

Aug. 26, 2026

Subject: California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) April 29, 2026 – Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: April 2026 – August 2026

Staff Lead: Lisa Duong, Administrative Associate, SGC

Recommended Action

Approval of the April 29, 2026, SGC Meeting Minutes.

SGC Apr. 29, 2026 – Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Chair Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:06 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)

Juan Sanchez Muñoz, Chancellor, Public Member

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

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

Daniel Torres (Designee), Chief Equity Officer, on behalf of Secretary Kim Johnson, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS)

Jaylan Tran (Designee), Senior Climate Change Coordinator, on behalf of Secretary Toks Omishakin, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

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:

Nicole Capretz, Public Member

Quorum met; 9/10 members present

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes

Approval of Feb. 25, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Council Comment

No Council comment.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Motion passes (8-0-1*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Motion was made by Muñoz and seconded by Moss.

Agenda Item #4: Executive Director's Report

Erin Curtis, Executive Director, SGC

Council Comment

Assefa: Thanked the team for sharing the incredible results and impact of their work.

Chi: Expressed gratitude for the team's overview on plastic pollution mitigation fund and excitement to work with fellow Council members and agencies to continue developing the investment planning for this funding.

Muñoz: Appreciated the photographic examples shown in the presentation and the efforts made to improve climate benefits.

Moss: Inquired about the details of the Factory-Built Housing Pilot (FBH) Program, to which Kennedy answered that they are working on building out the FBH ecosystem at the regional level and supporting regional coalition.

Muñoz: Mentioned examples such as Hurricanes Katrina and Harvey, suggested using FBH to set up demonstration projects to showcase the value of the program to the public.

Cárdenas: Congratulated the team for their work. Mentioned the fires in Pasadena area and the impacts that the FBH can have on affordable housing.

Public Comment

Lora O'Connor, Inspired Collaborations

Agenda Item #5: CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Round 6 Guidelines***
- b. Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Round 2 Guidelines***
- c. Tribal Housing Capacity Building Initiative Guidelines***
 - ***Tribal Capacity Building Program Round 2***
 - ***Tribal Housing Pre-development Fund Round 1***

Erin Curtis, Executive Director, SGC

Council Comment

Muñoz: Acknowledged the feedback and review process for award recommendations.

Public Comment

Lihbin Shiao, Mosaic Urban Development

Gina Gradias, California Coalition for Rural Housing

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

Motion was made by Muñoz and seconded by Tran.

Agenda Item #6: ACTION

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Round 11 Awards – Cycle A

Amar Cid, Deputy Director of Community Investments & Planning, SGC

Karin Roux, Program Manager, California Department of Conservation (DOC)

Council Comment

Muñoz: Thanked the team for all their hard work in making the recommendations for the awards and emphasized the material impact of the projects.

Jameson: Thanked the team for the thorough vetting process in making the recommendations. Mentioned details about nature-based solutions and targets that were set by the state in 2024, and acknowledged the importance of the work that SALC is doing to protect working agricultural lands.

Moss appreciated the work going into evaluating the projects and asked about the \$3 million that is rolling into the next round of funding. Roux explained the reason was because SALC did not award three projects and hoped for those projects to make some improvements before returning in a future round.

Assefa echoed the previous comments about the review process for the award recommendations and asked about what is done for applicants who were not successful in this round of funding. Roux explained that a line had to be drawn at some point because of the limited amount of funding available, and that the unawarded applicants can contact the SALC team for a debrief on their application. With that knowledge, the unawarded applicants can apply again in the next round.

Public Comment

Michael Panitchpakdi, San Benito Agricultural Land Trust

Lynn Overtree, San Benito Agricultural Land Trust

Mona Tucker, YTT Northern Chumash

Jason Landers, Bear Yuba Land Trust

Kyle Walsh, The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County

Christina Sousa, Conservation Projects Manager

Cindy Sage, Sage Associates Environmental and Agricultural Consultants

Cynthia Perrine, Northern California Regional Land Trust

Rachel Saunders, Big Sur Land Trust

Marc Del Piero, Ag Land Trust

Candace Reynolds, HANA Resources

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

Motion was made by Jameson and seconded by Chi.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda Item #8: Meeting Adjournment

On behalf of the Council, Assefa thanked Muñoz for hosting the meeting in UC Merced. Muñoz also thanked his staff for supporting the Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.