



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

To: California Strategic Growth Council Members
From: Lynn von Koch-Liebert, SGC Executive Director
Re: **Executive Director Report to the Council – April 24, 2024**

Staffing Updates

- Vicky Waters joined the Governor's Office of Planning & Research as the Deputy Director of Communications & External Affairs.
- Nicole Cartwright joined SGC as the Transformative Climate Communities Program Manager.

Investment Program Updates

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Marc Caswell, Jessica Lopez, Shep Wilbun, Justin DeWaele, Brianne Logasa, and California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) Staff Team

- HCD released the AHSC Round 8 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a total of \$675 million in funding on January 19, 2024. Applications were due on March 19, 2024 after a 60-day window.
- Approximately 50 applications were received and the AHSC team (SGC, CARB, HCD) are currently working through the Threshold Review process for all viable applications.
- The program team's commitment to stability of guidelines and priorities resulted in significant reduction of questions and confusion among applicants and a more diverse pool of jurisdictions than previously received.
- A few projects have already been identified as unviable and unable to be scored due to the applicants' failure to submit complete materials. AHSC expects more than 40 projects will move forward for full review.
- AHSC Round 8 projects will be recommended for award at the August 2024 SGC Council Meeting

Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Nicole Cartwright, Jennifer Kim, Sarah Newsham, Jess Ison, and California Department of Conservation (DOC) Staff Team

- Staff have continued conducting the Post-Award Consultation process with the 11 grantees who were awarded a total of \$98.1M during the December 2023 Council Meeting. It is expected that Planning and Project Development Grant Agreements will be finalized and signed by June and Implementation Grant Agreements by August.
- As part of SGC's Connecting Communities Initiative, the technical assistance provider HORNE is working with all Round 5 TCC Implementation Grant applicants to apply for US EPA's Community Change Grant. For the four TCC awardees, this effort aims to fill the \$7M gap between their requested funds (\$29.5M) and what was awarded (\$22.125M).

The two unawarded TCC applicants will seek to fund their TCC proposals through the Community Change Grant.

- TCC welcomed a new Program Manager, Nicole Cartwright, who was previously a TCC Grant Manager at the Department of Conservation.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

Staff: Amar Cid, Shanna Atherton-Bauer (DOC), and Department of Conservation Staff

- SALC staff reported six easement closings between February 8 and April 3, 2024. These projects resulted in the permanent conservation of 462 acres of irrigated agricultural land, 592 acres of grazing land, and 955 acres of land that support both irrigated and grazing uses across six counties.

Climate Change Research Program (CCR)

Staff: Elizabeth Grassi, Emely Anico, and Natalie Obaldia

- The CCR Team is finalizing the closeout process for Round 3 grantees. Three of the six projects have provided exit presentations, featuring project Principal Investigators and their research partners discussing their completed Round 3 SGC Climate Change Research Program Projects with state policy staff.
- The final three presentations will occur in May:
 - [Smoke, Air, Fire, Energy \(SAFE\) in Rural California: Energy and Air Quality Infrastructure for Climate-Smart Communities](#), Cal Poly Humboldt
 - [Resilient Restoration: Advancing Ecological, Cultural, and Community Resilience with Tribal Nations in Southern California](#), UC Riverside
 - [Micro-climate Zones: Designing Effective Outdoor Cooling Interventions](#), UCLA Luskin Center
- Staff is working to create connections and opportunities for CCR's Capacity Building contractors (UC Davis Center for Regional Change, CSU-WATER, and UC Office of the President) to engage with Fifth Assessment regional and topical report author teams.
- The University of California S/Hero supplement to the California Climate Action Seed and Matching Grants continues to include staff in monthly meetings with Principal Investigators to discuss progress on their efforts to codesign research with under-resourced communities, as well as the institutional challenges faced when working to partner with community-based organizations.
- The CCR and 5th Assessment teams continue to meet quarterly with research leadership from the University of California and California State Universities. The most recent meetings focused on connecting with researchers funded through the UCOP Climate Action Seed Grants and Climate Action Matching Grants and with CSU researchers conducting community-engaged research.
- The CCR team continues to lead the engagement efforts of California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment and the development of the Assessment more broadly. This includes:
 - Establishing Regional Report author teams through Interagency Agreements with the state.



- Scoping and identifying authors for the Topical Reports on issues of statewide significance, such as the report on Tribal and Indigenous Communities, Economics, Racial Equity and Climate Justice, and Migration & Displacement
- Leading communications efforts across Assessment partners for the Tribal Research Grant Program, Climate Data & Scenarios, and Core Climate Research Awards
- Planning author team trainings on the Participatory Research to Policy Model/Community Based Participatory Research in collaboration with the UC Davis Center for Regional Change

Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program

Staff: Amar Cid, Anna Jane Jones, Dora Monterroza, Jess McCool, Jin Zhang, and Jessica Cervantes

- The Round 1 CRC Application window closed on September 18, 2023. The CRC Program received a total of 189 Applications Submitted across all three grant types asking for a total of \$685,330,873.13. Given the high volume of applications received, CRC Program Staff have developed and are implementing a staggered application review and awards approach. Planning Grants were awarded at the February 2024 SGC Council Meeting; Project Development and Implementation Grants will be awarded at the April 2024 SGC Council Meeting
- Staff are undergoing Round 1 Application Review:
 - **Planning Grants:** Program staff presented 11 CRC Round 1 Planning Grant award recommendations for final approval at the February 28, 2024 SGC Council Meeting. In line with the CRC priority communities, geographic diversity, and tribal funding targets. These first 11 awarded proposals are all located in and benefiting priority communities with the following breakdown: 11 are located in and benefiting AB 1550 designated low-income communities, 7 are located in and benefiting SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities, 3 are located in and benefiting unincorporated communities, 4 are located in and benefiting rural communities, and 3 are California Native American Tribally led projects. In terms of reaching geographic diversity, 5 of the 6 California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid regions are represented across these project proposals.
 - Program Staff are collaborating with technical assistance (TA) provider, Civix, to develop the Post-Award Consultation process for Planning Grantees, including development of grant agreements and the grant management manual.
 - Unawarded applicants will be contacted and given an opportunity to meet with Program Staff and the TA provider to have individual consultations to discuss the strengths and opportunities of their applications as well as opportunities for finding similar funding sources that align with their projects and communities.
 - **Project Development Grants:** Program staff completed Application Completeness Check for all 28 Project Development Grant applications, giving applicants who were missing information flagged by program staff an



opportunity to resubmit information for reconsideration to pass Program Thresholds. Applications that met Program Thresholds advanced to the Interagency Review Panel.

- 17 interagency reviewers joined the Project Development Interagency Review Panel. Orientation for reviewers kicked off on February 15, 2024. Resources and materials were developed and provided to reviewers to supplement their reviews of applications. CRC Staff hosted weekly office hours for reviewer support.
 - Once initial scores were submitted by reviewers, staff facilitated deliberation sessions to discuss scores of selected proposals with reviewers. Reviewers had the ability to adjust their scores during and after deliberation. Interagency Review scoring and deliberation for Project Development Grants concluded at the end of March. Final reviewer scores were averaged to determine the final score for the application.
 - Program staff is preparing materials to present CRC Round 1 Project Development award recommendations for final approval at the April 24, 2024 SGC Council Meeting.
 - Unawarded applicants will be contacted and given an opportunity to meet with Program Staff and the TA provider to have individual consultations to discuss the strengths and opportunities of their applications as well as opportunities for finding similar funding sources that align with their projects and communities.
- **Implementation Grants:** The CRC Team conducted Application Completeness Check for the 74 Implementation Grant Applications. Staff screened for eligibility and completeness of applications, giving applicants who are missing information flagged by program staff an opportunity to resubmit information. Program staff finished Program Threshold review of complete applications. Applications that passed Threshold Review advanced to the Interagency Review Panel.
- 42 reviewers joined the Implementation Grant Interagency Review Panel. Orientation for reviewers was hosted on January 16, 2024. Resources and materials were developed and provided to reviewers to supplement their reviews of applications. The CRC team hosted weekly office hours for reviewers to provide additional support.
 - Once initial scores were submitted, the CRC team prepared for two separate deliberation sessions with the reviewers. During deliberation sessions, the CRC team guided discussions of the selected proposals. Reviewers had an opportunity to adjust their scores during and after the deliberation sessions. Interagency Review scoring and deliberation for Implementation Grants concluded at the end of February.
 - After conclusion of deliberation sessions, and final averaged scores were determined, the team conducted interviews with 18 top-scoring Implementation applicants for a qualitative assessment of their proposals



for an additional 25 points. Interview scores were added to the Interagency Reviewer score to determine the final score for the proposal out of 200 points. Interviews concluded at the end of March.

- Program staff are preparing materials to present CRC Round 1 Implementation Grant award recommendations for final approval at the April 24, 2024 SGC Council Meeting.
 - Unawarded applicants will be contacted and given an opportunity to meet with Program Staff and the TA provider to have individual consultations to discuss the strengths and opportunities of their applications as well as opportunities for finding similar funding sources that align with their projects and communities.
- Staff continue to develop an evaluation framework and process for the Round 1 Implementation Grants by conducting informational interviews with Principal Investigators and established evaluation TA providers, developing a Request for Information (RFI) which will be released in Spring 2024, and planning for state-wide listening sessions to solicit best practices that will inform a future Evaluation Contract scope of work.
 - Staff launched the CRC Networking Hub hosted on Milken Institute’s Community Infrastructure Center (CIC) platform. The Milken Institute hosted an informational kickoff session for CRC applicants on March 25. The CIC platform will provide applicants with further opportunities for funding support and project development. The CIC is a dedicated project development platform connecting project sponsors to grant opportunities, project development resources, and matchmaking to a growing set of provider partners from philanthropy to federal agencies and non-profit technical assistance providers. The CIC team has identified alternative funding pools that align with the CRC applicants’ projects and is pleased to offer a pilot program with Streamline Climate to provide automated grant writing services for selected alternative resilience center grants to reduce the burden on applicants. This will contribute to the CRC program team’s commitment to help applicants build capacity and develop partnerships.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)

Staff: Ena Lupine, Blanca Escobedo, Catherine Foster, Markie Price, and Nancy Cheng

- **Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) Program:** RCC Round 2 has been delayed due to the Governor’s January Budget, which proposes a reversion of the \$9.8 million in General Fund monies that had been appropriated for Round 2 of the program. Staff had received 31 full proposals on December 6, requesting a total of nearly \$48 million, and paused the review process. The applications received included a total of 294 partner organizations. SGC had planned to make awards for the \$8.5 million NOFA at the February 28, 2024 Council Meeting.



- SGC Councilmember Frank Cardenas; Deputy Director of Community Investments and Planning Amar Cid; and CACE staff attended two RCC site visits on April 8 and 9 for two tribal-led collaboratives in Round 1. On April 8, staff visited the offices of the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, the managing partner of the 2030 Resilient Networks Collaborative, for a site visit with all of the collaborative partners to learn more about the collaborative's efforts and help prepare the partners for future success. On April 9, staff attended a day-long strategic planning session at the Pala Band of Mission Indians reservation with the collaborative partners for the Tribal Climate and Energy Collaborative, which includes the 25 tribes that are members of the Southern California Tribal Chairman's association.
- CACE staff are planning an in-person peer learning convening for RCC Round 1 grantees on April 30 in Sacramento, which will provide an opportunity for the collaboratives to connect and share best practices and lessons learned in person, and to meet with philanthropic funders who have been invited to attend and network with the collaboratives.
- **Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program:** CACE staff received 31 applications for the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot program, with 18 applications from federally recognized tribes and 13 from non-federally recognized tribes. Applications were reviewed by a robust interagency review panel of 26 reviewers across 17 agencies and departments and 13 tribes were invited for finalist interviews. CACE staff will present award recommendations for 6 awardees at the April SGC Council Meeting.

Collaborative Policy Initiatives

Health and Equity Program (HEP)

Staff: Jazmine Garcia Delgado, Michael Jimenez, and Kimberli Davila.

Health in All Policies (HiAP)

Staff: SGC partners with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Institute State of Equity program (PHI) to staff the Health in All Policies Task Force. The Task Force brings together almost 30 agencies, departments, and commissions to integrate health and racial equity considerations into programs and policies that advance State priorities.

- **HiAP Task Force Workgroups Convene Monthly.** The Grant Program, Contract, and Funding Equity and Equity in Data and Access to Information workgroups that are hosted within the HiAP Task Force continue to meet monthly. Workgroups have finalized action plans and continue to work on short-term actions. In March, the Grant Program, Contract, and Funding Equity working group hosted a presentation from ChangeLab Solutions on a technical assistance memo developed for the HiAP Task Force on community compensation for outreach and engagement. The memo and presentation highlighted legal and practical considerations, as well as examples and best practices from other jurisdictions. Meanwhile during the Data Equity Working Group meeting in March, the Task Force members discussed updates on a potential strategy

for a HiAP interagency data sharing platform, as well as revisited action plan objectives and actions, and discussed future opportunities for collaboration.

- **Training on Embedding a HiAP Approach.** On April 11, HEP in collaboration with the State of Equity, Public Health Institute and the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University co-hosted a [training on implementing a HiAP approach for the California Center for Rural Policy and the Rural Association of Northern California Health Officers \(RANCHO\)](#). This training is aimed to support health practitioners in rural communities and jurisdictions embed health and racial equity in their policies, programs, and initiatives. Topics covered during this session include the principles of Health in All Policies, evolution of the work at the State-level and engagement, and an applied example of Health in All Policies in a rural context.
- **HiAP Staff Interviewed for CDPH Health Policy Report.** On March 22, HiAP staff from SGC and State of Equity participated in an interview by the Institute for Social Research, California State University, Sacramento. HiAP staff shared about community safety and violence prevention initiatives hosted by the Task Force, including the Safe and Equitable Communities Roundtable. Input will inform a public health policy roadmap developed and published by the California Department of Public Health.

Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP)

Staff: HEP and SGC Program and Administrative Managers

- **HEP Continues to Support and Monitor the Implementation of the SGC Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP).** HEP facilitated Quarter 1 2024 meetings with SGC teams to discuss the REAP and track and advance implementation. The focus of meetings for Quarter 1 included actions programs are beginning or continuing to implement in 2024. A wide array of topical focuses was identified across programs, including (but not limited to):
 - Continue implementing **advance pay strategies** in select SGC programs;
 - Embedding racial equity in SGC's **organizational culture and workforce**;
 - Expanding engagement around SGC's **research- or science-driven initiatives** to include communities, community-based research, participatory research models, and more;
 - Explore **greater support mechanisms for SGC applicants and grantees**, including methods to direct unsuccessful applicants to alternate State funding resources or projects;
 - Increasing **outreach to and technical assistance (TA) for priority communities**, including underserved communities and tribes;
 - **Investigating and removing barriers** to apply for or access SGC grant funding, including for representatives of underserved communities and tribes;
 - Setting and tracking **racial equity-driven metrics** for REAP actions and tasks;
 - **Surveying grantees and TA recipients** on experiences and using feedback to improve SGC offerings; and
 - Using a **Customer Relationship Management** framework to improve and tailor outreach to priority communities.



- **Internal REAP Working Groups.** Staff convene within three internal working groups on the following racial equity advancement topics: Technical Assistance and Contract Equity; Workforce Equity and Organizational Culture; and Engagement and Coordination with Tribes. During the March Tribal Engagement Working Group, SGC staff received a presentation and provided feedback on a draft tribal engagement strategy being developed for California Climate Investment Programs, in partnership with the California Air Resources Board.

Racial Equity Resource Hub

Staff: HEP and the Communications Team

- **Updates to the Racial Equity Resource Hub.** HEP continues to collect resources from State entities as directed by Council to host on the Hub and is continuing to update past resources to ensure they are up to date and are accessible to users. The HEP and Communications Teams are working on developing a new cadence for the Racial Equity Resource Hub blog posts to reflect on the work undertaken by Council agencies and SGC program teams.

Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE)

Staff: SGC partners with the Public Health Institute's (PHI) State of Equity program to host a racial equity capacity-building program for California State government institutions and employees. CCORE brings together approximately 40 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.

- **CCORE Learning Cohort (LC).** Recruitment, application submission and review for this foundational training curriculum has a revised schedule and timeline, with recruitment continuing through April, and [applications](#) due no later than **April 30**. Learn more about the cohort, schedule, & fees in the [CCORE LC 2024 Program Details & Schedule](#). Orientation is planned for June 5, 2024, with the final session on Leadership for Racial Equity scheduled for December 11, 2024. On March 20, staff hosted a Meet & Greet for people and organizations who are interested or have already applied to the cohort.
- For questions or updates reach out to CCORE Staff at CCORE@phi.org.

Natural and Working Lands

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

Staff: Sean Kennedy, Camille Frazier, Tessa Salzman

- The Council approved Darlene Franco's appointment to the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force on February 28, 2024.
- Agricultural Land Equity Initiative staff conducted one-on-one meetings with Task Force members in March 2024 to 1) discuss plans for the May 9 meeting and 2) learn about members' priorities for the potential development of a research and/or grant program to support the work of the Task Force.
- The California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force will host its third quarterly meeting at the San Diego Foundation on May 9, 2024. The preliminary agenda includes two



roundtable discussions about existing state, federal, and non-governmental programs for land access and practitioners' experiences navigating the resource landscape. In addition, Task Force members will visit different sites in the San Diego area on May 8 and 10 to learn about regional experiences and efforts for equitable agricultural land access. Members will report on individual site visits to the full Task Force at the May and August meetings.

Regional Planning Initiatives

Staff: Marc Caswell, Justin DeWaele, and California Air Resources Board and HCD staff

- The Governor's January Budget proposal included a \$300 million cut to the REAP 2.0 Program. HCD leadership continues to determine next steps.
- The Interagency Team is finalizing the Annual Reporting Template for grantees.

Council Priority 3: Housing, Climate, and Equity

Staff: Sean Kennedy

- Over the past several months, SGC staff have worked with the interagency Housing, Transportation, Climate, and Conservation sub-committee to evaluate progress on actions contained in the 2023 Council Priority 3 Work Plan. SGC staff will present a progress report on this work at the June 2024 SGC Council meeting. The progress report will include updates on existing actions and new actions identified since the release of the work plan in June 2024.

Federal Funding Initiatives

Connecting Communities

Staff: Amar Cid, Aatisha Singh, and Camille Randolph

- The Connecting Communities initiative takes advantage of the historic influx of federal funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and Justice40 initiative, by working to support SGC Partners (including TCC Grant awardees and applicants) as they apply for and unlock federal funding.
- SGC contracted with technical assistance (TA) provider, HORNE, to deliver TA services to SGC Partners. HORNE began working with recent TCC Round 5 (R5) Implementation Grant awardees and applicants to provide grant writing support for the US EPA's Community Change Grant Program (CCG).
- Starting in January 2024, HORNE and the Connecting Communities team worked with four awardees and two applicants to repackage their applications for the CCG program.
 - Three of these groups submitted CCG applications:
 - La Familia Counseling Center submitted on February 29, 2024.
 - San Diego Foundation and The Energy Coalition: Pomona Acts submitted on March 15, 2024.
 - These applications will be among the first in the nation to be considered for funding. (The CCG NOFO opened November 2023 and closes November 2024.)
 - The other three groups are developing proposals with SGC and HORNE support.



- Simultaneously, since January, the TA Team has been conducting follow-up sessions with all TCC Partners who completed the landscape analysis survey to better understand and meet their TA needs.
- The Connecting Communities Team is also working on amending our agreement with HORNE so we can liquidate our \$50K grant from the James Irvine Foundation to boost TA support to our SGC Partners.
- In March 2024, the Connecting Communities team travelled to Coachella (Coachella Prospera) and San Diego (The San Diego Foundation) to leverage Connecting Communities' contract with HORNE to support community and lead applicants on TCC budget realignment and partnership facilitation.

Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Program

Staff: Sean Kennedy, Lois Kim, Justin DeWaele, Shep Wilbun

- The Draft Guidelines for the Factory-Built Housing (FBH) Pre-Development Program were released for public comment on February 16, 2024. The public comment period closed on March 22, 2024.
- Program staff hosted 7 webinars and workshops to present the draft guidelines and received public comments through letters and a survey.
- The final guidelines will be presented to the Council for approval during the April 24 SGC Council Meeting.

News Media Clips

Community Resilience Centers

- ["O.V. Fire Safe Council scores \\$500K for Community Resilience Centers"](#) (*Ojai Valley News*) February 29, 2024: "The Ojai Valley may be getting two more locations to shelter safely during emergencies such as fires, floods and earthquakes. On Feb. 16, the California Strategic Growth Council awarded a local nonprofit that promotes wildfire safety a \$500,000 planning grant to plan the development of a pair of Ojai Valley Community Resilience Centers."
- ["California Invests \\$5 Million to Help Communities Build Climate and Community Resilience"](#) (*Yuba Net*) March 4, 2024: "The State of California approved \$5 million in grant funding to support communities across the state as they build resilience to climate change."

Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities

- ["Citizens for a Better Eureka' Drops Motions for Preliminary Injunction But Will Continue CEQA Lawsuits Against the City"](#) (*Light Coast Outpost*) February 14, 2024: "Two of the three projects being targeted by the CEQA lawsuits — the Linc Housing developments slated to be built on parking lot sites at Eighth and G and Sixth and M — are largely funded already thanks to a \$30.1 million [AHSC] grant awarded by the California Strategic Growth Council last year."
- ["Affordable housing in the works at 744 S. Kern Avenue in East L.A."](#) (*Urbanize*) March 1, 2024: "A pair of small commercial buildings just north of Whittier Boulevard in



unincorporated East Los Angeles is poised for redevelopment with affordable housing, per an item considered by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.”

- [“East Palo Alto Breaks Ground on Colibri Commons, Promising 136 New Affordable Housing Units by 2025”](#) (*Hoodline*) March 12, 2024: “East Palo Alto is set to tackle its housing affordability crisis head-on, with shovels hitting the ground at the site of the future Colibri Commons.”
- [“City Applies for Grant Funding for Affordable Housing & Transportation”](#) (*Culver City Crossroads*) March 14, 2024: “The City Council agreed to resubmit a joint application under the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Notice of Funding Availability that would bring in millions of dollars for several projects in Culver City.”

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

- [“Mendocino Land Trust and Local Landowner Secure Grant to Protect James Ranch for Future Generations”](#) (*Mendocino County News*) March 13, 2024: “In partnership with the landowners of the James Ranch, MLT received a Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) grant....to conserve the unique and picturesque James Ranch through acquisition of a conservation easement which allows the landowners to continue to own and manage the ranch.”
- [“Davis Preserves Another 120 Acres of Farmland Northeast of City”](#) (*The Davis Vanguard*) March 19, 2024: “The City of Davis announced Monday that it recently purchased an agricultural conservation easement on 120 acres of farmland located about a half-mile from the City limits, northeast of the Mace Boulevard curve, as a permanent preserve for farmland and open space.”

Transformative Climate Communities

- [“Political Watch: February 15, 2024”](#) (*Santa Maria Sun*) February 15, 2024: “The California Strategic Growth Council awarded Resilient Cuyama Valley \$1.08 million in funding through the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, according to a Feb. 8 statement from Assemblymember Gregg Hart’s (D-Santa Barbara) office.”
- [“South Stockton's long-awaited McKinley Park renovation set to break ground in May”](#) (*RecordNet*) February 20, 2024: “The improvements that residents can expect include: a new pool house and renovated pool, new basketball and futsal courts, new soccer and softball fields, new playground equipment, reconstruction of the parking lot, and the addition of two shade structures....The estimated cost for the project will be around \$15.8 million, according to city officials. About \$13.75 million is coming from state funds, including... \$750,000 from the Transformative Climate Communities Program.”
- [“Can California's Climate Bond Weather the Storm of State Deficits?”](#) (*KQED*) March 14, 2024: “California lawmakers are negotiating the details of two major bills that would put what they intended to be a more than \$15 billion climate bond in front of voters in November.... Sona Mohnot, Director of Climate Resilience at the Greenlining Institute, said climate programs focused on supporting communities of color are often the first on the chopping block. For example, Newsom previously zeroed out funding for the Transformative Climate Communities program and did not allocate any funding to it in this year’s proposed budget.”



- [“Major upgrades coming to Mariposa Plaza in downtown Fresno”](#) (ABC 30) March 21, 2024: “The area will continue to be a hub for those events with added water misters, lighting, shade and double the amount of trees.... All upgrades have been made possible through the Transformative Climate Communities grant program.”
- [“DOWNTOWN FRESNO’S MARIPOSA PLAZA TO GET NEW \\$4M LOOK”](#) (*The Business Journal*) March 21, 2024: “Construction for a revamped Mariposa Plaza in Downtown Fresno commences next week... Funding comes from California’s Transformative Climate Communities program.”
- [“As Mariposa Plaza set for makeover, Fresno mayor reveals more plans for downtown”](#) (KVPR – NPR) March 24, 2024: “Once the central public square of downtown Fresno, Mariposa Plaza is finally getting a long-awaited makeover. City leaders broke ground Thursday afternoon on an over \$4 million project to awaken the plaza on Fulton and Mariposa Streets, just a block from the future high-speed-rail station, as the premiere public space for downtown residents and visitors.... Funding for the Mariposa Plaza project comes from California's Transformative Climate Communities grant.”
- [“City breaks ground on new \\$8.7 million park, calling it the ‘transformation of west Fresno’”](#) (*Fresnoland*) April 2, 2024: “City leaders broke ground this week on a new 10-acre park in southwest Fresno, near Church and Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenues, behind the new Fresno City College, West Fresno Center campus.... Funding came from the state’s Transformative Climate Communities Program.”

