California Strategic Growth Council

To: California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Members
From: Erin Curtis, SGC Executive Director
Re: **Executive Director Report to the Council – Oct. 28, 2026**

Staffing Updates

New Staff

- Nikita Sinha – Resilient Community Associate Planner, Community Resilience Centers
- Amaka Okam – Executive Fellow, supporting SGC Leadership and Connecting Communities
- Rowena Bush – Resilient Community Associate Planner, Transformative Climate Communities
- Vannesa Reyes-Salazar – Resilient Community Associate Planner, Transformative Climate Communities
- Marin Plut – CivicSpark Fellow, supporting Factory-Built Housing Program

Staff Transition

- Sean Kennedy – After 4.5 years at SGC, Sean has been appointed Deputy Secretary of Housing Policy at the California Housing and Homelessness Agency. Congratulations!

Tribal-Specific Initiatives

Tribal Housing Capacity Building Initiative

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

- Staff will bring recommended awardees to the October Council Meeting for the Tribal Housing Pre-Development Fund and the Tribal Capacity Building Program. Applications for both programs closed on Aug. 11, 2026, and an interagency panel reviewed applications. SGC received more than 100 applications requesting more than $170 million across both programs.
- Deputy Directors Hoi-Fei Mok and Amar Cid and staff attended the National Tribal Infrastructure Coordination Conference and facilitated a panel and presentation highlighting statewide efforts to strengthen tribal capacity and community investment. SGC staff facilitated the panel titled “Supporting Climate Resilience and Capacity Building for California Native American Tribes” alongside SGC grantees from the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

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 held a peer learning session with grantees on Sept. 17 in which grantees shared how they have built capacity through this program and how they plan to sustain it. The session included two grantee presentations and a round-robin discussion among the entire cohort.

Tribal Gap Analysis

Staff: Hoi-Fei Mok and Ena Lupine

- In partnership with the California Energy Commission (CEC), 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 and anticipate holding the first meeting of the committee in November 2026.

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 with tentative awards at the December Council Meeting.
- Since Aug. 26, the AHSC Program has celebrated milestones for six AHSC-funded projects across California, including grand openings and groundbreakings. Grand openings were held for Casa Roseland, Dos Rios Light Rail Station, Sen Lake, and Pacific Station North. One groundbreaking took place at The Hunter House, and an additional milestone is scheduled for Liberation Park on Oct. 29. Combined, these six projects will create 594 affordable homes and introduce a brand-new light rail station. The projects will also support nine new zero-emission vehicles, 10.7 lane miles of new bikeways, and over 12,400 linear feet of new or improved safe and accessible sidewalks. Collectively, these sustainability improvements are estimated to remove 120,928 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, Kiran Rao, Nathan Lee, and Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff

- TCC Round 6 applications opened on May 29. All applications were due Sept. 30.
    - TCC staff are conducting completeness checks and threshold reviews.
    - We received 61 applications total across the three grant types.
        - TCC received 19 Planning Grant applications, with nearly $6.9 million in total funding requested.

        - TCC received 20 Project Development Grant applications, with more than $87 million in total funding requested.
        - TCC received 22 Implementation Grant applications, with nearly $548 million in total funding requested.
        - Across the grant types, 23 applications are from lead applicants that are disadvantaged unincorporated communities and eight lead applicants that are California Native American Tribes.
    - All applications received a total of about $641 million in requested funding, more than six times oversubscribed.
- The following grants closed:
    - Allensworth Progressive Association, a Round 4 Planning Grant of $300,000, completed their grant on Aug. 31, 2026.
    - The City of Riverside, which received a Round 3 Implementation Grant of $9.1 million, completed its grant on Sept. 30, 2026. City of Riverside, in partnership with the Transformative Climate Communities and GIS Tree Plotter Project, were recently recognized during New York Climate Week by Climate Mayors as part of their national "Stories of Impact" challenge in the Nature Based Solutions category.
    - The City of Oakland, which received a Round 3 Implementation Grant of $28.2 million, will complete its grant on Oct. 31, 2026.
- Staff have attended several site visits and community events including:
    - TCC staff attended the Sierra Nevada and North Coast Catalyst Convenings.
    - TCC Program Manager moderated a panel at the California Energy Commission's Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Symposium on Sept. 29. In administering EPIC, the CEC funds research, development, and demonstrations of clean energy technologies and approaches that will benefit electricity ratepayers of California's three largest investor-owned electric utilities and lead to technological advancement and breakthroughs to overcome the barriers that prevent the achievement of the state's statutory energy goals. This program is funded by California utility customers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.
    - TCC staff met with the County of San Diego, a Round 4 Planning grantee, to discuss reflections on closing of the grant as well as Round 6 funding.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Karin Roux Department of Conservation (DOC), and DOC Staff

- DOC staff will be providing recommendations for SALC Round 11B Conservation Acquisition grants and Land Use Planning Grants at the December Council Meeting.
- In September, DOC staff invited all SALC Round 11 applicants to two Office Hours sessions and requested feedback on their experience with the two-phased pre-proposal process and two awards per year. Based on this feedback, the experiences of SALC staff, and impact on overall program management, SALC staff will be making changes to the preproposal and application process for Round 12. The revised process, revised pre-

proposal and application forms, and timeline for Round 12 will be published on the SALC website in November. We anticipate publishing the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Round 12, complete with available funding, on the SALC website following the December Council Meeting.

- Between Aug. 1, 2026, and Sept. 30, 2026, staff reported three conservation easements closing, conserving 12,100 acres. These include:
    - A 6,625-acre cattle ranch in Humboldt County that supports a cow-calf grazing operation and forestlands managed for sustainable timber production, intersected by over five miles of the South Fork of the Eel River, which empties into the Pacific Ocean just south of Humboldt Bay. The nearby low-income community of Benbow relies on drinking water obtained directly from the same branch of the Eel River that flows through the property. In this way, protection of this ranch provides a benefit to a priority population.
    - A 5,260-acre cattle ranch in Shasta County with spring-irrigated pastures for hay production and summer grazing. This ranch in particular offers tremendous value to the local community as a designated wildfire evacuation area for livestock and travel trailers. The ranch also hosts educational opportunities for firefighters and residents of the local low-income community which increases job readiness and workforce training for a priority population area; and secures long-term land tenure to a rancher who is a veteran.
    - A 217-acre farm in northern Solano County along the southern boundaries of the City of Davis and Yolo County. Approximately 77% of the property is composed of prime agricultural soils, another 20% prime if drained. Cattle graze on a 42-acre portion, and irrigated crops are rotated on about 170 acres: tomatoes, bell peppers, wheat, and sunflowers. Putah Creek runs through the northern edge of the property and the associated riparian area contributes to habitat for Swainson's hawks seen around the property. This riparian area is a continuation of the adjacent protected Putah Creek Parkway Greenbelt, which is managed by the City of Davis and recognized for protecting critical wildlife habitat.
- Between Aug. 1 and Sept. 30, 2026, SALC staff submitted 39 invoices totaling $10.1 million, including $9.5 million in payments for the three conservation easement acquisitions described earlier, with the remaining funds going towards costs related to acquisition transactions, payments for capacity and project work (including final payments to close out more 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, Natalie McDonald, and Nikita Sinha

- CRC Round 2 applications opened on June 29. Planning Grant applications were due Sept. 4 and Implementation Grant applications were due Sept. 30.
    - CRC staff are conducting completeness checks and threshold reviews.

  - CRC received 85 Planning Grant applications, with nearly $40 million in total funding requested. Applications were representative of all six Cal OES Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Regions.
  - CRC received 101 Implementation Grant applications, with $895 million in total funding requested. Applications are representative of all six Cal OES Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Regions.
  - The combined total of funding requested is $935 million. Round 2 of the CRC Program will award $55 million across Planning and Implementation Grants. Requests received reflect a 17 times oversubscription rate.
- Given the large volume of applications, CRC staff are still actively recruiting interagency reviewers to help score and evaluate all grant proposals received while simultaneously developing instructions and training materials for recruited reviewers.
- CRC staff joined Executive Director Erin Curtis, Casa Familiar, local leaders, and community members on Sept. 3 to celebrate the ribbon cutting for Casa Familiar's La Semilla Climate Resiliency Center in San Ysidro. The project, funded by $8.5 million from the CRC Program, developed a community resilience center from a vacant 7,000-square-foot lot in the heart of the San Ysidro Historic Village.
- CRC welcomes Nikita Sinha, Resilient Community Associate Planner, to the team!

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. Two RCC grantees closed out their grants in October, while some will continue grant activities until 2027. RCC grantees will be presenting about their lessons learned on a panel at the annual Urban Sustainability Directors Network Conference in January 2027.
- **Imperial Valley Civic Ecosystem Initiative (IVCEI):** SGC's implementation partners and local program recipients for IVCEI were invited to present about this initiative at the Inland Deserts Catalyst Convening on Oct. 6 in Palm Springs. The event was well-attended and gave the Institute for Local Government (ILG) and the Latino Community Foundation (LCF) an opportunity to highlight the outcomes of their work through this initiative. This quarter, staff has also been connecting with funders to provide one-on-one briefings on the BOOST Imperial Valley program, which is seeking additional philanthropic funding to keep the initiative active into 2027. These briefings allow funders an opportunity to engage in dialogue with ILG on the day-to-day operations and impact of the BOOST Imperial Valley initiative. To date, SGC has committed a total of $100,000 to the initiative. SGC released its fifth quarterly newsletter "Imperial Impact: Interagency & Partnership Highlights" in October, 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 Oct. 15, 2026, and featured a presentation byCARB staff on the Community Planning and Capacity Building Grant Program.

- **Interagency Advance Pay Convening:** The next Quarterly Interagency Advance Pay Convening will be Tuesday, Nov. 3. The conversation will center on tribal programs, including how some departments are structuring their programs and some best practices for navigating the waiver of sovereign immunity from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

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 Hosts Quarterly Convening:** HEP and CDPH hosted a HiAP Quarterly Convening on Sept. 2. The convening featured a presentation from the CDPH Office of Health Equity on tribal consultation best practices. Following CDPH, a representative from Prosper Sustainably provided lessons learned from engaging with California tribes in climate change and public health plans and programs. The next HiAP Task Force Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for December 2026.
- **HEP and Equity Wellness Institute Host All-Staff Communications Training:** HEP and the Equity and Wellness Institute hosted a training series titled “Leading Through Change: Adapting Communication, Professional Development, and Implementation in Today’s Public Sector.” The highly interactive workshops supported staff in communicating with greater clarity and confidence through thoughtful, audience-aware communication choices without losing sight of the intended message.
- **HiAP Participation at the Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Meeting:** HEP’s Program Manager participated in the Office of Health Equity (OHE) Advisory Committee on Sept. 23 in Sacramento. During the meeting, HEP’s manager shared updates on HiAP’s work in 2026 and provided insights on future collaboration opportunities for HiAP and SGC with OHE. The OHE Advisory Committee meetings are hosted quarterly in Sacramento and serve as an avenue for community input in HiAP priorities.

Natural and Working Lands

Agricultural Land Equity Initiative (ALEI)

Staff: Sean Kennedy, Camille Frazier, and Tessa Salzman

- As part of the Agricultural Land Access Technical Assistance Partners Program, SGC has contracted with the Center for Ethical Land Transition to provide technical assistance to California Native American tribes and tribal land stewards to advance secure access to land in California for producing food, fiber, medicine, and cultural resources. This contract continues through June 30, 2028.
- The Climate Bond (Proposition 4) makes available, upon appropriation by the legislature, $30 million to the Department of Conservation, "in consultation with the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (ALETF) at SGC, to improve land access and tenure for socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, tribal producers, and beginning farmers and ranchers." In September, further legislative guidance was provided through SB 178, which establishes the Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Act (FACT CA) under DOC's California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP). SB 178 requires DOC to provide grants and related technical assistance to qualified entities for the purpose of acquiring agricultural lands to transfer or provide long-term leases to qualified farmer participants. AB 113 appropriates $4.6 million in local assistance and $375,000 in staff support from Prop. 4 to the Land Resources Protection branch of the DOC.
- The ALETF submitted its final report to the Governor and Legislature in December 2025, thereby meeting its obligation. In February 2026, SGC concluded members' appointments. Because the ALETF has concluded work, DOC will consult the ALETF's final report in designing the FACT CA program. SGC staff who administered the ALETF meet regularly with DOC staff to support their understanding and consideration of the ALETF's recommendations.

Connecting Communities

Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund (PPMF) Development

Staff: Adrienne Moretz, Health and Equity Program team

- The Plastic Pollution Mitigation (PPMF) Fund 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 10 years from plastic producers. This $5 billion total investment will fund ecosystem repair and protect 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 Council agencies California Environmental Protection Agency and CNRA.

- The interagency PPMF team conducted statewide outreach and engagement as well as an online survey to inform the development of the Fund.
    - Upcoming Outreach and Engagement Opportunities
        - Fall / Winter – PPMF Roundtable with Yurok
    - Other ways to engage
        - 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, and Melissa Moyce

- SGC Connecting Communities team members, with the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI), have concluded nine regional Convenings across the Fifth Climate Change Assessment bioregions.
- 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.
- Staff will present regional findings on emerging statewide themes during the December 2026 Council Meeting. Staff are also developing a Catalyst Policy Action Framework to guide the evaluation and prioritization of potential policy recommendations, with the goal of translating regional input into actionable strategies for SGC and state leadership.

Energy Investments

Factory-Built Housing (FBH) Regional Pilot Program

Staff: Sean Kennedy and Jin Zhang

- In August, the Council approved $10 million in Round 3 awards supporting a portfolio of 10 projects, including five Planning and five Catalyst, that collectively serve urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities statewide. Staff also finalized a technical assistance contract with the Terner Center for Housing Innovation and Terner Labs to support both awarded and unawarded applicants during program implementation.
- Since August, staff have continued preparing the program for launch by developing key grant administration materials, including the grant management manual, grant agreements, invoicing templates, and additional guidance needed for grantee onboarding and implementation.
- Staff have additionally prepared a recommendation for Council consideration to increase the Round 3 award budget. This recommendation responds to the strong demand, regional momentum, and clear unmet need identified through the Round 3 review process, during which several high-scoring Planning applications received only partial awards and additional strong Planning and Catalyst proposals could not be funded. The proposed expansion would allow the program to deepen support for Planning grantees and fund additional competitive proposals, consistent with the portfolio-based framework in the Round 3 Guidelines.
- The FBH team also welcomed CivicSpark Fellow Marin Plut, who joined the program this fall. Marin recently graduated from Scripps College with a double major in Politics and Environmental Studies. Marin will contribute to program implementation, interagency coordination, and partner engagement, bringing a strong policy foundation and a commitment to advancing equitable, climate-aligned housing strategies across California.

Energy Investments

Staff: Sean Kennedy and Melissa Moyce

- From August through October 2026, Energy Policy Specialist Melissa Moyce worked with LCI's Data Team to compile and standardize a comprehensive dataset of past funded and unfunded grant applications across SGC-LCI programs. The dataset is nearing completion, with additional data cleaning and validation underway. This work will support the SGC Community Investment Analysis and enable cross-program analysis of community priorities, funding needs, and regional investment patterns.
- Staff advanced efforts to standardize grant applications across SGC programs. Energy Policy Specialist Melissa Moyce developed an initial framework and requirements for a potential common application, including a crosswalk of existing program applications to identify shared data fields and opportunities for greater consistency. This work aims to improve the applicant experience, reduce duplication, and strengthen cross-program data collection and reporting.

News Media Clips

SGC

- "San Ysidro Climate Resiliency Center Opens" (San Diego Business Journal, Sept. 3, 2026) "From a vacant lot to a hub for community climate resistance and innovation, La Semilla embodies the Strategic Growth Council's mission to support thriving communities across California," said Samuel Assefa, council chair and director of the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.
- "A haven to weather heat waves, air pollution and other climate risks opens in San Ysidro" (KPBS, Sept. 3, 2026) The project was funded in large part with an $8.5 million grant from the California Strategic Growth Council, Cuestas said.
- "First-of-its-kind climate resiliency center opens in San Ysidro" (KFMB Channel 8, Sept. 3, 2026) It's made possible with an $8.5 million grant from the California Strategic Growth Council, as well as a whole lot of other community partners.
- "Transforman terreno abandonado en centro comunitario de resiliencia climática" (KSDY50, Sept. 3, 2026) Además, es el único proyecto de la Ciudad de San Diego que ha recibido financiamiento del Consejo de Crecimiento Estratégico de California, con una inversión total de $8.5 millones de dólares.
- "CA panel approves funds for SF LGBTQ senior housing project" (Bay Area Reporter, Sept. 1, 2026) Last December, the California Strategic Growth Council awarded a $47.6 million grant to the new housing project, with $12.5 million to be used for transit improvement projects near the upper Market Street property.

AHSC

- "160-Unit Affordable Complex Rises Next to Florence Metro Station, Replacing Old Car Wash" (Hoodline, Oct. 7, 2026) Beyond the county-backed notes, the California Strategic Growth Council awarded $30.8 million for the project through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program.
- "Affordable housing completed at 7220 Maie Avenue in Florence-Firestone" (Urbanize LA, Oct. 7, 2026) Additionally, the California Strategic Growth Council awarded $30.8 million for the project in 2023 through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, which was expected to cover the cost of on-site supportive services, laundry facilities, outdoor recreation areas, and the purchase of nine zero emission buses.
- "Inglewood Shifts $2.8 Million in HOME-ARP Funds to Sankofa Place Affordable Housing Project" (Observer, Oct. 6, 2026) The financing includes 4% low-income housing tax credits and tax-exempt bond financing, an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities permanent loan from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, a construction-to-permanent loan from the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency, a No Place Like Home loan from the Los Angeles County Development Authority, an Infill Infrastructure Grant, financing from KeyBank, tax credit equity from Freddie Mac and a $1.7 million capital contribution from the Social Justice Learning Institute.

- "West Sacramento's decades-long revitalization vision begins to take shape at Grand Gateway" (Western City, Oct. 1, 2026) Grand Gateway is funded through a $43.35 million Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant, a state program funded by Cap-and-Invest dollars.
- "New Next 10 Report Examines 20 Years of California Climate Progress Under AB 32" (Le Lézard, Sept. 25, 2026) The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program has helped build 20,361 affordable homes, with residents saving an average of $10,566 per household annually in rent.
- "The Hunter House Breaks Ground: 120 Affordable Homes Coming to Downtown Stockton" (Caravan News, Sept. 22, 2026) he project draws on a mix of state and local funding: about $36 million in Homekey+ funding through the California Department of Housing and Community Development, $27 million through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, $2.5 million through HCD's Infill Infrastructure Grant Program, and $3 million from the City of Stockton through HOME, HHAP and Neighborhood Stabilization funding.
- "Affirmed Housing Starts 195-Unit Affordable Project at Berryessa BART" (Traded Media, Sept. 22) The 10-story, 100% affordable project is backed in part by $38.5 million from California's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program and up to $82.6 million in tax-exempt multifamily housing bonds.
- "Construction Underway For Berryessa BART Housing, San Jose" (SF Yimby, Sept. 22, 2026) Erin Curtis, Executive Director of the California Strategic Growth Council, which is partially responsible for funding the project, said during the groundbreaking ceremony, "We're thrilled to join our partners and the community to witness the groundbreaking of the 195-unit Berryessa development. This project demonstrates exactly what the California Strategic Growth Council and our partners are working to achieve throughout California—thriving neighborhoods with walkable, affordable communities near public transit.
- "SacRT Completes Dos Rios Light Rail Station" (RT&S, Sept. 17, 2026) "For residents of Sacramento's River District, this new station will offer a vital connection to essential daily resources and services," said Samuel Assefa, Director of the California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) and Chair of the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC), which helped fund the project through the Transformative Climate Communities and Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities programs. "Light rail connects more than places; it connects people and communities. This is what Strategic Growth Council investments are all about: building thriving, resilient, accessible communities for all Californians."
- "Outside grants fuel Shasta Lake downtown revitalization as leaders cite small-city limits" (KRCR, Sept. 16, 2026) Funding for the project includes support from California's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, along with partnerships involving the City of Shasta Lake, K2 Development, Win-River Hotel Corporation and Community Revitalization and Development Corporation.
- "City Council Resolution Would Begin Design of 14th Street Protected Bikeway" (Santa Monica Next, Sept. 8, 2026) The project would draw $749,205 from a state Affordable

Housing and Sustainable Communities grant, $1.15 million from a Metro subregional grant and $100,000 from the St. John's Hospital development agreement.

- "Tupelo housing project advancing" (Daily Democrat, Aug. 30, 2026) The work is part of a long-term effort by the city to assist in building 73 units of affordable housing at 1227 Lemen Ave., by Yolo County Housing, and an element of a larger plan to transform the Armfield Lemen area, which is supported by California's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program and a HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant.

CRC

- "Community Resilience Center in Development: South Gate's Reinvestment in Community Needs" (Spartan Shield, Oct. 5, 2026) The Strategic Growth Council gives out grants to communities in California to fund projects that will support citizens in the current times of rapid climate changes that cause risks like, heatwaves and floods.
- "Sheriff's H.E.A.R.T. assists with fallen mare: Large animal rescue team partnering with Nevada County Horsemen for new evacuation center" (The Union, Oct. 1, 2026) Together they are looking at grant funding from the State of California known as the Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program funded by the California Strategic Growth Council to plan and restore the grounds, classrooms, and even construct a covered arena.
- "Calexico seeks public input on proposed Heber Park Resilience Center and Emergency Center" (Imperial Valley Press, Sept. 25, 2026) The proposed facility, intended to serve local residents year-round and during public emergencies, would be funded through the Community Resilience Centers Program, an initiative administered by the California Strategic Growth Council.
- "Calexico City Council to consider data center ban, downtown food distribution rules, and EMS overhaul" (Imperial Valley Press, Sept. 16, 2026) The city is also applying for a Community Resilience Centers Program Round 2 Implementation Grant for the project.
- "El Centro seeks $10 million for new emergency hub and upgraded fire station" (KYMA, Aug. 27, 2026) The city is actively seeking a $10 million grant through the California Strategic Growth Council's Community Resilience Centers Implementation Grant Program.
- "Supervisors Approve $7 Million Grant-Funded Renovation of Grass Valley Veterans Hall" (YubeNet.com, Aug. 27, 2026) The project is the chief expense funded by a $10 million Community Resilience Centers Implementation Grant awarded in April 2024 by the California Strategic Growth Council, an opportunity made possible in part by the County's climate resilience objective.
- "San Clemente City Council Takes Action on Wall Appeal, Parking, Golf Course" (San Clemente Times, Aug. 27, 2026) Other consent-calendar actions included approving a parking enforcement services contract, authorizing $100,000 from Sewer Fund reserves for temporary wastewater staffing, approving the Golf Course Committee's fiscal year 2026-27 work plan and authorizing staff to seek up to $500,000 through the state's Community Resilience Centers Program Round 2 Planning Grant.

- "El Centro invites community input on proposed community resilience center" (Imperial Valley Press, Aug. 27, 2026) The City is seeking $10 million through the California Strategic Growth Council's Community Resilience Centers Implementation Grant Program.
- "San Ysidro's La Semilla Center Breaks Ground to Fight Border Pollution, Extreme Heat" (Hoodline, Sept. 4, 2026) The project was funded through an $8.5 million Community Resilience Center grant from the California Strategic Growth Council, part of more than $93 million approved in 2024 for climate resiliency centers, according to PR Newswire.

Factory-Built Housing

- "Factory-built housing planning grant in Alameda County" (Newsbreak, Oct. 7, 2026) The grant comes from the California Strategic Growth Council's Factory-Built Housing Regional Pilot Program and was the highest scoring Planning Grant out of 65 applications across the state.

RCC

- "How Regional Collaboration Can Help Local Governments Rethink Capacity and Deliver Climate Action" (MRSC, Sept. 8, 2026) California's Regional Climate Collaboratives Program builds regional capacity by supporting partnerships among local governments, Tribal governments, community organizations, nonprofits, and other stakeholders.

SALC

- "California budget continues funding for farmland conservation" (The Davis Enterprise, Oct. 8, 2026) California reaffirmed its commitment to protecting farmland and ranchland with the signing of the AB 113 Budget Act of 2026, which includes $50 million for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program and directs at least 20% of funding from the AHSC Sustainable Communities Account, administered by the Strategic Growth Council, to SALC.
- "Century-Old Kinsey Ranch Near Benbow Protected Forever Under New Easement" (Redheaded Blackbelt, Oct. 1, 2026) In collaboration with the Department of Conservation, California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) supported Kinsey Ranch with a grant through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC).
- "AFT, CalCAN, and a Broad Coalition of Agricultural and Conservation Organizations Commend Governor Gavin Newsom's Signing of the FY 2026-27 Budget, Delivering Major Investments in Agricultural Land Protection" (Morning Ag Clips, Sept. 25, 2026) The budget provides $50 million for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program.
- "California has approved $5 million towards the purchase of 357 coastal acres in Cayucos that once housed the largest abalone farm in the US" (Times of India, Sept. 18, 2026) As of June 2026, the organisation had raised almost $8.2 million, including a $7 million grant from California's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.
- "FARM: Summit seeks to strengthen agritourism" (Imperial Valley Press, Sept. 17, 2026) Topics include: working with influencers to increase your income for real; agritourism

and the growing experiential tourism landscape; investing in agritourism strategic planning and land conservation with Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation program funding ...

TCC

- "SacRT, Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency & Stakeholders Celebrate Completion of New Light Rail Station Near SHRA's Mirasol Village Community" (CLPHA, Sept. 22, 2026) "For residents of Sacramento's River District, this new station will offer a vital connection to essential daily resources and services," said Samuel Assefa, Director of the California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) and Chair of the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC), which helped fund the project through the Transformative Climate Communities and Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities programs. "Light rail connects more than places; it connects people and communities. This is what Strategic Growth Council investments are all about: building thriving, resilient, accessible communities for all Californians."
- "Richmond to Appoint Mark Scott as Interim City Manager, Approve Axon Contract" (Contra Costa News, Sept. 21, 2026) Secured approximately $330 million through more than 150 multi-year grants, including a $35 million Transformative Climate Communities grant.
- "Revitalized East Oakland Park Honors the Legacy of Tyrone Carney, Killed in Vietnam War" (Post News Group, Sept. 14, 2026) Additional financial support came from Oakland Capital Improvements Impact Fee funds and a California Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities grant.
- "Santa Barbara County Earns Pro-Housing Designation, $1.25 Million in Funding" (Noozhawk, Aug. 31, 2026) "We're also finding we're applying for a Transformative Climate Communities grant," Boss said. "(The) pro-housing designation gets us just a couple of extra points, but the couple extra points can make or break an application when it's competitive statewide."
- "East Oakland's Tyrone Carney Park Reopens Saturday After 24 Years Behind a Fence" (Hoodline, Aug. 28, 2026) Oakland voters' 2022 approval of Measure U, an $850 million infrastructure bond, contributed another $200,000 to the project, and the city also received $1 million from California's Transformative Climate Communities program.
- "Closed for 24 years, East Oakland's once-beloved Tyrone Carney Park will reopen on Saturday" (The Oaklandside, Aug. 28, 2026) The city obtained a state natural resources agency grant of $2.5 million in 2018 and got another $1 million from the state California Transformative Climate Communities program.
- "In Extreme Weather, Cities Seek Solutions to Be Resilient" (Government Technology, Aug. 27, 2026) California cities are increasingly looking to Sacramento for support. Riverside was recently awarded the state Transformative Climate Communities Grant, that helped it plant 1,000 trees and install solar panels on 100 homes, Dawson said.