Agency:

California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)

Action:

Request for Information.

Summary:

California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) brings together State agencies and departments within Business, Consumer Services and Housing, Transportation, Natural Resources, Health and Human Services, Food and Agriculture, and Environmental Protection with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to coordinate activities that support sustainable communities emphasizing strong economies, social equity, and environmental stewardship.

SGC's Resolution on Housing, Climate, and Equity ("Council Priority 3" or "Priority 3") creates a framework for elevating and coordinating the growing number of goals, policies, and programs designed to address the state's entwined housing, climate, and equity crises. Leveraging the Council's position as a public interagency body, Priority 3 aims to build awareness of and access to opportunities across the state, as well as to identify additional strategies to meet the State's housing, climate, and equity goals in a coordinated manner, through a combination of public engagement, technical assistance, and coordination across traditional silos of policy and planning. In turn, Priority 3 will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance community resilience while advancing equity and expanding the number of Californians that share in the state's economic and environmental wealth.

Dates:

Responses must be received by March 31, 2023, to be assured of consideration.

Submissions:

Please submit comments via this form.

Comments received may be posted on https://sgc.ca.gov/ without change, including any business or personal information provided. Comments received, including attachments and other supporting materials, will be part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Do not enclose any information considered confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

For further information contact:

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Supplementary information:

Purpose:

This Request for Information (RFI) offers the public the opportunity to provide information on ways to influence the way California builds and connects communities through **strategic growth**, defined as an inclusive, coordinated, interagency approach to development and conservation that helps protect our health and natural environment and make our neighborhoods and communities more resilient, culturally and economically vibrant, and socially diverse, for the benefit of all Californians. Strategic growth holds great potential to advance climate objectives while addressing poverty, lack of affordable housing, and historical neighborhood underinvestment.

Over the last decade, significant budgetary and legislative actions have been taken to advance topics related to housing, climate, equity, and, more broadly, strategic growth. The primary purpose of this RFI is to identify solutions, education opportunities, and targeted efforts the State can take to leverage and align existing legislative and budget actions with the explicit outcome of making these investments and policy solutions more accessible and usable for local, regional and community implementers. In addition, the RFI seeks to identify additional strategies the State should consider in order to meet current and projected needs at the nexus of housing, climate and equity.

Through this RFI, SGC seeks to identify the following:

1. Non-budgetary and non-legislative strategies and actions to implement existing recommendations including, but not limited to, the Draft 2022 Progress Report on California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act ([SB 150 Report](#)),), the 2022 Scoping Plan [Appendix E Sustainable and Equitable Communities](#), the California Transportation Assessment Report ([AB 285 Report](#)), the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure ([CAPTI](#)), and the Statewide Housing Plan ([SHP](#));
2. Additional non-budgetary and non-legislative tools and strategies to meet the State's housing, climate, and equity goals in a coordinated way and at the scale and pace necessary to close existing gaps and meet the urgency of current and projected needs;
3. Tools and strategies to meet the State's housing, climate, and equity goals that might require legislative and budget action;
4. Strategies and actions for removing barriers to achieving the State's housing, climate and equity goals through technical assistance and capacity building, continued development of data tools, partnerships with California Native American tribes and local and regional government agencies, and elevating effective strategies and best practices; and
5. Strategies and actions for improving coordination between State, local, federal, and Tribal partners and sharing information on new and existing efforts.

To assist with responding to RFI questions, a brief but non-exhaustive list of agency programs within the key areas of substantive focus is included in Appendix A.

Background:

The California Budget for 2021-22 and 2022-23 includes [$53.9 billion in new climate investments](#), including $14.8 billion in transportation infrastructure, $11.2 billion in incentives for housing production, and $400 million dedicated to enhanced wildfire resilience across California's diverse landscapes. Under

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the Statewide Housing Plan, California must plan for more than 2.5 million homes over the next eight-year cycle, and no less than one million of those homes must meet the needs of lower-income households. Over the last six years, sweeping legislation has produced a range of data-informed, innovative strategies to streamline and incentivize various types of housing development, expand the supply of affordable homes, and reduce and prevent homelessness.

The current groundswell of State action on housing, climate change, and equity presents a unique opportunity to support the needs of all Californians. In December 2022, SGC passed Council Priority 3, a resolution calling for a coordinated approach to support strategic growth. The resolution aims to make it easier for all Californians to afford homes in places with good access to jobs, services, open space, and education; provide a variety of transportation options that reduce the need to drive; and preserve and ensure access to natural and working lands. Having developed a general framework for Council Priority 3, SGC Staff is now developing a two-year action plan that will operationalize the goals of the Priority. Information gathered through this RFI will help inform the continued development of that action plan.

How to comment:
This RFI is only for information and planning purposes and should not be construed as an obligation on the part of the SGC. We ask respondents to address the Key Questions listed below. Respondents do not need to address every question and should focus on those where they have views or relevant expertise. Please clearly indicate which questions are addressed in the response. Respondents may provide detailed responses and examples. All comments received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Respondents should only submit information that they wish to make publicly available.

Key questions:
1. Please describe examples of best practices and lessons learned from strategic growth projects that have resulted in housing, climate, and equity benefits. How could these projects have been more impactful or cost-effective to implement?
2. Please describe any additional non-budgetary and non-legislative tools and strategies that may help meet the State's housing, climate, and equity goals in a coordinated way and at the scale and pace necessary to meet the urgency of current and projected needs. Where possible, please detail specific benefits and beneficiaries of any tools and strategies discussed.
3. How can SGC and member agencies collaborate on providing technical assistance, opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, and other non-financial resources to support the preservation and development of climate-friendly housing, and infrastructure and community investments that support climate-friendly housing? Discuss considerations for how climate-friendly housing strategies may apply in a variety of contexts, including historically underserved communities, communities disproportionately impacted by climate change and racial segregation, and higher resource infill areas that have traditionally resisted affordable and multifamily housing.
4. Please describe additional strategies and actions for removing barriers to achieving the State's housing, climate, and equity goals. Strategies and actions may include but are not limited to capacity building, continued development of data tools, streamlining or aligning requirements for programs with cross-sectoral benefits (e.g., housing decarbonization, infrastructure, etc.), and elevating effective strategies and best practices.

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5. Please describe specific strategies and actions for improving coordination between State, local, federal, and Tribal partners regarding housing, climate, and equity. How can further alignment and coordination between agencies result in more substantial outcomes regarding housing production, housing access, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, shared economic prosperity, community health and resilience, and the protection and conservation of natural and working lands?

6. What data should the State consider collecting to better understand and report progress toward the State's housing, climate, and equity goals? How can SGC and member agencies incentivize or structure data collection and reporting to promote increased private sector and philanthropic investment in climate-friendly development?

Appendix A

List of related agency programs

Program	Agencies / Departments	Overview
Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)	SGC	Funds development and infrastructure projects that achieve significant environmental, health, and economic benefits in California's most disadvantaged communities
Infill Infrastructure Grant program (IIG)	HCD	The objective of the IIG program is to promote infill housing development by providing financial assistance for Capital Improvement Projects that are an integral part of, or necessary to facilitate the development of affordable and mixed income housing.
Active Transportation Program (ATP)	Caltrans	Consolidates existing federal and state transportation programs into a single program with a focus on making California a national leader in active transportation.
Regional Early Action Planning Grants Program (REAP)	HCD, OPR, SGC, CARB	Seeks to accelerate infill housing development, reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), increase housing supply at all affordability levels, affirmatively further fair housing, and facilitate the implementation of adopted regional and local plans to achieve these goals.
Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC)	SGC, HCD	Builds healthier communities and protects the environment by increasing the supply of affordable places to live near jobs, stores, transit, and other daily needs.
Sustainable Lands and Agricultural Conservation (SALC)	SGC, DOC	Fights climate change by protecting our productive farmlands and encouraging compact transit-oriented communities.
Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP)	CalSTA	Funds transformative capital improvements that will modernize California's intercity, commuter, and urban rail systems, and bus and ferry transit systems, to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, vehicle miles traveled, and congestion.
Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP)	Caltrans	Provides operating and capital assistance for transit agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility, prioritizing serving disadvantaged communities.

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