

April 29, 2026

Subject: California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Feb. 25, 2026 – Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: February 2026 – April 2026

Staff Lead: Lisa Duong, Administrative Associate, SGC

Recommended Action

Approval of the Feb. 25, 2026, SGC Meeting Minutes.

SGC Feb. 25, 2026 – Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Chair Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Council Members and Representatives Present:

Sam Assefa, Director, Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)

Frank Cárdenas, Vice Chair, Public Member (Virtual)

Tomiquia Moss, Secretary, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)

Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS)

Virginia Jameson, Deputy Secretary, on behalf of Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

Sarah Izant (Designee), Deputy Secretary, on behalf of Secretary Yana Garcia, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

Abigail Jackson (Designee), Senior Housing Policy Coordinator, on behalf of Secretary Toks Omishakin, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

Nicole Capretz, Public Member (Virtual)

Noaki Schwartz (Designee), Deputy Secretary, Equity and Environmental Justice, on behalf of Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) (Virtual)

Council Members and Representatives Absent:

Juan Sanchez Muñoz, Chancellor, Public Member

Quorum met; 9/10 members present

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes

Approval of Dec. 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Council Comment

No Council comment.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Motion passes (9-0-0*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Moss.

Agenda Item #4: ACTION

Council Chair and Vice Chair Election

Justine Massey, Special Projects Analyst, SGC

Council Comment

Secretary Johnson and Secretary Moss commended the leadership of the current Chair and Vice Chair, therefore nominating them to continue in those roles for the next two years. Director Assefa thanked Vice Chair Cárdenas for his partnership.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Motion passes (9-0-0*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Moss.

Agenda Item #5: Executive Director's Report

Erin Curtis, Executive Director, SGC

Council Comment

Johnson: Appreciated seeing the work come to life through the photos shared in the presentation. Thanked the team for sharing them.

Jameson: Thank the team for the inspiring work showcasing the projects.

Assefa: Echoed their comments. Reflected on his experience visiting Jordan Downs and seeing the impact of affordable housing programs on the lives of individuals and communities.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda Item #6: CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Round 9 Guidelines Technical Amendment**
- b. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Round 10 Guidelines**

Erin Curtis, Executive Director, SGC

Council Comment

Capretz: As a follow-up to the comment from Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA), thanked California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for meeting up with them and coming together to find creative solutions.

Public Comment

Courtney Pal, Resources for Community Development

Deen Sheikh, PANA

Motion passes (9-0-0*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Motion was made by Moss and seconded by Izant.

Agenda Item #7: INFORMATIONAL

Tribal Gap Analysis Report

Ena Lupine, Program Manager for Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE), SGC

Josh Simmons, President and Founder, and Principal Consultant, Prosper Sustainably

Council Comment

Moss: Thanked the team for their intentional engagement in the work. Asked how they can activate these recommendations based on infrastructure that is already available. Suggested that integrating recommendations could be helpful during the implementation phase of grants.

Jameson: Thanked the team for all their hard work and mentioned anticipated Proposition 4 funding for a new food sovereignty program at CDFA. Expressed interest in taking up an offer to meet with the team as an individual state agency.

Izant: Expressed appreciation for the work over many years to get to this point. Stated that this was a topic that CalEPA is particularly interested in and hoping to continue building relationships with tribes. Mentioned CalEnviroScreen as a public tool for designating disadvantaged communities (DAC) in the state.

Cárdenas: Acknowledged the hard work in putting together the report and working on taking identifiable steps toward mitigating the gaps.

Assefa: Echoed the comments and recognized the obstacles in the implementation process.

Public Comment

Emily Burgueno, Kumeayaay Djegueno Land Conservancy

Lora O'Connor, Inspired Collab

Agenda Item #8: DISCUSSION

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Update

Elea Becker-Lowe, California Climate Assessment Program Manager, LCI

Deputy Secretary Schwartz left at 2:49 p.m. Quorum met; 8/10 members present; 6 members in-person.

Deputy Secretary Schwartz returned to the meeting at 2:51 p.m. Quorum met; 9/10 members present; 6 members in-person.

Secretary Johnson left at 2:52 p.m. Quorum not met; 8/10 members present; 5 members in-person.

Secretary Johnson returned to the meeting at 2:55 p.m. Quorum met; 9/10 members present; 6 members in-person.

Secretary Moss left at 3:04 p.m. Quorum not met; 8/10 members present; 5 members in-person.

Council Comment

Johnson: Appreciated the team's leadership in taking an intentional, comprehensive approach to this endeavor. Acknowledged that climate change is the biggest threat to global health and the need to address this change. Expressed gratefulness in the partnership with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment. (Fifth Assessment)

Izant: Expressed interest in opportunities for CalEPA to partner with Fifth Assessment and brainstorm ways to create space for the team to present to communities and share best practices and lessons learned.

Schwartz: Praised the team for their impressive climate work detailed in their report.

Jackson: Appreciated the level of detail in the document and expressed interest in continuing the partnership between CalSTA and other agencies to achieve climate goals through land use decisions and integrate recommendations in that group.

Moss: Echoed previous comments. Mentioned an experience from years ago related to climate impacts and acknowledged the importance of understanding the reality of these impacts in both the short term and long term.

Assefa: Echoed Moss' comment and mentioned the impact it will have on young folks many years from now. Mentioned that storytelling is an important component of communications.

Capretz: Thanked the team for the incredible comprehensive report. Suggested integrating into what communities think about climate, stating that framing it as an affordability solution may help connect the work with people on the ground.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda Item #9: INFORMATIONAL

Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Report

Camille Frazier, Program Manager of Agricultural Land Equity Initiative (ALEI), SGC

Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (ALETF) Members

Secretary Moss returned to the meeting at 3:07 p.m. Quorum met; 9/10 members present; 6 members in-person.

Public Member Capretz left at 3:21 p.m. Quorum met; 8/10 members present; 6 members in-person.

Public Member Capretz returned to the meeting at 3:24 p.m. Quorum met; 9/10 members present; 6 members in-person.

Secretary Moss left the meeting at 3:28 p.m. Quorum not met; 8/10 members present; 5 members in-person.

Sasha Kergan (Designee), Deputy Secretary, BCSH, on behalf of Secretary Tomiquia Moss, assumed their role as designee at 3:52 p.m. Quorum met; 9/10 members present; 6 members in-person.

Public Member Capretz left the meeting at 3:54 p.m. Quorum met; 8/10 members present; 6 members in-person.

Senior Coordinator Jackson left at 4:04 p.m. Quorum not met; 7/10 members present; 5 members in-person.

Senior Coordinator Jackson returned to the meeting; Secretary Johnson left at 4:07 p.m. Quorum not met; 7/10 members present; 5 members in-person.

Deputy Secretary Izant left at 4:11 p.m. Quorum not met; 6/10 members present; 4 members in-person.

Deputy Secretary Izant and Secretary Johnson returned to the meeting at 4:15 p.m. Quorum met; 8/10 members present; 6 members in-person.

Council Comment

All Council members expressed their appreciation for the Task Force members' work in the past two and a half years in compiling the report and facilitating these public meetings.

Public Comment

Marisa Raya, UC Davis, ALETF

Darlene Franco, Wukchumni Tribe, ALETF

Thea Rittenhouse, CDFA

Nathaniel Brown, Brown Sugar Farm – Ujamaa Farmer Collective

Jamie Fanous, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)

Chelsea Gazillic, American Farmland Trust

Beth Smoker, California Food & Farming Network

Darlene Ruiz, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources

Rubie Simonsen, First Mother Farms

Qi Zhou, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Veronica Mazariegos-Anastassiou, Brisa Ranch

Adam X, CEO, Original Manufacturing

Sherlin Benjamin, California FarmLink

Maria Navarro, Central Coastal Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy

Temu Asyr Martin Bey

Agenda Item #10: ACTION

Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Membership

Camille Frazier, Program Manager of Agricultural Land Equity Initiative (ALEI), SGC

Council Comment

Assefa: Reiterated his appreciation for all the time and dedication from the Task Force members to meet the obligation to submit the report by the Jan. 1 deadline.

Johnson: Suggested making a motion not as an ending, but rather as an appreciation for all the work done by the Task Force members.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Motion passes (8-0-0*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Jameson.

Agenda Item #10: Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda Item #11: Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

