ACTION

Agenda Item #3

Oct. 28, 2026

Subject:	**California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Aug. 26, 2026 – Meeting Minutes**
Reporting Period:	August 2026 – October 2026
Staff Lead:	Lisa Duong, Operations Analyst, SGC

Recommended Action

Approval of Aug. 26, 2026, SGC Meeting Minutes.

SGC Aug. 26, 2026 – Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Chair Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:02 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

Tomiquia Moss, Secretary, California Housing and Homelessness Agency (CHHA)

Keali'I Bright (Designee), Undersecretary, on behalf of Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

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

Julia Kingsley (Designee), Deputy Secretary, on behalf of Secretary Toks Omishakin, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

Cori Lucero (Designee), Assistant Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Public Member

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

Nicole Capretz, Public Member (Virtual)

Council Members and Representatives Absent:

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

Quorum met; 9/10 members present

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes

Approval of Apr. 29, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Council Comment

No Council comment.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Motion passes (7-0-2*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Motion was made by Moss and seconded by Torres.

Agenda Item #4: Executive Director's Report

Erin Curtis, Executive Director, SGC

Deputy Secretary Jameson entered the meeting at 1:31 p.m. Quorum met; 10/10 members present; 9 members in-person.

Council Comment

Assefa: Noted how transformative it is to visit places impacted by the programs, seeing the outcome, and listening to the communities' perspective. Showed gratitude for LCI and SGC for continuing to convene with state agencies and partnerships to make these programs successful.

Bright: Acknowledged the complexity that went behind the grant process, relating to his experience at Department of Conservation (DOC) where he observed the staff working on the first rounds of Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grants.

Moss: Appreciated the highlight reel from April and congratulated the teams for all their work. Inquired about the objective of the Catalyst Convenings, if there is a geographic strategy.

Curtis mentioned the vast database of information collected from the Convenings and invited Adrienne Moretz, Special Advisor for Innovation and Partnerships for further explanation of the purpose of the Catalyst Convenings in different regions. Moretz cited the plans to present a summary and bring UC Berkeley's Possibility Lab to Council by end of the year. Moss thanked Moretz for the detailed response.

Capretz: Recognized the evolution of this agency since first sitting on the Council In 2018. Expressed interest in continuing as a champion for TCC, relating to her experience visiting a project in Watts.

Cárdenas: Congratulated the staff along with the peers and predecessors of the current administration. Expressed support for the team's decision in transitioning statewide Catalyst Conferences to regional convenings and mentioned opportunities to tee things up for the next

administration. Reiterated his desire to see the report in December Council to give the next administration inheriting this a guidepost as to where to move California in the next stage.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda Item #5: DISCUSSION

Regional Climate Collaborative Grantees: Successes and Lessons Learned from Collective Capacity Building

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

Deputy Secretary Izant left at 1:46 p.m. Quorum met; 9/10 members present; 8 members in-person.

Deputy Secretary Izant returned to meeting at 1:47 p.m. Quorum met; 10/10 members present; 9 members in-person.

Council Comment

Torres: Thanked the panel for sharing their inspiring stories. Mentioned the importance of building capacity and offering technical assistance in the programs at CHHS. Voiced his impression on how the panel members' teams were able to utilize the $8.3 million grant funding and receive a tenfold return in investment.

Kingsley: Appreciated hearing what communities are doing and the work being put in from the transportation perspective. Mentioned the projects around connectivity, transit, and active transportation are a huge part of regional improvement and community building.

Bright: Mentioned his experience working on capacity building programs at CNRA and DOC and appreciated the showing of the benefit of investment expanding over time across communities. Acknowledged the burden of not having enough support in accessible capacity needs and technical assistance for the application process.

Moss: Thanked the panel for the presentation and asked to hear more about the housing funding and if those resources were leveraged for housing projects. Stated that this continues to be a fundamental need in communities across the state.

Cárdenas: Echoed Moss's comments. Mentioned the Catalyst Convenings hosting many philanthropic people and suggested institutionalizing the proof of concept, fortifying relationships with philanthropy in the transition period to the next administration.

Assefa: Stated that the commonality of fundamental community infrastructure is partnerships, trust, leadership, and capacity.

Public Comment

Kory Hayden, Siskiyou County Economic Development Council

Josh Simmons, Tribal Energy and Climate Collaborative

Michael McCormick, Farallon Strategies

Meredith Lee, Capacity Building and Greenlining the Block

Agenda Item #6: INFORMATIONAL

Health in All Policies Update

Fabián Pérez-Gove, Program Manager for Health and Equity Program (HEP), SGC

Council Comment

Torres: Thanked HiAP for the partnership with CHHS for over 16 years, and looked forward to seeing the evaluation in December.

Public Comment

Lora O'Connor, Inspired Collaborations

Agenda Item #7: ACTION

Factory-Built Housing Program Round 3 Pilot Grant Recommendations

Sean Kennedy, Deputy Director of Energy Investments, SGC

Jin Zhang, Program Lead for Factory Built Housing Program (FBH), SGC

Secretary Moss left the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Quorum met; 9/10 members present; 8 members in-person.

Sasha Kergan (Designee), Undersecretary, CHHA, on behalf of Secretary Tomiquia Moss, assumed their role as designee at 3:36 p.m. Quorum met; 10/10 members present; 9 members in-person.

Chair Assefa left at 3:50 p.m. Quorum met; 9/10 members present; 8 members in-person.

Chair Assefa returned to the meeting at 3:51 p.m. Quorum met; 10/10 members present; 9 members in-person.

Council Comment

Moss: Appreciated the evolution of the work and the range and diversity that the team contemplated in the recommendations. Recognized the interest and oversubscription for the grant. Asked how the team arrived at the amount that they are now recommending and what they learned from the pilot of the program, to which Zhang gave a detailed explanation on how the team evaluated from different perspectives.

Assefa: Asked how the criteria specifically encouraged multiple different types of submissions for this grant and what the difference was from Rounds 2 and 3.

Kennedy referred to the market research the team conducted during the first two rounds to better understand the landscape across the state and led to a redesign in the program. He stated that the program has shifted away from giant factories to a more holistic ecosystem approach that brings together the regional coalitions addressing multiple barriers.

Cárdenas: Followed up with Kennedy's explanation and mentioned the many different participants involved, including private developers, universities, and community-based organizations proposing for the value chain of materials and timber.

Izant: Thanked the team for all their work and looked forward to seeing how these projects will get implemented.

Public Comment

Suzanne Devenport, Riverside County Partner (RCAC)

Craig Adelman, Mutual Housing

Emily Alvarez, Stopwaste

Hannah Tschudin, Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)

Henry Dotson, Dena Revitalization Network

Chris Bridge Ford, Integrity Custom Built

Vamsi Kumar Kotla, ReMo Homes

Ryan Blowers, ReMo Homes

Dana Cuff, cityLAB-UCLA

Frank Richards, Building Lives by Building Structure (BLBS)

Daniel Arroyo, ReMo Homes

Juan Bugarin, ReMo Homes

Patrick Kallerman, Bay Area Council

Derrick Martin, Tahoe Prosperity Center

Enrique Mutis, City of Anaheim Livability Lab

Motion passes (10-0-0*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Motion was made by Cárdenas and seconded by Lucero.

Agenda Item #8: Public Comment

No public comment.

Undersecretary Bright left the meeting at 4:06 p.m. Quorum met; 9/10 members present; 8 members in-person.

Agenda Item #9: Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.