protection needs. In December, staff facilitated a multi-agency meeting to focus on these issues in the context of the Kings-Tulare Regional HSR station.
- Staff continues work with HSRA's Environmental Services staff to support ongoing conservation community partnerships, particularly in the Northern Region, in order to effect better design and mitigation practices. Staff participated in a meeting of HSRA and Santa Clara County stakeholders to review the final environmental documents for the San Jose to Merced HSR section, due out in February 2022.

### Land Conservation Initiatives:

- As part of an inter-agency policy team, staff has supported the implementation of EO N-82-20, including the release of the draft CNRA-led Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy in October, and the December release of the Pathways to 30X30 report.
- As part of a steering committee composed of leadership staff at the California Department of Conservation (DOC), California Department of Housing and

Community Development (HCD), and CARB, staff continues to advance a series of agency-targeted educational workshops on conservation and housing. The purpose of the series is to break down silos between conservation and housing programs, planning, and policy, such that efforts in both arenas better support cross-sectoral needs and on-the-ground outcomes in service of State planning priorities. In January, staff facilitated a workshop examining Santa Clara County's efforts to address RHNA allocation in light of significant conservation efforts; the session featured local stakeholder presentations.

- Staff is involved in inter-agency leadership efforts regarding the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), including how to minimize local economic impacts, and how to support regional land use planning. Staff is part of an advisory team helping with design and implementation of Department of Conservation's new Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program, to address options for agricultural landowners in the face of SGMA.

#### Regional Planning Initiatives:

- The final California Comeback Plan included a \$600M investment in augmenting the existing Regional Early Action Planning Grant (REAP) funds. The proposed new program focuses on implementing regional plans in ways that reduces vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and meets infill housing goals. The current REAP program (initiated in 2019) was focused on helping regions meet their higher RHNA targets. This proposed augmentation would also expand to allow for both planning and infrastructure investments across housing and transportation. The expanded REAP program is being managed by a joint team across HCD, SGC, OPR and CARB. Staff are currently developing a concept paper that will be shared publicly. SGC will also add one staff person on the AHSC team to support bringing best practices and lessons learned from AHSC Program to REAP team and provide coordination support. OPR will have three positions, including a program manager.
- Staff are continuing to administer a contract with the UC Institute of Transportation Studies to produce a report assessing transportation planning and funding activities pursuant to AB 285 (Friedman, 2019). The team kicked off work in June 2021 with researchers from UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Davis. The final report will be submitted to the Legislature in 2022.
- Staff continue to manage the State/MPO work group that consist of the planning directors of the 18 MPOs and members of key state agencies (SGC, OPR, HCD, BCSH, CalSTA, CTC, Caltrans, CARB).

## Media Clips

### California Strategic Growth Council

- [Report: Talk of Climate-Focused Transit Is Empty When CA Still Prioritizes Investment in Automobility \(Transportation Assessment\)](#)

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

- [Self-Help Enterprises to expand Palm Terrace affordable housing](#)

Climate Change Research

- [CCR-Funded University of California, Irvine Study Links Rising Temperatures to Higher Blaze Risk](#)

Transformative Climate Communities

- [CalMatters: Tackling climate change by prioritizing impacted communities](#)