



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

To: California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Members
From: Erin Curtis, SGC Executive Director
Re: **Executive Director Report to the Council – Aug. 26, 2026**

Staffing Updates

New Staff

- Mario Valadez – Resilient Community Associate Planner, Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities
- Melanie Robles – Summer Intern, supporting Connecting Communities
- Nima Enayati – Student Assistant, supporting Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

Departing Staff

- Joyce Tse – Resilience Community Associate Planner, Transformative Climate Communities
- Alex Kroll – CivicSpark Fellow, supporting Factory-Built Housing Pilot Program

Staff Milestones

- **State of Engagement Fellowship with UC Berkeley's Possibility Lab.** Fabian Perez-Gove, Health and Equity Program Manager, and Anna Jane Jones, Community Resilience Center Program Manager, were selected for the UC Berkeley Possibility Lab [State of Engagement Fellowship](#). The inaugural fellowship brings together leaders across state departments and agencies who are rethinking how government engages—through participatory policymaking, deeper community partnerships, and more responsive outreach. The year-long fellowship will strengthen cross-agency collaboration, learn what works best for the public from evidence and practice, and test new models of engagement alongside the Possibility Lab team.

Tribal-Specific Initiatives

Tribal Housing Capacity Building Initiative

Staff: Amar Cid, Hoi-Fei Mok, Ena Lupine, Nancy Cheng, Marc Caswell, and Sareena Rai

- Staff released Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Tribal Capacity Building Program and the Tribal Housing Pre-Development Program on May 11, 2026, with approximately \$27 million available. The Program Guidelines were approved at the April Council Meeting and incorporated feedback gathered through the 10 Key Informant Interviews which staff held in summer 2025. Staff organized application workshops on May 21 and May 28 and held bi-weekly office hours for prospective Tribal applicants. Applications for both programs closed on Aug. 11, 2026 and an interagency panel have been reviewing applications. SGC received more than 100 applications requesting more than \$175 million across both programs.
- Staff reviewed proposals from the Request for Information (RFI) for the Tribal Capacity Building Program and selected a proposal. The RFI was seeking responses from potential

partners, including technical assistance (TA) providers and Tribal serving organizations, regarding TA for the Tribal Capacity Building Program's upcoming Round 2 and broad Tribal engagement across SGC programs.

Tribal Capacity Building Program (Round 1)

Staff: Hoi-Fei Mok, Ena Lupine, and Nancy Cheng

- Staff continue to work closely with program technical assistance providers to support grantees' implementation of the first round of the Tribal Capacity Building Program. Staff completed the final grantee site visit on July 23, 2026, in Trinidad, CA with key staff attendance from California Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, State Coastal Conservancy, California Energy Commission, California Department of Housing and Community Development and California Department of Public Health. Staff released a [blog post](#), grantee profiles, and regular grantee highlights on social media in August.
- A SGC panel proposal highlighting the Tribal Capacity Building Program was accepted at the National Tribal Infrastructure Coordinating Conference in Reno, Nevada from Oct. 5-8, 2026. Staff are preparing for the conference panel.

Tribal Gap Analysis

Staff: Hoi-Fei Mok and Ena Lupine

- In partnership with the California Energy Commission, staff released the California Tribal Gap Analysis report on Feb. 13, 2026, which was prepared by a research team led by Prosper Sustainably LLC. The report offers extensive recommendations to strengthen the state's relationships with Tribes and enhance Tribes' preparedness to achieve climate goals. The report recommendations are based on extensive Tribal outreach and research from July 2020 to April 2022 to help the State of California identify Tribal priorities, needs, and barriers in the areas of clean energy and climate change adaptation and resilience. SGC and CEC staff are currently working together to assemble a State interagency committee to lead implementation of the recommendations in the report.

Investment Program Updates

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Marc Caswell, Lisette Anzoategui, Brianne Logasa, Ella Manashil, Mario Valadez, California Air Resources Board (CARB), and California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Staff

- The AHSC Program released its 2026 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on March 4, 2026, with approximately \$750 million available. Applications were due May 4, 2026. ASHC staff have been focused on project review, which will continue through November 2026.

- Since May, the AHSC Program has celebrated six milestones for AHSC-funded projects across the state, including five grand openings and groundbreakings and a dedication ceremony. Grand opening ceremonies were held for Colibri Commons in East Palo Alto and Santa Monica and Vermont TOD in Los Angeles. Groundbreaking celebrations were held for Villas in Red Bluff, Berryessa TOD in San Jose, and Mills Ranch in King City. Additionally, Middlefield Junction in Redwood City celebrated a dedication ceremony marking the grand opening of 179 affordable apartment homes. Combined, these six projects will create 798 affordable homes. The projects will also support eight new zero emission vehicles, five lane miles of new bus only lanes, 12.6 lane miles of new bikeways, and more than 33,000 new safe and accessible sidewalks. Collectively, these sustainability improvements are estimated to remove 150,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from California's air.

Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Nicole Cartwright, Sarah Newsham, Jess Ison, Chynell Freeman, Joyce Tse, Kiran Rao, Nathan Lee, and Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff

- TCC Round 6 applications opened on May 29. Pre-proposals for prospective Implementation Grants were due on June 30. We received 49 Pre-Proposals. All applications are due Sept. 30.
- TCC hosted a commemorative event for the closing of our Round 1 Implementation Grants in July, in partnership with the Housing Authority of City of Los Angeles (HACLA). The event celebrated the successes and lessons learned from all three Round 1 grantees; Ontario Together (City of Ontario), Transform Fresno (City of Fresno) and Watts Rising (HACLA).
- TCC staff released a Request for Information in July to gather input from the vendor community that will help us inform a potential future solicitation for Implementation Technical Assistance for Round 6 awardees.
- Staff have attended several site visits and community events including:
 - TCC staff attended a site tour hosted by the Tranquillity Resource Conservation District (Round 4, Planning Grantee) -- the Agricultural Economy of the Future Site Tour of the Bar20 Ranch. Bar20 Ranch is a state-of-the-art facility near Kerman, CA (west of Fresno) with a bio-circular and resilient agricultural system that uses cow manure to create power. Staff also had an opportunity to meet with members of the African American Farmers of California (AAFC) at their 17-acre small farm demonstration site to discuss the adoption of their first Carbon Farm Plan which will operate as a framework for the operation of their farm.
 - TCC staff attended a community tour hosted by GRID Alternatives LA of the city of Paramount in South LA. Staff was able to meet all the Partners on their Round 5 Planning Grant and engage in-depth about community plans for urban greening, public transportation, solar efficiency, and more. GRID LA is applying for a Project Development grant in Round 6.

- SGC Leadership and TCC staff attended a groundbreaking ceremony for Casa Sienna, a TCC-funded senior affordable housing development that is part of *Coachella Prospera* Round 5 TCC Implementation Grant to the City of Coachella. SGC Executive Director Erin Curtis gave remarks. The project will have 52 units and is located near a public transit hub, social services, public parks, medical facilities, financial institutions, a community center, post office, library, and other neighborhood-serving amenities.
- SGC Leadership and TCC staff attended a site visit for a Round 5 Project Development Grant to the County of Riverside. Staff toured the project sites and attended a meeting of the Collaborative Stakeholder Structure.
- Staff released a [blog post](#) on the impact of the TCC Program.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Karin Roux DOC, and DOC Staff

- SALC Round 11 opened Oct. 15, 2025, accepting funding requests for Conservation Acquisition and Land Use Planning grants. Each conservation acquisition proposal navigated a two-phased preproposal process and had to be approved to advance to submittal of an application. There were two application deadlines for conservation acquisitions – Round 11A due Jan. 15 and 11B due June 17; and two planned awards for acquisitions – 11A awarded in April 29 and 11B anticipated in October or December.
- Over the course of Round 11, a total of 87 Phase One preproposals were submitted. Of these, 73 were approved to submit a Phase Two preproposal. In total, 71 applications were submitted (27 for 11A, and 44 in R11B). Round 11A cohort was awarded at the April 29 Council meeting – \$45,546,467 to support 19 conservation easement and four fee title acquisitions encompassing 17,381 acres altogether.
 - For some early figures on Round 11B acquisitions: The 44 applications submitted for Round 11B cover 54,785 acres with a total request of \$137.1 million (\$137,130,856). This includes:
 - 36 conservation easement proposals at \$92.5 million;
 - Eight fee title proposals (one by a Tribal-serving organization and three; by California Native American Tribes) at \$44.6 million;
 - 24 proposals for irrigated lands at 7,732 acres, requesting \$67 million;
 - 18 proposals for grazing lands at 44,005 acres, requesting \$57 million;
 - One mixed use property at 2,488 acres, requesting \$4.6 million;
 - One proposal for cultural lands at 560 acres, requesting \$8.5 million.
- Five Land Use Planning applications were received with the Round 11B acquisition applications. The applicants consists of two California Native American Tribes, two Resource Conservation Districts, and one County government. Land Use Planning recommendations to the Council are anticipated in October or December.
- Staff reported six conservation easements and one fee title acquisition closing between April 1, 2026, and July 31, 2026. Together, these seven projects conserved 3,013 acres, including five irrigated farms: four in the Central Valley counties of Fresno, Stanislaus



and Tulare, and one in Monterey County. The irrigated farms provide a diversity of nutritional produce ranging from walnuts and almonds, to stone fruit and citrus, as well as tomatoes, artichokes, broccoli and other fruits and vegetables.

- The conservation easement on non-irrigated lands was an 1,170 acre grazing operation in Butte County that follows regenerative practices which contribute to carbon neutrality. This project was awarded priority population benefits to continue educational practices by offering the property as an outdoor classroom to local schools and organizations.
- The final and most recent acquisition is SALC's first funding of a fee title acquisition by a California Native American tribe – the purchase of 147 acres by the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay who will use the lands to honor their cultural heritage and promote sustainability through land stewardship. The Tribe has also committed to donating surplus produce to local food banks, addressing a critical community need.
- Between April 1 and July 31, 2026, SALC staff submitted 63 invoices totaling \$19,050,124, with \$17,682,000 being payments for six conservation acquisitions, and the remaining \$1,368,124 being payments for associated costs related to acquisition transactions, payments for capacity and project work (including final payments to close out many of the first cohort of Capacity awards from Round 8), and payments for planning work.

Community Resilience Centers (CRC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Anna Jane Jones, Dora Monterroza, Jessica Cervantes, Tiffany Rivera, Samantha Stewart, and Natalie McDonald

- The team worked on finalizing CRC Round 2 Application forms in Submittable. Planning Grant applications are open from July 2, 2026, through Sept. 4, 2026. Implementation Grant applications are open from July 2, 2026 through Sept. 25, 2026.
- The team entered into a local assistance contract with Charitable Ventures, Walking Shields and ICF. Together, these organizations are providing Application Technical Assistance (TA) to eligible applicants who submitted a request for TA before July 31, 2026.
- CRC Staff prepared training material and hosted two virtual training sessions with the TA Providers on June 25, 2026, and July 14, 2026. Additionally, the team currently hosts weekly meetings with the TA Providers to troubleshoot application specific questions.
- The CRC team is actively hosting four virtual, 90-minute Office Hours during the Round 2 application period. Sessions include July 20, Aug. 4, Aug. 24, and Sept. 14.
- CRC Staff are recruiting Interagency Agency Reviewers to help score and evaluate all grant proposals received; while simultaneously developing instructions and training materials for recruited reviewers.

Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)

Staff: Hoi-Fei Mok, Ena Lupine, Blanca Escobedo, Markie Price, and Nancy Cheng

- **Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) Program:** Staff continues to support RCC grantees through the implementation of their third year of the grant. Staff hosted a networking breakfast for RCC and other SGC grantees at the California Climate and Energy Collaborative (CCEC) Forum on June 25, 2026. At the breakfast 1 – 2 representatives from each collaborative had the opportunity to engage with other SGC grantees and CCEC Forum attendees about their work. RCC grantees will be presenting about their lessons learned on a panel at the August SGC Council meeting as well as at the Annual Urban Sustainability Directors Network Conference in January 2027.
- **BOOST:** Following the Imperial Valley Civic Ecosystem Initiative (IVCEI) funder call that SGC and Freedman Consulting LLC hosted on Feb. 24, staff have been following up with funders to provide one-on-one briefings on the program and to allow funders more opportunities to engage in dialogue with our implementation partner, the Institute for Local Government (ILG), on the day-to-day operations and impact of the BOOST Imperial Valley initiative. SGC committed \$50K for a contract with ILG to continue implementing the BOOST Program through 2028. SGC released its fourth quarterly newsletter “Imperial Impact: Interagency & Partnership Highlights” in August, which provides updates on state initiatives and their impact on the Imperial Valley and the broader Salton Sea region.
- **Interagency Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Work Group:** The CACE team facilitates a regular interagency work group to share best practices across agencies related to offering technical assistance and capacity building support to California communities. The most recent bimonthly work group meeting was on Aug. 20, 2026, and featured a presentation on local and regional technical assistance initiatives led by the City of Richmond and the Central California Rural Regional Energy Network.
- **Interagency Advance Pay Convening:** Deputy Director Hoi-Fei Mok facilitated the quarterly Interagency Advance Pay Convening on Aug. 4, 2026 with support from the CACE team. A speaker from the Franchise Tax Board presented on resources for non-profits seeking tax-exempt status, followed by breakout room discussion.

Collaborative Policy Initiatives

Health and Equity Program (HEP)

Staff: Hoi-Fei Mok, Fabián Pérez-Gove, Michael Jimenez, and Mahima Ali

Health in All Policies (HiAP)

Staff: SGC partners with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to staff the HiAP Task Force. The Task Force brings together over 30 agencies, departments, and commissions to integrate health into programs and policies that advance state priorities.

- **HiAP Task Force Quarterly Convening in Sacramento.** HEP and CDPH hosted a HiAP Quarterly Convening on June 10 in Sacramento. The convening featured presentations by CDPH staff on California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Public Health Topical Report and by the Equity and Wellness Institute on the new HiAP Grant and Contract Evaluation Tool.
- **HiAP Grant and Contract Evaluation Tool Website Launch:** HiAP developed the [HiAP Grant & Contract Evaluation Tool](#), to support state staff who provide funding opportunities to the public and ensure that internal grant and contracting processes benefit all Californians. The tool is available for State practitioners and the public on the SGC website. The tool includes a worksheet (available by request) that programs can use to evaluate their current grant and contracting efforts.
- **HiAP Presentation at the Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Meeting:** HEP's Program Manager presented to the Office of Health Equity (OHE) Advisory Committee on May 19 in Sacramento. The presentation included updates on HiAP's work in 2026 and opened a discussion on future HiAP priorities in 2027. HiAP will now provide regular updates during the Advisory Committee meetings and will continue its engagement efforts with the group to expand on the range of input during HiAP's decision-making processes. Updates and collaboration between the HiAP Task Force and CDPH OHE align with [California Health and Safety Code Section 131019.5](#).
- **HEP Represents California HiAP Task Force at Pan American Health Office (PAHO) Intersectoral Experts Meeting on Health, in Bogota, Colombia.** HEP's Program Analyst attended a meeting of HiAP experts May 25 – 28, 2026, in Bogota, Colombia. The Pan American Health Organization (of the World Health Organization) brought together representatives from more than 20 health agencies to provide input on the Monitoring Framework for Intersectoral Action/Health in All Policies. HEP shared best practices and models from California's HiAP initiatives and continues to participate in the framework's development.
- **Capital Collaborative for Race and Equity (CCORE) Transformative Leadership Cohort (TLC) with the State of Equity.** HEP's Program Analyst is participating in this year's CCORE TLC Training Cohort. The CCORE Transformative Leadership Cohort (TLC) is a five-month cohort designed for government employees on leading sustainable change within teams, collaborating with other public agencies, and engaging effectively with the public to better serve all Californians. The cohort includes participants from state agencies and throughout the country to promote collaboration and share best practices.

Natural and Working Lands

Agricultural Land Equity Initiative (ALEI)

Staff: Sean Kennedy, Camille Frazier, and Tessa Salzman

- Following a competitive selection process, ALEI staff are executing two \$500,000 local assistance contracts through the Agricultural Land Access Technical Assistance Partners Program, a one-time funding opportunity that is part of California Climate Investments. Partners will provide technical assistance to advance secure land access in California for

producing food, fiber, medicine, or cultural resources. An agreement with California FarmLink to provide technical assistance to historically underserved farmers and ranchers began on July 1, 2026 and will continue through June 30, 2028. Staff are in the final stages of securing a second Partner to provide technical assistance to California Native American Tribes and Tribal land stewards.

Connecting Communities

Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund (PPMF) Development

Staff: Adrienne Moretz, Health and Equity Program team

- PPMF is a vital component of California’s Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (SB 54). It represents a fundamental shift in how California addresses the environmental and health impacts of plastic waste, moving the responsibility for pollution cleanup from the public to producers of single-use plastic materials.
- Beginning in July 2027, California will receive \$500 million annually over ten years from plastic producers. This \$5 billion total investment will be dedicated to repairing ecosystems and protecting the health of all Californians.
- The law requires that funding is allocated to ensure those most affected by pollution see the greatest benefit from the fund. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, 60% of the funding must be directed toward monitoring and reducing the historical and current environmental justice and public health impacts of plastics, of which 75% must directly and primarily benefit disadvantaged or low-income communities or rural areas. SGC is named as an implementing agency in this portion of the fund, along with the Department of Justice and SGC Council agencies California Environmental Protection Agency and California Natural Resources Agency.
- The interagency PPMF team is conducting outreach throughout the summer to inform the development of the Fund.
 - Recent Outreach and Engagement Opportunities
 - Tuesday, May 26, 2026 – Tribal Roundtable hosted by the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
 - Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – Tribal Roundtable hosted by Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
 - Wednesday, June 17, 2026 – Community roundtable in Modesto, featuring Valley Improvement Projects
 - Tuesday, July 30, 2026 – Community roundtable in South Los Angeles, featuring USC and SCOPE LA
 - Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026 – Community roundtable (virtual), featuring LA Environmental Justice Network and Del Amo Action Committee
 - Upcoming Outreach and Engagement Opportunities
 - Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026 – Tribal Roundtable hosted by Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
 - Other ways to engage



- Online survey, FAQ, and email distribution list:
<https://calepa.ca.gov/programs/sb54ppmf/>

Technical Assistance

Staff: Adrienne Moretz, Blanca Escobedo

- SGC closed out its federal technical assistance contract June 30, 2026 but will continue to share available resources, tools, and trainings to communities who are applying to non-state funds.

Regional Convenings

Staff: Adrienne Moretz, Blanca Escobedo, Melissa Moyce, Melanie Robles

- SGC Connecting Communities team, with LCI, are planning for two additional Catalyst Convenings across the state in the coming months. Recent Convenings took place in the Sacramento area for the Sacramento Valley and Sierra Nevada regions.
 - North Coast Region: Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026 in Eureka, CA
 - Inland Deserts Region: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026 in Palm Springs, CA
- The Convenings are a continuation of the commitments made at the 2023 and 2024 Catalyst Conferences and are planned in coordination with UC Berkeley's Possibility Lab and the California Climate and Energy Collaborative.
- The goals of the Convenings are to:
 - Exchange knowledge, best practices, and successes about community-driven climate, energy, and land use efforts
 - Connect directly with state representatives and regional assistance providers to learn about and better leverage available resources, upcoming grant programs, technical assistance and capacity building programs, active engagement opportunities, and more
 - Understand the region's priorities and co-create a set of regional and state focused policy actions, to guide SGC's strategic planning and work
- Participant-generated policy actions and next steps will be shared with SGC at the conclusion of all Convenings.

Energy Investments

Factory-Built Housing (FBH) Regional Pilot Program

Staff: Sean Kennedy, Jin Zhang, and Alex Kroll

- Applications for the Regional FBH Pilot Program Catalyst and Planning Grants closed on Tuesday, May 5 at 11:59PM. The Program received 65 applications across both Grant Types (37 Catalyst, 28 Planning). All 65 applicants underwent a multi-stage review conducted by FBH Program Staff, a Technical Assistance Provider, and an Interagency Review Panel.
- The review process included three distinct phases:
 - 1) *Completeness Check and Program Threshold Review*: TA provider and Program Staff reviewed all submitted application materials for completeness and conducted initial threshold reviews per the Guidelines. Applicants were notified



if their applications were incomplete and given 10 business days to resubmit any missing information flagged by FBH staff. After resubmission, 55 applications were complete and passed program threshold review, advancing to interagency review.

- 2) *Interagency Review*: FBH R3's Interagency Review Panel consisted of 16 reviewers representing the following State agencies: California Air Resources Board (CARB), Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI), and SGC. Reviewers scored proposals using the scoring rubric developed by program staff and the criteria listed in the FBH guidelines.
- 3) *Interviews (Planning Grant Applicants Only)*: After the Interagency Review, staff conducted 30-minute interviews with the top 10 Planning Grant applicants, all of whom scored 80 points or higher in that review. Each interview included four standardized questions to better understand the project's vision, alignment with program goals and objectives, and potential for long-term impact.
- Staff ultimately recommends awarding \$10 million to support a portfolio of 10 factory-built housing projects (five Planning Grants and five Catalyst Grants) in the Aug. 26 Council Meeting, that includes a diverse range of project types that together, aim to serve urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal communities across various regions across the state. Additional information and summaries of proposals recommended for award are included in the August 26 meeting materials. Staff finalized and executed a Technical Assistance contract with UC Berkeley's Turner Center for Housing Innovation and Turner Labs to work with Grantees and unawarded applicants during Program Implementation phase.
- Staff continues to develop grant administration materials, such as: grant management manual, grant agreements, invoicing templates, guidance documents, and more.

Energy Investments

Staff: Sean Kennedy and Melissa Moyce

- On May 6, Energy Policy Specialist Melissa Moyce organized a Student Research Presentation Day featuring spring-semester projects hosted across SGC-LCI. Graduate student teams presented research and findings to SGC-LCI leadership and program staff, supporting the agency's analytical capacity and ongoing partnerships with academic institutions.
- Staff supervised a graduate capstone project led by Sofia Magallón (UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy), who conducted a landscape assessment of climate and energy grant programs available to California communities. Energy Policy Specialist Melissa Moyce facilitated project scoping, coordinated interviews with state agencies, and supported analysis throughout the spring semester. Sofi presented her findings to SGC-LCI staff on May 6, 2026.
- On May 20, Deputy Director of Energy Investments, Sean Kennedy, participated in the first annual California Mass Timber Conference, hosted by the Berkeley Wood Lab at the

Richmond Field Station. The Conference celebrated successes and the future of mass timber sourced, manufactured, designed, engineered and built in California.

- On June 23, Deputy Director of Energy Investments, Sean Kennedy co-facilitated the quarterly [State-local Energy & Climate Coordination](#) (SLECC) meeting in Los Angeles. SLECC meetings serve as a statewide communication and ideation hub to help State and local leaders improve coordinated efforts to more rapidly unlock the unique potential of California regions and communities to address energy and climate goals. Energy Policy Specialist Melissa Moyce also presented a session focused on “Findings, Priorities, and Opportunities” and supported facilitation of a mix of interactive discussions, including regional breakouts, and roundtable input opportunities.
- In July 2026, staff began development of the SGC Community Investment Analysis, a cross-program data effort led by Energy Policy Specialist Melissa Moyce in collaboration with LCI’s Data Team. The project combines funded and unfunded application data with insights gathered through Catalyst Convenings and SLECC to surface statewide patterns in community priorities and project readiness. Work to date includes cross-program data cleaning, establishing a shared schema, and initial mapping. The final report, anticipated in early 2027, will provide an assessment of statewide community priorities, unmet funding needs, and regional project clusters.
- Staff have been working to improve cross-program data consistency and applicant experience within SGC’s Submittable system. Between June and August 2026, Energy Policy Specialist Melissa Moyce collaborated with LCI’s Data Team, Submittable representatives, and SGC program staff to review existing application structures and begin developing a set of common fields and data standards that could support clearer application design and easier information retrieval.

News Media Clips

SGC

- [“How Fire Saves Giant Sequoias”](#) (Newsy Today, July 26, 2026) The research team included scientists from UC Davis, the U.S. Geological Survey’s Western Ecological Research Center, and the Division of Resources Management and Science at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Financial support for the project came from the NASA Land Cover and Land Use Change Program, the California Strategic Growth Council, and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.
- [“SF supes approve lease terms for LGBTQ senior housing project”](#) (Bay Area Reporter, July 22, 2026) Last December, the California Strategic Growth Council awarded a \$47.6 million grant to the new housing project.
- [“Locally offered scholarships brighten graduates’ futures”](#) (BenitoLink, June 17, 2026) From there, she served on the California Strategic Growth Council, worked at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Environmental Protection Agency, and led the design of a \$2 billion initiative to direct resources to the most marginalized communities in the U.S.

- [“Nevada County’s American Legion Frank Gallino Post 130 keeps on bowling”](#) (YubaNet, May 1, 2026) The project is funded by a \$10 million grant from the California Strategic Growth Council.
- [“GoSGV Program to Distribute \\$2000 E-Bike Vouchers to SGV Residents”](#) (EVShift, April 30, 2026) Funding comes from the California Transportation Commission, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Metro (via Metro 10 Freeway ExpressLanes toll revenue), and the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC).

AHSC

- [“Inside the Fight for the Future of California’s Climate Dollars”](#) (KQED, Aug. 3, 2026) The project received \$29 million from the state’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, which uses money in the climate fund to build affordable housing near transit.
- [“California’s climate funding priorities put transit, affordable housing programs at risk”](#) (CapRadio, July 27, 2026) The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program is one of several that uses state climate dollars to support projects connecting affordable housing with public transit and pedestrian infrastructure. The program has [awarded billions of dollars](#) across the state since it launched in 2014.
- [“Pasadena Will Put Five Years of Collision Counts Before Residents at Tonight’s Greenways Meeting”](#) (Pasadena Now, July 27, 2026) A State of California Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities award funds a temporary “quick-build” demonstration on Craig Avenue, and the city reports a federal Safe Streets and Roads for All agreement for a similar deployment on El Molino Avenue was executed this spring.
- [“CHISPA breaks ground on affordable housing project in King City”](#) (King City Rustler, July 22) Monterey Bay Economic Partnership also supported the project through the Monterey Bay Housing Trust, which provided a \$680,000 predevelopment loan in 2021 to help acquire the property. MBEP also helped secure \$11.7 million through the state’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Grant Program.
- [“State gives Mountain View \\$50M for housing, transit projects”](#) (San Jose Spotlight, July 15, 2026) Last year, the city applied for the funding through the state’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. The initiative seeks to integrate affordable housing near transit.
- [“Downtown Stockton debuts safer, more connected East Channel Streetscape”](#) (Stockton Record, July 13, 2026) Funding for the project came from the Active Transportation Program, the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, City of Stockton, San Joaquin Council of Governments, Measure K, and the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program.
- [“43 affordable homes planned for Eureka are closer to breaking ground with \\$1.29 million”](#) (Times Standard, July 7, 2026) RCHDC has already secured approximately \$12 million-\$13 million in Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities funding for Parcel 1.



- [“El Cerrito Plaza Lot Traded for 70 Affordable Homes Beside BART”](#) (Hoodline, June 27, 2026) The Strategic Growth Council says the project launched with a 39.1 million dollar Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) award that will help pay for construction and related active-transportation upgrades.
- [“California Tribes Land Nearly \\$30 Million As Windsor Housing Project Snags Big Backing”](#) (Hoodline, June 24, 2026) The project has already secured a \$19.9 million award through the state’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, and town filings detail the site layout, unit mix and office plans, according to Town of Windsor project documents.
- [“Sacramento-area climate programs face uncertain future amid Cap-and-Invest changes”](#) (The Sacramento Bee, June 18, 2026) Cap-and-Invest revenue has also funded affordable housing and transportation projects through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program.
- [“San Jose Spotlight: California Streamlines Affordable Housing Funding”](#) (Bay City News Service, June 5, 2026) The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program will also be overseen by the finance committee.
- [“Construction to begin on Oxnard 88-unit affordable housing project”](#) (Ventura County Star, June 5, 2026) The nonprofit received a \$1.1 million loan from the Housing Trust Fund Ventura County in December 2022 to purchase the land and a \$31.6 million grant from the California Department of Housing and Community Development’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program.
- [“After heated debate, California updates key climate limit. Critics say it’s a retreat”](#) (LA Times, May 29, 2026) While the Air Resources Board does not determine how the fund is divvied up — that’s the Legislature — opponents warned that this could amount to significant cuts for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, the SAFER drinking water program and the Community Air Protection Program, among many others that rely on revenue from cap-and-invest.
- [“Groundbreaking held for affordable housing development in Red Bluff”](#) (Action News Now, May 20, 2026) The project carries a \$23 million price tag funded through California’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program.
- [“Downtown Affordable Project Secures Major Funding”](#) (Santa Monica Lookout, May 19, 2026) That brings the total funding to nearly \$71.6 million after the project received a \$35 million loan award last December from the State’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC).
- [“California Targets Housing Crisis with New Affordable Unit Developments”](#) (Davis Vanguard, May 18, 2026) According to the governor’s office, the projects in Union City, Redwood City, Oakland and Coachella are being developed near public transportation, schools and community resources, with funding support from California Climate Investments and the state’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program.
- [“SoMa affordable housing project to provide dozens of new units”](#) (Newsbreak, May 8, 2026) In August 2024, The City secured \$70.9 million in funding from the state’s



Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, which awards projects focused on affordable housing, environmental restoration, public transportation and renewable energy.

- [“Infrastructure upgrades coming to busy Myrtletown corridor”](#) (Times Standard, May 4, 2026) The project received funding from the state through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities, which included funding for public improvement.
- [“How Southern California churches are turning unused land into affordable housing”](#) (Daily Breeze, May 3, 2026) Developer National CORE, which received a \$25.4 million Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant for Legacy Square, oversees residential placement and programming.
- [“Newsom Announces New Affordable Housing Projects in Los Angeles and San Francisco”](#) (Davis Vanguard, May 3, 2026) The all-electric development is supported in part by more than \$41 million from the state’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program and includes transit-related infrastructure improvements.
- [“California unlocks climate cash to fast-track homes near transit hubs”](#) (Golden Gate Media, May 1, 2026) Backed by more than \$41 million from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, the project will feature all-electric construction alongside bike lanes, transit signals, and upgraded bus infrastructure.
- [“Ribbon Cutting Celebrates New Mixed-Use Affordable Housing at Vermont/Santa Monica Metro Station”](#) (StreetsBlog LA, April 30, 2026) With state Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) funding, the project improves transit, with new DASH buses, bus shelters, sidewalks, crosswalks, and more.

CRC

- [“El Centro Approves Strategic Growth Council Grant Application”](#) (Calexico Chronicle, Aug. 5, 2026) During its meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 4, the El Centro City Council unanimously approved the submission of a \$10 million grant application for the California Strategic Growth Council Community Resilience Centers Program Implementation Grant.
- [“Santa Rosa nonprofit says PG&E is standing in way of cooling center project”](#) (Santa Rosa Press Democrat, July 21, 2026) The grant comes from the state agency’s Community Resilience Centers program, which funds the creation of local facilities that serve as safe shelters during climate disasters or other emergencies.
- [“Tuolumne County - Two Biomass Facilities Part of Community and Watershed Resilience Program”](#) (Forest Policy Pub, July 1, 2026) The grant comes from the state agency’s Community Resilience Centers program, which funds the creation of local facilities that serve as safe shelters during climate disasters or other emergencies.

RCC

- [“Governor Newsom’s first-in-the-nation California Jobs First initiative funds rural business innovation hub in Yreka”](#) (Governor's Office, June 18, 2026) The project was backed by \$3.65 million in state funding, comprised of \$2.15 million from the Regional Investment Initiative, the state’s flagship Jobs First program that is driving a new



approach to local economic development, and \$1.5 million from the California Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) Regional Climate Collaboratives Program.

SALC

- [“Yolo Land Trust Urges Protection of Funding for Farmland Conservation”](#) (West Sacramento News Ledger, June 23, 2026) Proposed reductions to funding for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program threaten future opportunities to permanently conserve working farms and ranches across the state.
- [“Yolo Land Trust urges for protected funding for farmland conservation”](#) (Daily Democrat, June 23, 2026) According to a Yolo Land Trust press release, proposed funding reductions for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program threaten future opportunities to permanently conserve working farms and ranches across the state.
- [“SLO County was home to the largest abalone farm in U.S. Can ytt Tribe revive it?”](#) (SLO Tribune, June 6, 2026) As of Wednesday, ytt Tribe had raised almost \$8.2 million — including a \$7 million grant from California's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, according to the GoFundMe.
- [“California Charts Smarter Path to Support Farmers and Ranchers While Maintaining Food Safety and Clean Water”](#) (Morning AgClips, June 5, 2026) The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) invests funding from California's Cap-and-Invest system to protect critical agricultural lands that are at risk of conversion to more energy intensive uses. These efforts support agricultural and Tribal food systems and soil health, and help sequester climate change-causing emissions.
- [“California Unveils Sweeping Roadmap to Cut Red Tape for Farmers While Protecting Water, Food Safety”](#) (Newsbreak, June 5, 2026) The announcement comes as California continues investing in long-term agricultural sustainability through programs such as the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, Farm to School initiatives, and the Healthy Soils Program.
- [“California charts smarter path to support farmers and ranchers while maintaining food safety and clean water”](#) (Governor's Office, June 4, 2026) The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) invests funding from California's Cap-and-Invest system to protect critical agricultural lands that are at risk of conversion to more energy intensive uses.
- [“California charts smarter path to support farmers and ranchers while maintaining food safety and clean water”](#) (Global Environment Watch, June 4, 2026) The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) invests funding from California's Cap-and-Invest system to protect critical agricultural lands that are at risk of conversion to more energy intensive uses. These efforts support agricultural and Tribal food systems and soil health, and help sequester climate change-causing emissions.
- [“New cap-and-invest rules approved for dairies, food processors and climate-smart ag grants”](#) (Agri-pulse, June 1, 2026) For farms and ranches, the broader concern is whether more allowance value going to utilities and industry will mean less money for



programs like the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program and climate-smart agriculture grants.

- [“Salinas Valley News Briefs”](#) (King City Rustler, May 15, 2026) The funding was part of more than \$45.5 million approved April 29 through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program to permanently protect 17,381 acres of croplands and rangelands across 16 California counties.
- [“Sierra Harvest joins forces to create centralized 'Farm and Ag Resource Center' in Grass Valley”](#) (The Union, May 13, 2026) This action plan to protect at-risk agricultural lands in Nevada County is funded by the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program through the California Department of Conservation.
- [“Sierra Harvest Joins Forces to Create Centralized “Farm and Ag Resource Center” in Grass Valley”](#) (Yuba Net, May 7, 2026) This action plan to protect at-risk agricultural lands in Nevada County is funded by the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program through the California Department of Conservation.
- [“California Approves \\$45.5 Million to Protect 17,381 Acres of Farmland and Rangeland Across 16 Counties”](#) (Edhat, May 7, 2026) The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has approved more than \$45.5 million in Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program grants to permanently protect 17,381 acres of croplands and rangelands across 16 counties.
- [“Grant helps save farmland in San Benito County”](#) (San Benito Freelance, May 6, 2026) The grants are funded by the California Strategic Growth Council in collaboration with the Department of Conservation, through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.
- [“700 acres of Monterey County farmland to be preserved”](#) (East Bay Times, May 1, 2026) The funds to conserve local ag land are part of more than \$45.5 million in grants from the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation. Across California these grants will permanently protect 17,381 acres of croplands and rangelands across 16 counties.
- [“Solano County to host public agriculture meeting”](#) (The Reporter, April 29, 2026) The initiative is funded by a grant from the California Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program in collaboration with the California Department of Conservation. The program is part of California Climate Investments, which uses Cap-and-Trade funds to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support economic, public health, and environmental benefits.
- [“Agricultural Land Trust awarded state funding to protect local lands”](#) (Benito Link, April 29, 2026) In collaboration with the Department of Conservation, the California Strategic Growth Council supported the permanent conservation of these two projects with a grant through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.
- [“17,000 acres of land across CA now permanently protected”](#) (Your Central Valley, April 29, 2026) The conservation effort is part of more than \$45.5 million in Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program grants approved by the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC). They say the move is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 1,305,268 metric tons of carbon dioxide, equivalent to removing 304,461 gas-powered cars from the road for one year.



TCC

- [“The Greenlining Institute Responds to California May Revise Budget Proposal”](#) (The Greenlining Institute, May 29, 2026) We appreciate that the May Revise maintains proposed Prop 4 investments for key community climate programs, including Transformative Climate Communities and Community Resilience Centers. But taken as a whole, the proposal still misses a larger opportunity. Equity-centered programs are not optional while communities face overlapping crises. These are exactly the kinds of investments a responsible budget should protect.
- [“California Targets Housing Crisis with New Affordable Unit Developments”](#) (Davis Vangaurd, May 18, 2026) The project received \$7.7 million from the state’s Transformative Climate Communities Program and is being developed by Chelsea Investment Corporation.
- [“Governor Newsom celebrates more than 380 new affordable homes coming to the Bay Area and Coachella Valley”](#) (Governor’s Office, May 15, 2026) The development is one of nine community-led projects and plans funded by a \$22.1 million grant from the TCC Program, all of which fall under the Coachella Prospera initiative.
- [“Gov. Newsom Touts New Affordable Housing in Coachella”](#) (My News LA, May 15, 2026) Funding for the facility was provided in part by \$7.7 million from the state’s Transformative Climate Communities grant program.
- [“Ground to be Broken for Casa Sienna Senior Housing”](#) (Uken Report, May 14, 2026) Casa Sienna part of the Coachella Prospera project, funded by the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Grant Program, provided by the California Strategic Growth Council and managed by the California Department of Conservation.
- [“RivCo Officials to Break Ground on Affordable Senior Housing Community”](#) (Patch, May 14, 2026) The housing project, an initiative of Coachella Prospera, was funded by a Transformative Climate Communities grant program, Deferred Impact Fee loan and Community Facilities District loan provided by the city among other institutions and partners.
- [“Coachella Breaks Ground on First Affordable Senior Housing Complex”](#) (Newsbreak May 14, 2026) The \$38 million development was funded in part through a more than \$22 million Transformative Climate Communities grant, a California program focused on supporting underserved communities impacted by pollution and climate-related challenges.
- [“Q&A: Meet Martha Abraham, candidate for San Diego City Council in District 4”](#) (San Diego Tribune, May 7, 2026) Apply California’s Transformative Climate Communities impacted program model to empower communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies and projects to create climate resilience in their neighborhoods.
- [“The Streamline: San Diego residents get chance to weigh in on proposed city budget cuts”](#) (ABC San Diego, May 4, 2026) The Environmental Health Coalition had planned to use a \$20 million federal grant to turn an empty lot off Boston Avenue into a 3.2-acre community park — but that money was suddenly frozen in early 2025. Now, California’s Transformative Climate Communities Program is stepping in to close the gap.



- [“Barrio Logan's park project moves forward after securing new state funding”](#) (ABC San Diego, May 3, 2026) That new funding is coming from the state, through California’s Transformative Climate Communities program, which invests in projects in underserved neighborhoods.
- [“Pasadena, Altadena Residents Eligible for \\$2,000 Electric Cargo Bike Vouchers”](#) (Pasadena Now, April 29, 2026) The program is funded by three grants: a Regional Early Action Planning grant from the Southern California Association of Governments, a Metro grant funded by Interstate 10 Express Lanes toll revenue, and a Transformative Climate Communities grant from the California Strategic Growth Council, according to the SGVCO.

