

Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2009

Council members present:
Secretary Linda Adams, CalEPA
Secretary Kim Belshé, CHHS
Secretary Dale Bonner, BTH
Director Cynthia Bryant, OPR
Secretary Mike Chrisman, Resources

Council staff members present:
Andrew Altevogt, CalEPA
Trina Gonzalez, CHHS
Gregg Albright, BTH
Julia Lave Johnston, OPR
Todd Ferrara, Resources
Notes taken by Anna Marie Young, OPR

***Meeting Agenda Action Items:**

- 1) Nominate temporary council chair**
- 2) Adopt SGC operating guidelines**
- 3) Determine meeting schedule**

Julia Lave Johnston, OPR, called the meeting to order on behalf of the Strategic Growth Council.

Agenda Item: Opening Remarks

Council members talked about their respective agencies' responsibilities and current efforts related to the planning and development of a sustainable California, and how by working together, via the SGC, they can more effectively and efficiently meet state goals.

Agenda Item: Administrative Framework

Andrew Altevogt, CalEPA, gave a brief overview of the Council's objectives based on enabling legislation SB 732.

One of the main activities of the Council will be to coordinate state agency policy and programs related to the SGC objectives. Other Council responsibilities that were mentioned include: 1) reviewing and commenting on the Five-Year Infrastructure Plan and the Governor's Environmental Goals and Policy Report; and, 2) the development of Proposition 84 grant criteria. Grant criteria must be consistent with state planning principles and applicable state and regional plans. There are two funding streams:

- \$70 million for urban greening projects
- \$90 million for planning grants and planning incentives (for regional plans and local general plans)

Mike Byrne, CHHS, went over the SGC Operating Guidelines. Byrnes noted that the statute calls for quarterly meetings. The draft operating guidelines recommend that the Council make decisions based on consensus. Guidelines Section IV allow the Council to make changes to the Guidelines as they see fit.

Council Member Chrisman commented that the Guidelines Section III-Duties was missing one of the Council's statutory duties.

Council Member Belshé made a comment that Guidelines Section I - Scope and Objectives did not specifically list promoting public health as one of the SGC objectives. It is imbedded in all six of the Council's statutory objectives and should be explicitly stated as a SGC objective. Council Member Bryant agreed with Belshé saying she believed that listing the promotion of public health was consistent with the Legislature's intent.

Staff took note of the comments of Council Members Chrisman and Belshé and said they would incorporate the added language and recirculate the document for action at the next SGC meeting.

Johnston opened the floor for Council discussion on, nominating a temporary chair, the Draft Operating Guidelines, and asked for direction regarding SGC staffing.

Council Member Bryant said that it would be good to identify one lead SGC staff person (similar with how the Ocean Protection Council has done), but noted that it is difficult to hire now.

Johnston responded that staff will identify some staffing options to be presented at the Council's next meeting.

There was no further Council member comments. Johnston opened the floor for public comment.

Joe Caves, Conservation Strategy Group recommended that the Council go beyond guiding state government and give guidance to locals and regional planning agencies particularly thorough the strategic use of infrastructure investments.

Council Member Bonner said the Council will face the challenge of not only integrating policies and programs within each agency but with various stakeholders and local governments. The Council has the opportunity to expand the beyond state government.

Tim Frank, American Farmland Trust, pointed out in this comments that the antecedents of the Council really go as far back to AB 857. He noted that the work that has already been done on AB 857 can help inform the tasks in front of the Council. He also pointed that one of the biggest challenges in the planning and development of sustainable communities is that cities and counties are finding that they don't have the planning staff. He said that the \$90 million will help fill the gap, but that we need to think hard about where we can find a permanent source of planning and implementation funding.

***Action Item 1) Nominate Temporary Council Chair**

Johnston asked if there was a motion to nominate a temporary SGC chair person until the time that a public member is appointed and could participate in selecting a chair for the full two year term,

Council Member Adams nominated Cynthia Bryant to be the temporary SGC chair.

Council Member Chrisman seconded the motion

The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

***Action Item 2) Adopt SGC Operating Guidelines (postponed to next meeting)**

Chair Bryant directed staff to incorporate the added language suggested by Council Members Chrisman and Belshé. The Guidelines will be voted on at the next SGC meeting.

***Action Item 3) Determine meeting schedule (postponed to next meeting)**

Chair Bryant reiterated Council member Belshé's suggestion that the Council meet in next four to six weeks because of the level of administrative issues in starting the Council. Staff was directed to find this date and then identify quarterly meeting dates for 2009.

Agenda Item: Next Steps

Gregg Albright, BTH, presented an overview of the activities the Council will be undertaking in the coming months. He informed the Council of the Interagency Coordination and Collaboration Retreat that sought to identify ways to improve state coordination. Even though each agency has distinct missions they also share many values and goals. We need to collaborate because we are faced with big issues that we can't solve ourselves. The SGC has the opportunity to provide a mechanism that allows us to work together effectively.

Council Member Chrisman requested two reports from Council staff: 1) identify how the Council can work cooperatively on existing pilot projects that help communities become more sustainable, specifically the California Sustainability Communities Pilot Project and the California Urban Communities Collaborative begun by Council member and Business, Transportation & Housing Secretary Bonner in Oakland, plus any other Council members' projects that help local governments in this effort and 2) have the Great Places Management Team identify critical planning and natural resource data needs and options to develop data for better regional planning decisions.

Chair Bryant said that there was one thing that she felt was left off on this agenda, and that is how we can engage in the development of the five year infrastructure report, which is currently in the process of being updated. Bryant proposed that the Council work with Department of Finance to ensure that SB 857 goals are not skipped over in the process.

Chair Bryant adjourned the meeting.