

Dec. 10, 2025

Subject: California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Oct. 8, 2025 – Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: October – December 2025

Staff Lead: Lisa Duong, Administrative Associate, SGC

Recommended Action

Approval of the Oct. 8, 2025, SGC Meeting Minutes.

SGC Oct. 8, 2025 – Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Chair Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:07 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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nicole Capretz, Public Member (Virtual)

Cori Lucero (Designee), Assistant Chancellor and Chief of Staff, on behalf of Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz, Public Member (Virtual)

Council Members and Representatives Absent:

Frank Cárdenas, Public Member

Quorum met; 9/10 members present

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes

Approval of Oct. 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Council Comment

Assefa: Appreciated the incredible experience on the North Coast for the last couple of days. Acknowledged and thanked staff from both California Jobs First and SGC for coordinating and making this happen.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Motion passes (6-0-3*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Motion was made by Schwartz and seconded by Torres.

Agenda Item #4: Executive Director's Report

Erin Curtis, Executive Director, SGC

Council Comment

Assefa: Congratulated staff for all the incredible work done. Expressed gratitude to see all the activity happening with the projects showcased.

Moss: Echoed Assefa's comments. Expressed the importance of seeing how the investments are transforming communities and having site visits to allow ongoing dialogue with grantees.

Schwartz: Appreciated being able to not only hear about these stories, but to also see them and connect with them.

Public Comment

No public comment.

**Agenda Item #5: Receiving Item for Tribal Housing Capacity Building Update was briefly mentioned at the end of the Executive Director's Report. No Council discussion or public comment was initiated for this item.*

Agenda Item #6: DISCUSSION

Council Priority 3 (Housing, Climate, and Equity) Update

Sean Kennedy, Deputy Director of Energy Investments, SGC

Angie Hacker, Senior Policy & Practices Consultant, CivicWell

Council Comment

All Council members discussed various ways to support state-local coordination toward Council Priority 3, and the valuable lessons learned from State/Local Energy & Climate Coordination's (SLECC) dashboard and reports.

Jackson: Mentioned the process occurring at CalSTA and the focus of their work in creating a report of recommendations.

Torres: Cited the need for communities to access more capital to leverage resources and state funding. Suggested that there is potential for matchmaking relationship building.

Moss: Mentioned participating in a previous Vienna Social Housing Study trip similar to the one Kennedy attended. Referenced the city's comprehensive social housing policy rooted in its principle that the right to housing is a human right.

Capretz: Noted the importance of using plain language to build a stronger connection between government and the community. Expressed interest in wanting to connect more with the community and work with partners at the state and local government level.

Schwartz: Mentioned her experience attending the trip to Vienna years ago and was awestruck by how accessible housing and other parts of society were in their model. Expressed importance of centering around accessibility and community.

Public Comment

Jill Sherman-Warne, Hoopa Valley Tribe

Agenda Item #7: DISCUSSION**Panel – North Coast Tribal Grants Update**

- *Showcasing Impacts of State Investments in Tribes in the North Coast Region*

Justine Massey, Special Projects Analyst, SGC

Christina Snider-Ashtari, Tribal Affairs Secretary, Governor's Office (GO)

Michael Shackelford, Secretary/Treasurer, Blue Lake Rancheria Council

Jill Sherman-Warne, Executive Director, Native American Environmental Protection Coalition, Hoopa Valley Tribal Member

Selena Rowan, Climate Resiliency Program Manager, Natural Resources Department, Trinidad Rancheria

Deputy Secretary Schwartz and Chief Equity Officer Torres left at 2:34 p.m. Quorum not met; 7/10 members present; 5 members in-person.

Deputy Secretary Schwartz returned to the meeting at 2:35 p.m. Quorum met; 8/10 members present; 6 members in-person.

Chief Equity Officer Torres returned to the meeting at 2:36 p.m. Quorum met; 9/10 members present.

Public Member Capretz left the meeting at 3:27 p.m. Quorum met; 8/10 members present.

Council Comment

The Council members acknowledged the challenges the panelists have cited and thanked them for presenting feedback to Council.

Curtis: Further added that the reason and purpose of SGC being here is to listen and work together to find solutions to these issues.

Moss: Acknowledged the administrative burden for Tribal applicants. Suggested looking for opportunities to cross-pollinate with all the programs to tackle some of the issues presented.

Chi: Recognized the issues that panelists are facing and mentioned that CalEPA and other agencies are working on addressing them.

Public Comment

Jessica Gravelle, Trinidad Rancheria

Agenda Item #8: ACTION

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Round 10 Awards

- *Approve Staff Recommendations for SALC Round 10 Planning and Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Grants.*

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

Shanna Atherton-Bauer, Division Director, California Department of Conservation

Deputy Secretary Schwartz left at 3:55 p.m. Quorum met; 7/10 members present.

Deputy Secretary Schwartz returned to the meeting at 3:56 p.m. Quorum met; 8/10 members present.

Chair Assefa proposed for public comments to commence before Council discussion and to limit public comment to one and a half minutes. Special Projects Analyst Massey amended the proposal of limiting public comment to one and a half minutes as a recommendation but may be allowed up to two minutes if that is what public commenters prepared.

Public Comment

Alan Salazar, Tataviam Land Conservancy

Jesus Alvarez, Tataviam Land Conservancy

Luis Cervantes, Tataviam Land Conservancy

Sharon Sand, Trust for Public Land

Garth Sundberg, Trinidad Rancheria
Bill Matsubu, Blue Lake Rancheria
Kyle Walsh, The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Lynn Overtree, San Benito Agricultural Land Trust
Jen Kuszmar, Sonoma County Ag + Open Space
Faris Simon, Land Owner
Jeff Faxon, Oswit Land Trust
Noelle Chambers, Amah Mutsun Land Trust
Lauren Miller, Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Christy Fischer, Trust for Public Land
Tom Little Bear Nason, Esselen Tribe Monterey County
Pamela Villaseñor, Tataviam Land Conservancy
Marc Del Piero, Ag Land Trust
Tracy Ellison, Solano Land Trust

Council Comment

Council ceded discussion time for public comment. Council members appreciated those who came in person and online to comment on the SALC Round 10 awards.

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

Motion was made by Jameson and seconded by Schwartz.

Agenda Item #9: Public Comment

Zach Wenderott, North Coast Regional Land Trust
Shayne Green, conservation practitioner
Paul Vienneau, Shasta Land Trust

Agenda Item #10: Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.