



# CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

**To:** California Strategic Growth Council Members  
**From:** Lynn von Koch-Liebert  
**Re:** Executive Director Report to the Council – February 24, 2022

## Organizational and Staffing Updates

- The Climate Change Research program welcomed Deborah Glaser, Research Engagement Specialist, and Natalie Obaldia, Research Analyst, to serve as communications team members for California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment.
- Kavleen Singh joined Community Assistance for Climate Equity's team as Program Associate.
- Emily Tibbott and Egon Terplan, who are Senior Advisors on the High-Speed Rail team, are formally transitioning to OPR where they will be part of OPR's Planning and Community Development team. They will continue to support the high-speed rail program and station area planning and development as well as SGC policy and programmatic work.
- The Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) team welcomed Bo Chung (High Speed Rail Senior Projects Analyst) to the team. Bo will be embedded on the team to further support the High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) and TCC community development and land use planning goals in cities along the HSR, including the TCC award sites in Fresno and Bakersfield.

## Investment Program Updates

### Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC)

Staff: Saharnaz Mirzazad, Marc Caswell, Shep Wilbun, Jessica Lopez, Justin DeWaele and California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) Staff Team

- Round 6 Awards completed at January Council Meeting and HCD staff continues to finalize agreements with awardees.
- SGC AHSC staff has offered & held 20-minute debriefs with applicants whose projects that were not awarded to offer feedback on strengthening applications for future rounds.
- The AHSC Technical Assistance Providers have hosted a series of five Listening Sessions throughout January and February 2022, which were attended by approximately 200 people across all meetings. The five categories of discussions were grouped under broad policy areas: (Housing, Transportation, Rural & Tribal, Sustainability, and Regional Balance).
- SGC AHSC staff continues to work with our "Core AHSC Team" including staff from CARB and HCD to implement external and internal engagement efforts and find alignment in changes to the project guidelines and GHG quantification methodologies.

- SGC staff and our AHSC partners remain confident in our ability to deliver updated guidelines for Council approval in October 2022, along with a NOFA for Round 7, where the review process can return to the timeline found in pre-pandemic times.

### Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)

Staff: Saharnaz Mirzazad, Sophie Young, Jerry Rivero, Jennifer Kim, Sarah Newsham, Bo Chung, and California Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff Team

- The Round 4 TCC NOFA for \$106.2 million will be released in March after the Council adopts the Final TCC Round 4 Program Guidelines at the February Council meeting. The application will be open until July, and award recommendations are scheduled for October 2022.
- Several Councilmembers and Deputy level staff attended a site tour of Transform Fresno on January 20, 2022. The Transform Fresno Collaborative, led by the City of Fresno, received a \$66.5 million TCC implementation grant from SGC in 2018. OPR Director and Council Chair Samuel Assefa, SGC Executive Director Lynn von Koch-Liebert, and Deputy Director Saharnaz Mirzazad attended the site visit.
- The TCC team welcomed Bo Chung (High Speed Rail Senior Projects Analyst) to the team. Bo will be embedded on the team to further support the High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) and TCC community development and land use planning goals in cities along the HSR, including the TCC award sites in Fresno and Bakersfield.

### Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

Staff: Saharnaz Mirzazad, Emily Tibbott (OPR), and Department of Conservation Staff

- Round 8 SALC Draft Guidelines will be available for public comment between February 18 and March 21, 2022. Proposed revisions are based on Council guidance related to how the program meets its goal of providing multiple benefits and assesses infill development, as well as feedback provided by stakeholders during listening sessions and working group meetings conducted throughout 2021 and in early 2022. These include:
  - o The addition of a capacity grant type to fund the development of agricultural conservation acquisition projects.
  - o The addition of funding targets for acquisition projects that:
    - Provide secure land tenure to new or Veteran farmers or ranchers, or farmers or ranchers who are residents of a disadvantaged community, low-income community, or low-income household; or that provide meaningful benefits to a disadvantaged community, low-income community, or low-income household.
    - Involve a California Native American tribe either as the applicant, co-applicant or project partner.
  - o Revisions to improve accessibility to the program for tribes.
  - o Revisions to the selection criteria to improve accessibility and allow flexibility in how the program meets its goal of providing multiple benefits
  - o Revisions to how the threat of residential property conversion and a project's infill supportive elements are evaluated.

- o Administrative revisions.
- Following the Council's January meeting, SALC executed the second of two contracts with tribal-affiliated consultants to review the Guidelines and associated program materials to improve the program's accessibility to tribes. We anticipate initial results from both contracts in late-spring.
- Staff have prepared grant agreements for the 19 acquisition projects awarded funding at the November 16, 2021 Council meeting. We anticipate grants to be executed by late February 2022.

### Climate Change Research Program (CCR)

Staff: Elizabeth Grassi, Nicole Hernandez, and Montrai Spikes

- The program is positioned to serve a key role in California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment. Two new staff positions focused on lifting the CCR's Program model of community and partner-driven research to inform engagement will be onboard by in March 2022.
- The CCR team has successfully closed out six CCR Round 1 research grant projects. In January, CCR staff hosted two exit presentations with up to 50 staff participants from SGC member agencies and legislative staff attending these events. Presentations focused on coupling community knowledge with big data tools to facilitate equitable energy transitions; and, reducing impacts of goods movement – a new analysis from the Southeast Los Angeles and Inland Empire regional initiatives. Two additional climate smart transportation presentations took place in February: transportation revolutions and mobility solutions - new analysis from Statewide and regional initiatives; and, statewide transportation transitions - results from statewide modeling on transportation and EV adoption.
- Staff is working with grantees to compile a case study for the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Clearinghouse on each completed project and conducting exit surveys with grantees and partners about their experiences participating in the program. The final four Round 1 projects will closeout on March 31, 2022.

### Tribal Government Challenge Program (TGC)

Staff: Elizabeth Grassi, Coral Abbott, Ena Lupine, and the California Energy Commission (CEC) Staff Team

- CEC and SGC staff have executed a no cost extension to this agreement that will provide Tribes an additional six months to complete their projects. The pandemic and wildfire seasons have made it difficult for grantees to complete their work within the original 18-month timeframe.
- The Statewide Gap Analysis of California Tribal Lands is currently conducting analysis and synthesis on a diverse set of primary and secondary data and survey responses to identify patterns, themes, and trends in the development of a complete data set and set of initial findings. We expect to receive a draft report on the gap analysis in spring 2022. SGC and CEC staff will collaborate to disseminate the final findings and recommendations to our partners across State government. The six months, no cost extension is also being made to the Gap Analysis agreement, which will allow the contractor to work with SGC and CEC staff to promote the findings to State agencies and other stakeholders.

### Proposition 84 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grant Program (WRRG)

Staff: Clay Kerchof (OPR), Elizabeth Grassi, Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff Team

- OPR staff is working with the four “Prop 84” grantees on invoicing and quarterly progress reports.
- OPR staff produced a case study for the California Adaptation Clearinghouse that synthesizes the Prop 84 projects and how they can inform future integrated wildfire resilience planning efforts.
- All Prop 84 grants will close October 31, 2022.

## Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

### Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)

Staff: Kirin Kumar, Ena Lupine, Coral Abbott, Sarah Risher, and Kavleen Singh

#### Regional Climate Collaboratives and Partners Advancing Climate Equity:

- Staff released draft program guidelines for the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program, which were released for a thirty-day public comment period in early February. Staff will be hosting an overview webinar and four regional Draft Guidelines Workshops in February to get feedback on the draft guidelines from stakeholders and potential applicants in order to inform the final proposed guidelines that Staff will bring to council in April.
- The Partners Advancing Climate Equity program team are continuing to provide technical assistance to cohort members and helping them to finalize the Community Needs Assessment that are intended to help identify goals and strategies for continued action following their time in the program.

#### California Climate Investments Technical Assistance Program:

- The BOOST Program is currently providing participating cities with grant assistance for multiple State funding opportunities. Earlier this month, the cities received training on Plan Integration as all are seeking LHMP funding, initiating a planning process to create their first Climate Action Plan, or are updating elements of their General Plans.
- The CCI TA evaluation team is deep in analysis and preparing their final report, which will include their findings and recommendations and is anticipated for release in late March.

## Collaborative Policy Initiatives

### Health and Equity Program (HEP)

Staff: Kirin Kumar, Jazmine Garcia Delgadillo, Alexandra Gallo, and Michael Jimenez

#### Health in All Policies (HiAP)

Staff: SGC partners with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Institute (PHI) to staff the Health in All Policies Task Force. The Task Force brings

together approximately 20 agencies to integrate health and equity into programs and policies that advance State priorities.

- Re-launched the HiAP Task Force.** The HEP Team in collaboration with CDPH and PHI held the first HiAP Task Force Convening of 2022, virtually on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm. The goal of this meeting was to introduce membership to the HiAP Task Force, the Partnership (SGC, CDPH, PHI), and each other. During this meeting, membership identified potential workgroups and goal-driven initiatives informed by various structural barriers for advancing health and racial equity. These barriers were identified through a multi-phase stakeholder engagement process conducted by the HEP Team in collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley's Othering and Belonging Institute in 2020 and 2021. Identified workgroups and initiatives will help to guide the work of the HiAP Task Force in 2022. In preparation for the HiAP Task Force Convening, the HEP Team held approximately 40 consultations with nearly 30 State entities to identify HiAP Task Force Membership and vet potential goals and priorities. The HEP Team confirmed Task Force membership of over 40 staff from 25 State entities. The HiAP Partnership has communicated widely about the Task Force relaunch to build visibility about the initiative and demonstrate to stakeholders how their input will inform State government to advance public health and racial equity.

Agency or Department	Council Agency	Participation Status	Number of Staff
Air Resources Board	CalEPA	Confirmed	2
Community Services and Development	HHS	Confirmed	2
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation		Confirmed	2
Department of Education		Confirmed	1
Department of Food & Agriculture	CDFA	Confirmed	3
Department of Forestry & Fire Protection	CNRA	Confirmed	3
Department of General Services		Confirmed	1
Department of Housing and Community Development	BCSH	Confirmed	1
Department of Parks & Recreation	CNRA	Confirmed	3
Department of Public Health	HHS	Confirmed	3
Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery		Confirmed	2
Department of Social Services	HHS	Confirmed	Pending
Department of Transportation	CalSTA	Confirmed	Pending
Energy Commission		Confirmed	2

Environmental Protection Agency	CalEPA	Confirmed	Pending
First 5 California		Confirmed	3
Governor's Office of Emergency Services		Confirmed	2
Governor's Office of Planning & Research		Confirmed	Pending
Housing Finance Agency		Confirmed	1
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission		Confirmed	2
Natural Resources Agency	CNRA	Confirmed	2
Public Utilities Commission	CNRA	Confirmed	2
State Water Resources Control Board	CalEPA	Confirmed	1
Transportation Commission	CalSTA	Confirmed	2
Workforce Development Board		Confirmed	1
Additional agencies and departments contacted for engagement on the HiAP Task Force include: Department of Finance, Department of Human Resources, FI\$Cal, Health and Human Services Agency, and the Office of the Surgeon General.			

#### Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP)

Staff: Kirin Kumar, Jazmine Garcia Delgadillo, Alexandra Gallo, Michael Jimenez, and SGC Program and Administrative Managers

- SGC REAP Implementation:** The HEP Team held initial meetings with SGC teams and leadership to discuss the new REAP reporting and tracking structure, identify existing commitments, and update timelines for implementation of REAP action items for 2022. Additionally, the HEP Team developed a schedule to meet with program teams for tracking ongoing REAP initiatives every two months, and drafted SGC workgroups based on incomplete REAP tasks as a forum for SGC teams to share lessons learned and coordinate ongoing REAP activities.
- CA State Agency REAP Technical Assistance:** HEP staff met with programmatic staff at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to provide technical assistance on the development of their REAP based on lessons learned from SGC's REAP development and implementation process. The CDFW participated in the 2021 Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE) Learning Cohort.
- 2022 Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Annual Membership Meeting:** The GARE Annual Membership Meeting will take place on April 19-21, with the theme, "Reimagining Government to Advance Racial Equity and Justice". SGC staff submitted two proposals to the GARE annual membership meeting and were selected for participation. One proposal was submitted under the Organizational Change track in coordination with Public Health Institute (PHI). This session will highlight the accomplishments of the Capitol Collaborative



on Race & Equity (CCORE) and discuss SGC's REAP as a case study for organizational change to embed racial equity into investments, policies, programs, and operations. The second proposal was submitted under the Cultivating Resilience track by SGC and OPR teams and will focus on implementing racial equity objectives into programs. This proposal includes examples from the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program expansion to include Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs) through the development of an Investment Framework; the development of the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Vulnerable Communities Platform to build climate resilience with a strong equity lens in the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR); and an innovative adaptation of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program within a community to be served by High-Speed Rail.

#### Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE)

Staff: SGC partners with the Public Health Institute (PHI) to host a racial equity capacity-building Program for California State government institutions and employees. CCORE brings together approximately 30 agencies, departments, boards, and offices to build a people-power movement inside of California State government to advance racial equity by deploying organizing principles inside and outside of the system.

- **Enrollment Application & Orientation for 2022 CCORE Learning Cohort:** PHI will release the application for enrollment in the 2022-2023 CCORE Learning Cohort in February 2022. Applications will capture readiness and capacity for state entities to advance racial equity. Up to eight state entities will be invited to participate in the Learning Cohort. Orientations for the Learning Cohort are planned to begin in March 2022. For more information, email [CCORE@phi.org](mailto:CCORE@phi.org).
- **CCORE Featured at Inaugural CNRA JEDI Roundtable:** On Thursday, February 3, 2022, CNRA hosted the first session of the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Roundtable, convening representatives from across its Boards, Departments, and Offices to learn more about CCORE and other aligned efforts including SGC's Racial Equity Work Group and to do some collective visioning for the future.

#### Land Use Planning and Economic Development

Staff: Emily Tibbott and Egon Terplan

- As part of an inter-agency policy team, staff has supported the implementation of EO N-82-20, including the release of the draft CNRA-led Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy in October, and the December release of the Pathways to 30X30 report.
- As part of a steering committee composed of leadership staff at the California Department of Conservation (DOC), California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and CARB, staff continues to advance a series of agency-targeted educational workshops on conservation and housing. The purpose of the series is to break down silos between conservation and housing programs, planning, and policy, such that efforts in both arenas better support cross-sectoral needs and on-the-ground outcomes in service of State planning

priorities. In January, staff facilitated a workshop examining Santa Clara County's efforts to address RHNA allocation in light of significant conservation efforts; the session featured local stakeholder presentations.

- Staff is involved in inter-agency leadership efforts regarding the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), including how to minimize local economic impacts, and how to support regional land use planning. Staff is part of an advisory team helping with design and implementation of Department of Conservation's new Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program, to address options for agricultural landowners in the face of SGMA.

#### Regional Planning Initiatives:

- The final California Comeback Plan included a \$600M investment in augmenting the existing Regional Early Action Planning Grant (REAP) funds. The proposed new program focuses on implementing regional plans in ways that reduces vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and meets infill housing goals. The current REAP program (initiated in 2019) was focused on helping regions meet their higher RHNA targets. This proposed augmentation would also expand to allow for both planning and infrastructure investments across housing and transportation. The expanded REAP program is being managed by a joint team across HCD, SGC, OPR and CARB. Staff are currently developing a concept paper that will be shared publicly. SGC will also add one staff person on the AHSC team to support bringing best practices and lessons learned from AHSC Program to REAP team and provide coordination support. OPR will have three positions, including a program manager.
- Staff are continuing to administer a contract with the UC Institute of Transportation Studies to produce a report assessing transportation planning and funding activities pursuant to AB 285 (Friedman, 2019). The team kicked off work in June 2021 with researchers from UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Davis. The final report will be submitted to the Legislature in 2022.
- Staff continue to manage the State/MPO work group that consist of the planning directors of the 18 MPOs and members of key state agencies (SGC, OPR, HCD, BCSH, CalSTA, CTC, Caltrans, CARB).

## Media Clips

#### California Strategic Growth Council

- [Report: Talk of Climate-Focused Transit Is Empty When CA Still Prioritizes Investment in Automobility \(Transportation Assessment\)](#)

#### Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

- [Self-Help Enterprises to expand Palm Terrace affordable housing](#)
- [Newsom budget proposal puts billions into housing affordability, urban density](#)
- [Here's how California plans to spend \\$37 billion fighting climate change](#)



Climate Change Research

- [CCR-Funded University of California, Irvine Study Links Rising Temperatures to Higher Blaze Risk](#)

Transformative Climate Communities

- [CalMatters: Tackling climate change by prioritizing impacted communities](#)