

CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE
STRATEGIC VISION PROJECT

COMMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS FOR REVIEW

Through January 31, 2012

From: Johnson, Doug
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:34 AM
To: Strategic Vision; Melissa Miller-Henson
Cc: mbiddlecomb@ducks.org; jay_ziegler@tnc.org; kwoodmclaughlin@gmail.com; dtaylor@audubon.org; kdelfino@defenders.org; ereynolds@tejonranch.com; nvail@rangelandtrust.org; jcarlson@calwaterfowl.org; bill@outdoorheritage.org; karen-buhr@carcd.org; darla@calandtrusts.org
Subject: Additional Cal-IPC comments

Melissa and SAG members,

Congratulations on your forward progress. Apologies for filling your email in-boxes in December.

As you know, Cal-IPC and partner groups have a strong concern that the Vision identify ways that the department can strengthen its work to prevent and control invasive species. I have a few comments about ways to incorporate this invasives into your current recommendations.

1) Compliance recommendations.p5 has: "Potential IRM Recommendation #1: Engage in effective integrated resource management processes" which could include a bullet for participating fully in the Invasive Species Council of California (www.iscc.ca.gov).

2) Compliance recommendations p9 has "Potential Partnerships Recommendation #2: Encourage a broad-based coalition effort of outdoor organizations [both consumptive and non-consumptive] to tap into their memberships to support the DFG/FGC mission" which could include a bullet for "preventing the spread of invasive species."

Additional no-cost actions that could help strengthen response include:

3) Add findings to the DFG code that explicitly recognize the impact of invasive species and their intersection with the department's mission. Please let me know if you would like draft language.

4) Add a formal definition of invasive species to the DFG code, providing a foundation for programs, risk assessment and potentially regulations in the future. The definition would need to be compatible with that added to Food & Ag code (starting Sec. 5260) by then-Assembly Member Laird (AB 2763 in 2008).

5) Work to Include invasive species prevention in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. Potential for invasive species spread should be added to the Environmental Checklist Form in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines so it become a routine part of the CEQA review process.

This last is a recommendation in the state's new Strategic Framework on invasive species, adopted by Secs. Laird and Ross last year (<http://iscc.ca.gov/cisac-strategic-framework.html>). SAG members would ideally review its recommendations and look for appropriate ways to integrate them into Vision recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration and hard work.

Doug

Doug Johnson, Executive Director
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*Protecting California's lands and waters from ecologically-damaging
invasive plants through science, education and policy.*

From: kirk vyverberg
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 11:55 AM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Subject: Mission and Vision Statements - Public Comment - Vyverberg - 012612

Melissa Miller-Henson, Director
CA Fish & Wildlife Strategic Vision Process
California Natural Resources Agency

**Interim Draft Review – Mission & Vision - Public Comments - Vyverberg
01/26/2012**

The purpose of implementing strategic change is to reset priorities, adjust responsibilities to budgetary realities, rally core strengths, solve defined problems, and adjust to a rapidly changing world. It may be over reaching to ask Stakeholders to provide strategies that can be implemented. Others have speculated that this may have to be completed by a process that [1] has DFG ownership and insight, and/or [2] is modeled on other state's resource management strategies.

Furthermore, there is an argument against leaving the Core Values and Themes as equal elements of the Mission & Vision. The Core Values Statements verge on lectures on how to do a job with a sense of value and integrity. Given that this process comes predominately from a point-of-view outside the Department, it may be found offensive to the dedicated rank and file, and counterproductive to the goal of implementing strategic change. It would be more productive to recognize that DFG personnel are under-funded, over mandated, and still dedicated to their stewardship role, before you tell them the values you wish them to embody. Nor will Themes establish realistic directions for the Department and Commission – with justifications that will receive Legislative support. Finally, many of the Objectives can be consolidated into a vision statement of Organizational Management Excellence.

Perhaps it is preferable to focus the current effort on Mission and Vision Statements that separate the roles of the Department and the Commission, providing clear areas of responsibility and purpose. The language and concepts contained in the Values and Themes can be incorporated in these statements. From there, the SAG/BRCC can build Objectives or Initiatives that solve problems or address required change – as defined by the Department in Bonham's 14 Point Plan or offered in Huffamn's August letter to the opening meeting.

I offer you the attached revised Mission and Vision Statements for consideration. Please make them available for discussion next week or notify me if I will be required to read them into the record at the various meetings.

Kirk Vyverberg, Citizen
Sacramento, CA

The following is offered as consolidated Mission & Vision Statements: Chapter 3.

DFG Commission: Mission Suggestion 3 - *A compilation*

The mission of the California Fish and Game [Wildlife] Commission, on behalf of our citizens, is to ensure the long term sustainability and vitality of California's diverse wildlife resources by overseeing the Department of Fish & Game [Wildlife] and marshalling support for its public trust mandate and programs.

[Notes to SAG: Name change is good if affordable; Commission represents the citizens and as such should represent diversity, integrity, and a variety of stakeholder's interests, integrated with a strong natural resource management stewardship ethic. They require sound judgement and wisdom for oversight, plus an ability to build community and government support for the mandates and programs of the Department.]

DF&G Commission: Vision Suggestion 9

The vision of the California Fish & Game Commission, in partnership with the Department of Fish and Game and the public, is to fulfill its mission by:

- Guiding the ongoing scientific evaluation and assessment of California's fish and wildlife resources;
- Setting California's fish and wildlife resource management policies, insuring statewide application, and approving regional variation
- Developing appropriate fish and wildlife management rules, regulations, and codes that support the mandates and clarifies jurisdiction
- Establishing communication and partnerships between stakeholders, communities, and agencies that inform and support public trust mandates
- Provide financial support equal to the requirements of the mandates through managed legislative and budgetary affairs.

DFG Mission Suggestion 5: *A compilation*

The mission of the Department of Fish & Game [Wildlife] is to protect, restore, and manage California's diverse wildlife resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their vital ecological values and for their sustainable benefit to our people.

[Notes to SAG: Name change is positive if affordable; "partnerships" belongs in vision statements below; "wildlife resources" further shortens the statement; "to protect, restore and manage" integrates the mission with the organization's unique combination of strengths: enforcement, restoration science & experience, and a statewide field organization; "sustainable" applies both to fish & game harvest rates, as well as LSAA permits for in-stream gravel mining sediment harvest, etc..]

DFG Vision Suggestion 1b:

We seek to create a California Department of Fish and Game that:

- Acts to anticipate the future
- Manages wildlife resources on an ecosystem basis
- Values and practices an integrated management process
- Balances compliance guidance with consistent enforcement
- Empowers its staff, supports their development, and encourages teamwork
- Makes decisions that are founded in science, supported by policy, and informed by community needs
- Succeeds in its mandates through coordinated resource planning, management, and enforcement
- Represents integrity, innovation, excellence and dedication as both stewards of our vital natural resources and managers of a unique public trust agency.

-----Original Message-----

From: Marcin Whitman [mailto:MWhitman@dfg.ca.gov]

Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 8:54 AM

To: Melissa Miller-Henson

Cc: Sandra Morey

Subject: Re: [CFWSV_DFG] This week's homework (due Fri) and RSVPs

Melissa,

I am sending this onto you but am unsure where, or whether even if, there is a chance for staff input.

I finally got to read: Ch3 suggested revisions 120119_1812

on the bottom of page 6 a suggested revision to "best-available science" was "best-available biological science" While the SAG and BR may not realize it, we have a small but significant group of physical scientists who also work for CDFG.

Often a solution to a biological/resource problem has repeatedly not worked (sometimes causing owner or the public millions of dollars) because the physical context was not understood (e.g. geology at St. Paula fish ladders) When the CDFG physical scientists were brought in, they provided the skill set to correctly address the problem.

My impression is that this word change was because the contributors are unaware of the physical scientists in CDFG. If this is a deliberate suggestion to move them out of CDFG, that is a policy matter for which this is not a venue for me to express my opinions.

MHW

=====

From: Kaitilin Gaffney
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:00 AM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: article regarding State of Georgia's recreational use pass

Please include this in the public comments for the Strategic Vision process – it aligns with some of the recommendations coming out of the Funding Work Group and may be of interest to SAG, BRCC and Exec Committee.

Thanks!
Kaitilin Gaffney

<http://www.grandviewoutdoors.com/fishing/articlecontent/1/2012/3206/permit-now-needed-for-non-anglers-at-georgia-fishing-areas>

Permit Now Needed For Non-Anglers At Georgia Fishing Areas

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With the New Year, people who hike, picnic or camp, but don't fish, no longer have free use of the Evans County Public Fishing Area and 31 other facilities around Georgia.

STATESBORO, Ga. (AP) — With the New Year, people who hike, picnic or camp — but don't fish — no longer have free use of the Evans County Public Fishing Area and 31 other facilities around Georgia.

Either an annual fishing license with a wildlife management area stamp or a special short-term fishing license was already required to fish in Georgia's public fishing areas. But previously, no license or fee had been required for other uses. Effective Jan. 1, the Department of Natural Resources is issuing a new permit called the Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass, or GORP, and requiring that non-anglers who use fishing areas possess either a GORP or a fishing license.

A temporary banner on the gate at the Evans County PFA alerts visitors of the new requirement, and a permanent sign has been put up nearby. The 372-acre PFA, off U.S. Highway 280 near Daisy, includes three lakes measuring eight, 30 and 84 acres. In addition to fishing piers and boat ramps, the site features picnic tables, restrooms and a nature trail with a boardwalk. It also offers primitive campsites for organized groups.

Besides the seven affected public fishing areas, the Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass is now required to access certain facilities at 25 wildlife management areas, according to a list on the DNR website. Near Statesboro, these include the campground at Tuckahoe WMA in Screven County and the shooting ranges at Big Hammock WMA in Tattnall County and Richmond Hill WMA in Bryan County.

An annual GORP costs \$19, which is the same as the fee to add a wildlife management area stamp to an annual fishing or hunting license. Another option is a three-day GORP for \$3.50, and Georgia residents - but not nonresidents - can make this a "GORP Plus" with three-day fishing privileges for no additional charge. Families or other groups of up to eight people can buy a three-day group pass for \$10 or an annual small-group pass for \$35.

The GORP can be purchased online at www.georgiawildlife.com, by phone at 1-800-366-2661, or at local retailers that sell hunting and fishing licenses.

With the DNR adjusting to funding cuts, the permit requirement is the second policy change in six months for the public fishing areas. As of Aug. 1, 2011, the state-operated PFAs are open five days a week and are closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Previously, they had been open from sunup to sundown seven days a week.

From: Dan Silver
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 12:42 PM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Cc: Joanna Stone
Subject: Comments for SAG, BRCC and Executive Committee on CFWSV
Importance: High

Dear Melissa:

It would be appreciated if you could transmit this memo to the BRCC and Executive Committee for their consideration at the February 3 and February 16 meetings. Confirmation of your receipt and distribution would be appreciated. Thank you very much.

Dan

+++++

January 24, 2012

TO: Blue Ribbon, Executive, Stakeholder Committees

FROM: Dan Silver (Endangered Habitats League), Member, Stakeholder Advisory Committee

RE: Statues/Regulations and Governance Recommendations

I would like to *support* the BRCC discussion on January 12 concerning the role of the Fish and Game Commission. The minute notes show this discussion as follows:

Propose to refocus F&GC toward more traditional fish and game mandates and relieving it of responsibilities related to CESA and other species management responsibilities (make those the responsibility of DFG, being composed of professional wildlife managers).

It is simply too much to ask the Commission to be expert in everything. Commissioners cannot be expected to be qualified in population viability analyses, taxonomic genetics, and similar scientific fields. Limiting the Commission's role to consumptive use matters is realistic and manageable. Relieving it of non-consumptive management would undoubtedly improve its functioning.

That said, there is one part of the Commission's current role which is fundamentally ill-conceived and a top priority for reform. This is the decision on whether to list or not list a species under CESA. Such a decision rests wholly on the law and the assembled scientific data. It is a *technical* decision that should be made objectively and professionally by the Department. It is not a *policy* decision, as is more typically within the Commission's purview. And it is *certainly* not a political decision, yet that is what listing decisions may become.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to recommend transfer of species listing decisions to the Department, if not to entirely refocus the Commission to traditional consumptive uses.

Thank you for your consideration.

+++++

Dan Silver, Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League
8424 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite A 592
Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

JAN 25 2012

January 23, 2012

Justice John Zebrowski (ret.), Chairperson
California Law Revision Commission
4000 Middlefield Road, Room D-2
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4739

RE: Comprehensive Review of the Fish and Game Code

Dear Chairperson Zebrowski:

As chairs of the Senate and Assembly policy committees with subject matter jurisdiction over fish and wildlife policy issues, we are writing to request the Law Revision Commission take on the project of conducting a substantive review of the Fish and Game Code for purposes of making recommendations to the Legislature on changes to update, clarify, and improve the Code. We are particularly interested in your suggestions that would help to clarify the scopes of responsibility of the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission.

As the result of the passage of AB 2376 (Huffman) in 2010, the California Natural Resources Agency this past year has been facilitating a strategic visioning process for the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission. The process has involved the appointment of a state executive committee, a blue ribbon commission and a broad-based stakeholder advisory process. One of the recommendations in the draft vision released for public comment in November, 2011, was the need for a comprehensive, thorough review and updating of the Fish and Game Code, to identify obsolete, inconsistent or duplicative sections, and to provide support for more readily understood and enforceable fish and wildlife regulations.

While there have been some legislative updates to the Fish and Game Code in recent years (see for instance AB 1729 (Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife) of 2007 and AB 1442 (Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife) of 2009), it has been many years since a thorough and comprehensive review of the entire code has been conducted.

As part of the Law Revision Commission's review, it would also be particularly helpful if the Commission could provide a list of all of the mandates and responsibilities of the Department and the Fish and Game Commission, identify areas where particular mandates and responsibilities may overlap with the mandates and responsibilities of other agencies, and identify programs that lack identified funding sources. In addition, it would be helpful if the Law Revision Commission could identify areas where there may be a lack of clarity regarding

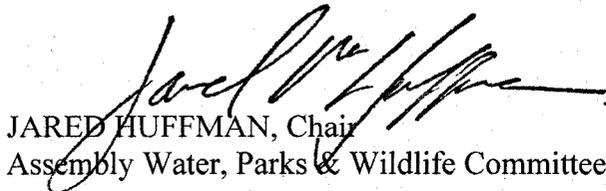
the roles of the Department and the Fish and Game Commission, with recommendations on options as to how such lack of clarity might be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Given the strategic visioning process that is currently underway, the Law Revision Commission's undertaking of this project would be particularly timely. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chief committee consultants Bill Craven at the Senate Natural Resources & Water, or Diane Colborn at the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committees.

Sincerely,



FRAN PAVLEY, Chair
Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee



JARED HUFFMAN, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee

cc: Brian Hebert, Executive Director, CA Law Revision Commission
Diane Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel
John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources
Chuck Bonham, Director, Department of Fish and Game

From: Craig Tucker
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 8:44 AM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Subject: Karuk Tribe request

Melissa:

Thanks for the hard work of compiling and sharing all the drafts and meeting notes. I have been reviewing these documents this week. I am generally impressed with the progress the group has made and direction taken.

My one comment that I would like to add is this: when describing partnerships or collaboration the document commonly refers to "other agencies, organizations, and stakeholders".

I ask the group to consider always including "tribes" in that list explicitly. This is because the terms 'organization' or 'stakeholder' does not accurately describe a federally recognized Indian Tribe. Tribes are unique in that a host of federal laws apply only to Tribes, Tribes can have their own law enforcement staff, Tribes can have water quality standards that have the same legal effects at state water quality standards, tribes often have large natural resources and fisheries departments, and more.

So we ask that we always include 'Tribes' when listing potential partners or collaborators.

S.Craig Tucker
Klamath Coordinator
Karuk Tribe
cell 916.207.8294
home office 707-839-1982
ctucker@karuk.us

www.klamathrestoration.org

follow me on twitter @scraigtucker

January 20, 2012

Larry Lewis

Redding, Ca.

California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Comments on the California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project

Dear Sirs:

As a native California resident and avid outdoors person and senior citizen, I have a rather unique perspective on the history of our California Fish and Game. After reading over the draft of the proposed (CFWSV), where do I start? I could be brief and chalk it up to more bureaucratic Bull * * * *, but a more in depth analysis is called for.

What happened to the good old days when the Fish and Game had a more focused mission of managing our Game and Fish resources? In those days, the primary public sector served by Fish and Game was the various sportsmen groups that paid for and utilized the resource. Also, a very good case could be made that the balance of the California human population benefitted greatly from the process. Even the more focused mission was not easy. For example, I attended a Fish and Game Commission meeting in Redding during the early 1970's at which it was announced that a deal had been struck with the U. S. Forest Service to burn 600 acres of brush to improve deer habituate. Obviously a small step in the right direction that didn't make a dent in the vastly overgrown condition of the California forest lands at that time. The turf wars between various State and Federal agencies have long been a problem for accomplishment the Fish and Game mission.

Over time, the Fish and Game mission has been fragmented to the point that the old primary focus is now almost non-existent. As a life member of the NRA, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Straight Arrow Bow hunters of Redding, I have enjoyed many of the early successes of the California Fish and Game, but in recent times the agency seems to be more interested in protecting nematodes than our big game species. This trend has not gone unnoticed by our various sportsman groups. However, in fairness to the Fish and Game, wildlife habitat shrinkage, road kills and uncontrolled predation have all contributed to the problem of trying to find enough game animals for the hunters of California. All of these factors have helped to push an increasing number of hunters to seek opportunities in other Western States, which in turn, negatively impacts the revenue stream to Fish and Game.

The proposed (CFWSV) will increase the fragmentation of duties assigned to the California Fish and Game. Furthermore, the draft report issues a clear signal that all employees of the agency need remedial training and their duties will be greatly expanded. If the proposal is adopted as presented, my guess is that the staffing level and fiscal budget of the Department will double in order to meet the goals being put forth. All of this comes at a time when the State is experiencing serious financial stress.

Funding for the operation of Fish and Game has always been a challenge. Historically, fees collected from sportsman have been an important source of revenue. Some recent actions taken by the Agency were apparently aimed at addressing budgetary shortfalls, but the actions may have resulted in decreased revenues. For example, about 10 years ago California adopted a preference point system for big game hunting. The program seemed to work reasonably well and I played the game until two years ago when the Agency decided not to issue any refunds for deer tags. I didn't mind paying a processing fee to be involved in playing the game, as it is in most other states; however, when all deer hunting applicants were required to buy both a hunting license and deer tag in order to be eligible to receive a preference point, the game ceased to be fun anymore. Since that time I have not purchased a California deer tag and have hunted big game exclusively in several other western states.

In a round about way the (CFWSV) proposal validates my decision to give up on California as a location to pursue my passion for big game hunting. Control of the Agency is being handed over to 51 different interest groups that do not necessarily share the interests of California sportsman. Unfortunately, we have already witnessed what happens when management of wildlife is handed over to people who are not qualified i.e. the mountain lion.

Good luck with your fragmented vision of the future for the California Fish and Game. I am concerned that an Agency that reports to 51 different groups will find life to be almost unbearable. The process may very well lead to analysis paralysis and fewer boots on the ground.

Sincerely,



Larry Lewis

From: Guivetchi, Kamyar
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:11 AM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Subject: FW: SGC Strategic Plan & SCLN Webinar Opportunity

Melissa:

The SGC approved its Strategic Plan last week. There is a link to the plan below and I have the file for convenience. I have also attached the staff report which includes a great implementation schedule for the strategies/actions in the plan.

I think this would of interest to the BRCC and SAG members, in particular Strategy 1 - Coordinate State Programs to Achieve Sustainability Objectives, and its related actions. Action 1 is about coordinating across State agencies and cites IRM and Action 2 is about identifying policies and regulations that create barriers. And there are others.

I think the content and format of this strategic plan may also be instructive given the work of the BRCC/SAG.

See you soon.

Take Care,

Kamyar

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✉ Mail P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236  
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From: sgc-bounces@lists.ceres.ca.gov [mailto:sgc-bounces@lists.ceres.ca.gov] **On Behalf Of** California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:04 PM
To: 'sgc@lists.ceres.ca.gov'
Subject: [SGC] SGC Strategic Plan & SCLN Webinar Opportunity

SGC Strategic Plan

We're pleased to announce that the Strategic Growth Council adopted its 2012-2014 Strategic Plan at last week's Council Meeting. You can read the plan on the SGC website:

<http://sgc.ca.gov/workplan.html>. To the hundreds of you who contributed to the process: thank you.

This Strategic Plan was the product of tremendous collaboration, and this partnership will not stop here.

The Council recognizes that the successful implementation of this Strategic Plan critically depends upon continued collaboration between the Council, staff, partners and stakeholders.

To subscribe to the SGC Listserv, enter your name and email address on the left-hand side of <http://sgc.ca.gov>. To unsubscribe, simply reply to this email and ask to be removed from the list

STAFF REPORT: SGC STRATEGIC PLAN

Description:

The final draft of the SGC Strategic Plan is being submitted for approval. This staff report covers the public review process, a recommended focus area for the first year's implementation efforts, and a proposed implementation planning process.

Recommended Action:

Adopt Strategic Plan; approve recommended focus area and proposed implementation planning process.

Background:

In order to establish priorities over the next three years, the Strategic Growth Council embarked upon a strategic planning process in May 2011. This was the first formal strategic planning process undertaken by the Council. The process included a robust public participation component and public review process. Presented here is a final draft of the SGC Strategic Plan for 2012-2014, for your review, comments and approval. It is the result of many minds working together to forge a more sustainable California. While it has been a challenging process, it has also given us the opportunity to involve our partners and stakeholders in focusing our attention on where the SGC can have the greatest impact.

We look forward to a robust discussion of the proposed first year focus, implementation planning process and Council approval of the Strategic Plan.

Public Review Process:

On December 6, 2011, a draft version of the Strategic Plan was released for public review and published on the SGC website. All participants of the strategic planning focus groups held over the summer of 2011 were notified of the opportunity to comment on the draft plan, as were all members of SGC's listserve, which contains nearly two thousand members throughout the state. Staff received and responded to nearly 200 unique comments and suggestions submitted by 55 individuals representing local government partners, stakeholder organizations, and members of the public. Many of those suggestions resulted in modifications and improvements to the draft plan document, which are incorporated into the final draft.

Staff would like to thank all those who took the time to provide comments to help improve this plan. It is clear from the comments received that much hope is placed in the work of the Strategic Growth Council to make state government more efficient and responsive, and to strategically plan for addressing the major challenges California faces for its future.

Strategic Focus

This is a 3 year plan, and not everything can be done at once. SGC's statutory mandate is broad, crossing 8 far-reaching sustainability objectives. Given the broad mandate and limited resources, an annual "focus" is proposed for Strategic Plan implementation. Where appropriate, this focus would serve as a lens through which actions are implemented over the course of the year.

During the public review period, many suggestions were made in terms of strategic focus. Staff is recommending **increasing infill and reducing sprawl** for our first year focus, as it is an underlying land use issue that affects all other SGC objectives. The current economic recession provides the opportunity to focus on local and statewide planning that will position California communities for future growth. Investment in this focus area will allow SGC to best support the Statewide Planning Priorities and provide for efficient use of existing infrastructure.

Prioritizing the Action Plan

The Strategic Plan document contains four strategies that follow the legislative mandates of the SGC. Each strategy is assigned one or more "Actions" to support accomplishment of the strategic objectives. A high-level description of proposed methods for implementation is provided for each action.

While each of the actions contained in the Strategic Plan is considered a priority, not all of the actions are equal in terms of level of effort and SGC resource investment (including SGC Executive Staff, Key Staff, workgroups, and funding) required to implement. Given the varying levels of effort involved, staff recommends placing actions into three "tiers":

- **Tier 1** - Actions that are the highest priority AND require a high level of effort in terms of new SGC resource investment.
- **Tier 2** – Actions that require a medium/moderate level of effort and/or new SGC resource investment
- **Tier 3** – Actions that require the modest level of effort and/or new SGC resource investment.

The chart on Page 4 shows the action proposed for each tier as well as initial thoughts on timelines. Of the 12 actions included in the plan, three are proposed for Tier 1 as top priorities for the Council and SGC resource investment. These are Actions 1, 2, and 4. Developing implementation plans will be prioritized first for these actions. Timing for developing implementation plans would be staggered due to resource allocation constraints. Several of the actions proposed for Tiers 2 and 3 are efforts that were previously funded, are well underway and require moderate or minimal levels of effort to shepherd projects through to completion and/or to continue ongoing coordination efforts.

Action Implementation Planning Process

By nature of the SGC, each of the 12 actions represents a multi-faceted, multi-agency project. Staff recommends an implementation planning process that incorporates the principles of project management. A description of project management phases and tasks within them are shown on Page 6.

Benefits of incorporating project management concepts within the implementation planning process include better communication among management, project team members, local government partners and other stakeholders; better understanding of overall project goals, schedule dates, tasks and milestones; and greater awareness of project progress.

The lead agency identified for each action will lead the effort to develop a plan that guides the implementation effort and tracks the project team's progress. A proposed template for implementation planning is provided on Page 5, which outlines the necessary components of a successful implementation plan.

Proposed Action Tiers and Implementation Plan Timeline

Revision 1.0 - initial draft for comment only

Action #	(Calendar Year)	2012				2013				2014			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Tier 1													
1	Coordinate programs, activities and funding	I	P	E					MC				C
2	Identify barriers in policies and programs			I	P	E		MC					C
4	SGC objectives in State infrastructure planning				I	P	E				MC		C
Tier 2													
7	Administer & Evaluate grant programs	E		MC							C		
8	Further SB375 through MPOs grant reviews				I	P	E		MC				C
10	Outreach program	P	E		MC		C						
11	Data projects	E			MC						C		
Tier 3													
3	Geospatial data asset coordination	I, P	E	MC	C								
5	Health in All Policies	E					MC						C
6	High Speed Rail Station Area Planning in SJ Valley	P											C
9	Funding Wizard Enhancements	E				MC							C
12	Regional Progress Report	P	E				MC		C				

Implementation Phases

- I** Initiate
- P** Plan
- E** Execute
- MC** Monitor/Control
- C** Close

Action Implementation Plan Template

[Action # / description]

Project Roles

Project Champion – executive level champion works with the Project Team Leader to define and support project goals (or desired outcomes) and provides executive guidance on implementation.

Project Team Leader – works with the Project Champion to define project goals (or desired outcomes); leads the project team; tracks and reports on implementation plan milestones and progress; monitors and fosters team development; manages schedule and team administration.

Project Team Members – provide the required expertise to plan and execute the project; develop and deliver work products required to execute the project plan.

Project Charter

Problem Statement - description of the problem to be solved (may be same as purpose of action)

Goal Statement – what is the desired outcome of the project? Should be stated as a SMART goal (i.e., specific, measurable, achievable, results-oriented, time-bound)

Business Case – benefits of achieving the goal and consequences of non-achievement

Scope – project parameters; limits or framing of the problem team will work on

Constraints and Assumptions – description of constraints the project team will face and assumptions made in planning and executing the project

Implementation Phase and Milestones

Current project implementation phase (Initiating, Planning, Executing, Monitoring/Controlling, Closing)

Implementation Milestones

Milestone 1 - description and date

M1.T1 - Task to be completed to meet milestone

M1.T2 - Task to be completed to meet milestone

Milestone 2 - description and date

M2.T1 - Task to be completed to meet milestone

M2.T2 - Task to be completed to meet milestone

Milestone 3 - description and date

M3.T1 - Task to be completed to meet milestone

M3.T2 - Task to be completed to meet milestone

Milestone N - description and date

Mn.Tn - Task to be completed to meet milestone

Project Management Process Groups

The project management process is divided into 5 process groups:



Initiating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining the project goal(s) and scope • Identify target start and finish dates • Identify core team members (project champion, project team leader, project team members) • Identify project budget and resources requirements
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining project milestones, tasks, and expected duration/timelines • Documenting available resources and assigning resources to tasks
Executing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing work results, products or services required to meet project goals • Requesting changes to the project as necessary • Recommending performance or quality improvements • Creating project updates (e.g., reports, presentations, and communications)
Monitoring & Controlling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing resource and task conflicts • Update project timelines as necessary • Changing project to meet new or unexpected demands
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documenting final report to analyze performance of project • Develop recommendations for future efforts as needed

California Strategic Growth Council Strategic Plan 2012-2014

January 24, 2012

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A Call to Action

The first years of the 21st century have seen great uncertainty and volatility: a global recession; crises in the housing and financial markets; extreme weather events; and competition for increasingly scarce resources, especially energy and water. These present grave challenges to California communities.

In California and elsewhere, governments, businesses, institutions, households and individuals are striving to meet these challenges through innovative initiatives based on the concept of sustainability. In its most essential form, sustainability means using resources wisely and efficiently to meet current needs while ensuring these resources are available for future generations. In taking this path, communities are seeking to achieve improved quality of life, public health and economic revitalization, with benefits available to all residents.

California's efforts are further driven by the realities of projected population growth and demographic change, major infrastructure needs, strained ecosystems, and severe fiscal constraints. California's population is projected to reach almost 47 million people by 2030. How can we accommodate this change and growth so that all Californians have shared access to economic opportunity and good jobs and can live in healthy, resilient and well planned communities?

The answer to this central question must involve planning for a future that will be profoundly different than the past. Our complex challenges demand new ways of growing, innovative solutions, and a more integrated and efficient approach to natural resource management and infrastructure investments.

Leadership rises in challenging times. California's leaders at all levels of government and the private and civic sectors are called forth to meet these challenges for our shared and interconnected future—one that is envisioned to be prosperous, healthy, vibrant, and resource-efficient.

The Strategic Growth Council brings together key agency secretaries to plan differently for future growth patterns of California, and to guide how we will provide housing, transportation, and other necessities to Californians, while at the same time protecting the environment and agriculture and meeting our climate goals. To do this we must promote infill and reduce sprawl. It is the center and the edge that most needs our collective attention. California's urban centers rely upon the success and vitality of rural areas; rural areas equally rely upon the success and vitality of its urban centers. For California to prosper, both must thrive.

The plan that follows charts the Strategic Growth Council's continued path toward this future.

Background on the Strategic Growth Council

The Strategic Growth Council was created in 2008 by Senate Bill 732¹ (Steinberg). The Council is comprised of the agency Secretaries of Business, Transportation and Housing; Health and Human Services; Environmental Protection; and Natural Resources; as well as the Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and one public member appointed by the Governor. The Council is charged with four main tasks to encourage the development of sustainable communities,² as follows:

- (a) Identify and review activities and funding programs of member state agencies that may be coordinated to improve air and water quality, improve natural resource protection, increase the availability of affordable housing, improve transportation, meet the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, encourage sustainable land use planning, and revitalize urban and community centers in a sustainable manner.
- (b) Recommend policies and investment strategies and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and to appropriate state agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities.
- (c) Provide, fund and distribute data and information to local governments, and regional agencies that will assist in developing and planning sustainable communities.
- (d) Manage and award grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities.

Throughout this document, the term "Council" is used to refer specifically to Council Members named above. The term "Strategic Growth Council" (or SGC) is used more broadly in referring to Council members, staff supporting the Council and their collective work efforts.

¹ See California Public Resources Code, Chapters 12 and 13, specifically 75125, sections (a) – (d).

² Sustainable communities are defined in statute as communities that promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety. See California Government Code, Section 65041.1.

Strategic Plan Horizon

This Strategic Plan sets forth priorities and actions for the Strategic Growth Council for a three-year period, from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014.

Our Vision

Healthy, vibrant, and resilient California communities, environment, and economy.

Our Mission

The Strategic Growth Council coordinates the activities of State agencies and partners with stakeholders to promote sustainability, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians.

Our Partners and Stakeholders

The Strategic Growth Council has a broad and diverse set of stakeholders that are integral to the success of the SGC. This includes the SGC's unique partnership with local governments and regional agencies. The California Constitution directly establishes local control for cities and counties in land use, planning and zoning issues.³ The success of the Council is, therefore, dependent on a strong partnership with local governments in achieving its vision and mission. Additionally, the work of the Council depends upon the active participation and support of other stakeholders, including nonprofit organizations and advocates.

Throughout the summer of 2011 the SGC engaged over 150 stakeholders representing local partners, state partners, nonprofit organizations, and associations to discuss and provide input and advice on potential programmatic priorities. Their ideas and suggestions have informed this plan. A list of participants can be found on pages 22-24.

The synergy of working together can lead to more effective and responsive government, and accelerated progress toward a sustainable California.

³ California Public Resources Code, Chapters 13, Section 75130 specifically states, "This chapter does not authorize the council to take an action with regard to the exercise of a local government's land use permitting authority."

Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainability Objectives

As set forth in SB 732 and adopted by the Council, the SGC’s sustainability objectives are to:

- Improve air and water quality
- Improve protection of natural resources and agricultural lands
- Increase the availability of affordable housing
- Improve public health
- Improve transportation
- Encourage sustainable land use plans and greater infill development
- Revitalize urban and community centers in a sustainable manner
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Just as land use and transportation plans are inexorably linked, they are also tied to natural resource conservation, public health outcomes, and air and water quality. So, too, are the availability of affordable housing, greater infill development, and revitalization of urban and community centers tied to economic opportunity, social equity, and environmental justice. The Strategic Growth Council was created to coordinate activities of State agencies to promote sustainability, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all residents of California.

Intersecting Objectives of Sustainability Policy



Coordination of state activities helps assist local jurisdictions in planning and implementing sustainable communities. The SGC provides a forum for driving strategic alignment that will multiply the impact of each member agency’s program planning, policies, regulations, and funding.

Principles for Actions

Actions were chosen based on consistency with six core principles. These criteria serve to guide implementation and establish priorities for the action items, given the three-year time horizon of this plan and the resource constraints of all levels of government. The core principles are described below.

To the extent possible, each action must:

- 1.** Work toward the Strategic Growth Council's **mission and mandate** as defined by SB 732 (Steinberg 2008);
- 2.** Leverage and **rely on the multi-agency structure** of the SGC;
- 3.** Preserve and protect the **environment**, grow the **economy**, and enhance social **equity** and environmental justice;
- 4. Advance the State Planning Priorities** (pursuant to Government Code § 65041.1, AB 857, Wiggins 2002), which includes the promotion of infill and other efficient development patterns, and the protection of environmental and agricultural resources;
- 5. Identify the resources** necessary for successful implementation; and
- 6.** Have the potential for a significant **positive impact**.

Action Plan

The four strategies included in this plan follow the legislative mandates of the SGC. The strategies are supported by one or more “Actions” identified to accomplish the strategic objectives. To enhance common understanding, a high-level description is provided of the purpose and proposed methods for accomplishing each action. Actions will be prioritized for implementation, and an implementation plan developed for each, which will further refine and detail the methods through which the action will be accomplished.

Strategy 1

Coordinate State Programs to Achieve Sustainability Objectives

“Identify and review activities and funding programs of member state agencies that may be coordinated to improve...[sustainability objectives⁴].”

1. **Coordinate across State agencies the programs, activities, and funding** which impact sustainability objectives in order to enhance their collective outcomes and inform or influence future investment strategies and funding decisions.

Purpose: In striving to advance the principles of sustainability, the whole of State programs is greater than the sum of the parts. SGC member agencies, and many of the departments within them, fund and administer numerous programs and activities that individually affect sustainability objectives. When appropriate, programs and activities should be coordinated to maximize their impact and effectiveness. Further, evaluating and understanding where opportunities exist to coordinate current funding, programs, and activities will help influence future funding decisions, investment strategies, or new policies.

Methods: Council Members will direct staff to cooperate as necessary to implement this action within and across agencies and departments. Key Staff (or designated staff) will define a process and criteria to identify and create an inventory of programs, activities and funding sources in their departments and agencies that are relevant to sustainability goals and outcomes, and allow for discretion in how they’re implemented. Based on evaluation of collective inventories, Key staff will recommend strategies for improved coordination, future investment and funding decisions, or new policies to be presented to the Council for consideration. Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning (RAMP) and Integrated Resource Management⁵ are examples of coordinated strategies that may be considered for adoption in the implementation of this action. Individual recommendations may lead to the formation of work groups designated to implement the recommendation. SGC Executive Staff will assist agency staff and/or designated work groups in implementing the recommendations approved by the Council.

Lead: SGC Key Staff

⁴ Refer to the list of SGC’s sustainability objectives found on page 6 of this document.

⁵ Integrated resource management (IRM) is a planning and decision making process that coordinates resource use to optimize long term sustainable benefits and minimize conflicts among users. IRM brings together all resource groups rather than each working in isolation to balance the economic, environmental, and social requirements of society. IRM includes planning for minerals, forests, agriculture, recreation, wilderness, energy, wildlife, and parks.

2. **Identify policies and regulations that create barriers** to the development and implementation of sustainable communities, and develop solutions for mitigating or removing barriers.

Purpose: There are significant barriers to infill and related sustainable development. It is desirable for programs and policies to work in concert to support local and regional governmental agencies in achieving sustainability objectives. Programs or policies of varying agencies may not be as supportive or well aligned as they could or should be. Identifying barriers is necessary in working toward resolution.

Methods: The Department of Housing and Community Development's Catalyst Program is an example of State agencies partnering to support implementation of sustainable communities. In similar and other means, possibly including case studies, staff will partner with stakeholders to analyze where policies could incentivize sustainable development measures or where they may be creating barriers for local governments in developing and implementing sustainable communities. For example, an area of focus may be "transit priority projects" or mixed-use infill developments with affordable housing near transit. This will identify opportunities and potential recommendations for addressing barriers and supportive policies and program measures.

Leads: Governor's Office of Planning & Research; Business, Transportation & Housing Agency

3. Support California Technology Agency and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research in **coordinating the State's geospatial data assets** across agencies and departments.

Purpose: Well coordinated, geospatial data can provide high value in sustainability planning. Various data "layers" can be combined to provide a geographic view of important considerations such as identification of prime farmland, sensitive habitats, and watersheds; existing and planned transportation infrastructure and housing; health data; and jurisdictional and parcel boundaries. Many of these assets are held in various State agencies and departments, making data difficult to locate and time consuming to collect and combine. By better coordinating the State's geospatial data assets, locating and utilizing information important to sustainability planning can be made more efficient and cost-effective.

Methods: The California Technology Agency and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research have embarked on an effort to identify and inventory the geospatial data assets held by the state. Council Members' leadership will be necessary to secure participation across state government; designated staff will assist with the identification of high value geospatial data assets requiring ongoing maintenance and would benefit stakeholders by providing a central point of access.

Leads: California Technology Agency / Governor's Office of Planning & Research

4. Promote incorporation of SB 732's objectives into the **State's Five-Year Infrastructure Plan**⁶.

Purpose: Today's decisions on State infrastructure spending will have a profound, long-term impact on the future of California's environment, economy, and communities. Thus, it is important that these decisions fully embrace the State's planning priorities and sustainability objectives, as interpreted by the Environmental Goals and Policy Report⁷ and consistent with the State's Climate Adaptation Strategy. The Department of Finance currently requires that state departments explain how their capital budget outlays are consistent with state planning priorities, but this may not be sufficient to successfully incorporate these objectives into infrastructure investment decisions.

Methods: A work group created by the Executive Director and Key Staff will review the Capital Outlay Budget Proposal process to make recommendations on how planning priorities and sustainability objectives can be more fully integrated into the development of the Five-Year Infrastructure Plan administered by the Department of Finance. Council Members will provide leadership to encourage their agencies' cooperation, and may request an assessment of how infrastructure investments within their agencies and departments support state planning priorities.

Lead: SGC Executive Staff

⁶ See California Government Code, Section 13102. The Department of Finance annually produces the Five-Year Infrastructure Plan, which presents the departments' infrastructure needs and the Governor's proposed plan for funding future state-owned infrastructure. Notably, the plan does not apply to federal funding streams, such as federal transportation funds or federal education funds.

⁷ See California Government Code, Sections 65041-65049. The Environmental Goals and Policy Report presents a forward-looking 20-30 year overview of state growth and development, state environmental goals and objectives, and descriptions of policies and programs to meet statewide goals. This report, created by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, is to be updated every four years. Once approved, the report is to serve as a guide for state expenditures.

5. Align State agency actions and policies to promote healthy communities and healthy public policy through the work of the **Health in All Policies Task Force**.

Purpose: The HiAP Task Force brings together twenty state agencies, departments, and offices to incorporate a health perspective across the executive branch and to advance coordinated policies that foster healthy, sustainable communities.

Methods: The Health in All Policies Task Force, staffed by the Department of Public Health, will continue to develop implementation plans for the recommendations in its December 2010 *Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council*⁸, beginning with the eleven recommendations approved⁹ by the Council as priorities for near-term implementation. The Task Force will continue to identify prospective resources for implementation of recommendations identified in the December 2010 report, with additional implementation plans to be developed and implemented as funding allows. As needed and feasible, the Task Force will also consider development of new recommendations for Council consideration and approval. The Council's role is to provide guidance and endorsement, where appropriate, to the work efforts of the Task Force; and to report how their respective agencies are supporting Health in All Policies efforts.

Lead: Department of Public Health

6. Promote the incorporation of SGC's sustainability objectives in the San Joaquin Valley's **High Speed Rail station area planning** efforts.

Purpose: The CA High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) have announced that they will contribute several million dollars to support station area planning surrounding the planned High Speed Rail stations in the San Joaquin Valley. Given the impact that the proposed High Speed Rail system would have on Valley communities, the Strategic Growth Council intends that the use of these planning funds will incorporate the SGC's holistic sustainability objectives and environmental justice principles. By working with CHSRA, FRA, and station area cities, the SGC can promote use of these funds to plan for livable, sustainable communities.

Methods: In 2011 a partnership formed between the CHSRA and several federal agencies with the goal of encouraging a more sustainable high speed train system in California, and their effort will include working with station area cities to encourage sustainable development in communities affected by California High Speed Rail. The SGC will work with this existing partnership and with station area cities to promote the incorporation of SGC's sustainability objectives and environmental justice in these station area planning activities. Specifically, this will include (a) helping CHSRA/FRA review and comment on cities' proposed Scopes of Work for use of CHSRA/FRA station area planning funds; and (b) use the SGC's outreach program (Action 10) to connect station area cities to planning resources and to one another.

Lead: SGC Executive Staff

⁸ December 3, 2010 report can be found online: <http://sgc.ca.gov/hiap/publications.html>

⁹ Priorities for Near-Term Implementation approved by the Council at June 1, 2011 SGC meeting.

Strategy 2

Provide Local Assistance

“Manage and award grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities.”

7. **Administer and evaluate grant programs** (Urban Greening Grant Program, Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program, and Modeling Incentive awards); and document lessons learned.

Purpose: By passing Proposition 84 of 2006, the people of California indicated their support for activities to “revitalize our communities and make them more sustainable and livable by investing in sound land use planning, local parks and urban greening.” Three Proposition 84 competitive grant programs, administered on behalf of the SGC, help local governments plan for future population growth and climate change impacts; assist Metropolitan Planning Organizations in developing tools to support SB 375¹⁰ (2008) requirements; and support various greening projects in urban communities.¹¹ To help focus assistance to those most in need, some of these grant funds are prioritized for communities more vulnerable to climate change, for economically disadvantaged communities, and for proposals that address an environmental justice issue. Evaluation of the grants is critical to confirm that these programs achieve their desired sustainability outcomes. Furthermore, evaluation can help determine any remaining funding gaps, potentially leading to recommendations for future funding focus areas.

Methods: The Urban Greening Grants program will conduct its second and third round of grants, to be awarded in 2012 and 2013. The Planning Grant and Incentive Program will conduct its second round of grants, to be awarded in 2012, and will then evaluate options for most effectively distributing remaining funds. These two programs both include technical assistance, which is targeted especially to those applicants with less technical capacity. The Modeling Incentives funds have been fully awarded and reimbursement will continue until grant objectives are fulfilled. Program staff of all three programs will assist SGC Executive Staff to evaluate recipients’ progress toward sustainability objectives, document best practices, and publicize lessons learned. SGC Executive Staff will share these and any recommendations with the Council. Recipients of the three programs may be called upon to present their progress and outcomes to the Council.

Lead:

Urban Greening Grants: Natural Resources Agency

Sustainable Community Planning Grants: Department of Conservation

Modeling Incentives: Department of Transportation

¹⁰ See Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008.

¹¹ These three programs collectively fund cities, counties, councils of governments, metropolitan planning organizations, regional transportation planning agencies, joint powers authorities, nonprofit organizations, and special districts.

8. **Further the objectives of SB 375** through review, reporting and evaluation of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) progress on their grant-funded projects.

Purpose: Recognizing the opportunity to encourage the consideration of other sustainability objectives in the California Transportation Plan, Sustainable Communities Strategies of Regional Transportation Plans, and land use plans; the SGC has provided funding to all MPOs through both the Modeling Incentives program and Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives program. By reviewing and evaluating these efforts, the SGC will provide an opportunity for MPOs to share their progress and lessons learned with one another, and to identify needs for further State assistance and partnerships.

Methods: The SGC will request an annual report from each MPO on the progress toward completion of their grant funded projects, with particular attention to how the SGC sustainability objectives are being addressed. Reports requested by the SGC will be reviewed by a staff working group assigned by the SGC Key Staff (in coordination with grant administration staff). The staff review will be based on the funding criteria established for the grant programs; will examine the links to an MPO's draft or adopted Sustainable Community Strategy, if available; and will highlight any need for state partnerships or assistance. Reviews will be presented to the Council and will be made available to other MPOs to promote peer learning. Environmental Protection Agency staff will facilitate this process in the Agency's role as the chair of California's Climate Action Team and will ensure connections are made to appropriate state climate change programs for both greenhouse gas emission reductions and adaptation to the impacts of climate change. This effort will be coordinated with the Department of Transportation's California Interregional Blueprint interim report. The interim report will include a list and overview of all Sustainable Communities Strategies and Alternative Planning Strategies being prepared by regional agencies. Additionally, the California Interregional Blueprint will assess how implementation of these strategies will influence the configuration of the statewide integrated multimodal transportation system needed to achieve maximum feasible emissions reductions.

Lead: Department of Transportation; Environmental Protection Agency

9. Enhance access to funding for sustainability projects by **supporting and further developing the Funding Wizard**, an online tool that searches sustainability grants and incentives.

Purpose: As California's local governments continue to face resource constraints, their ability to pursue sustainability measures increasingly depends upon grants and financial incentives. Furthermore, the fact that these incentives are scattered across dozens of federal departments, state agencies, and regional utilities can make it difficult for applicants to find and track various funding opportunities. The Funding Wizard is an online tool that addresses this problem by compiling these sustainability-focused grants and incentives into one searchable database available on-line.

Methods: With funding from the Strategic Growth Council, staff of the Air Resources Board will continue to work closely with project partners to maintain and further develop the Funding Wizard. This includes expanding the Funding Wizard to encompass all of the SGC's sustainability objectives, enhancing the user interface, hosting the site, and maintaining a comprehensive and up-to-date listing of funding sources. In addition to SGC, project partners include the Natural Resources Agency CERES Program, UC Davis, Public Utilities Commission, Engage 360, California Workforce Investment Board Green Collar Jobs Council, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

Lead: Air Resources Board

10. Establish an **outreach and education program** that creates opportunities for local governments and regional agencies to **network, learn, identify barriers** and **share best practices** for achieving sustainability goals.

Purpose: The SGC's mission of fostering sustainable communities critically depends upon cooperation and initiative from cities, counties, and regional agencies. These local stakeholders rely upon not only financial assistance, but also peer-to-peer guidance, information resources, and identification of best practices. The SGC recognizes that local governments, regional agencies, and State agencies can learn a great deal from one another. Peer-to-peer communication is happening in various forums throughout the state. SGC can leverage those peer-to-peer contacts by creating a common platform for broad, coordinated and strategic dialogue. Among other benefits, this program will help increase the capacity of local governments and regional agencies, including eligible SGC grant applicants, by increasing their access to information and resources.

Methods: SGC Executive Staff and Key Staff will assemble a work group to develop an outreach program and (a) research the needs of key stakeholders, (b) develop an inventory of existing resources, and (c) support the development of the Sustainable Communities Learning Network: a platform for local stakeholders to connect with state resources and for state and local agencies to connect with one another. This program will leverage other outreach programs in the state in a coordinated manner. This work group will evaluate the SGC's outreach efforts and document lessons learned, including barriers to developing sustainable communities. This may lead to recommendations from the Strategic Growth Council to address mitigating barriers or future local government outreach efforts.

Lead: Governor's Office of Planning & Research; SGC Executive Staff

Strategy 3

Fund and Distribute Data & Information

“Provide, fund, and distribute data and information to local governments and regional agencies that will assist in developing and planning sustainable communities.”

11. Continue support for the four existing SGC data projects through to their completion: **Vegetation Mapping, Parcel Data, Protected Lands** and **Healthy Community Indicators projects**; and pursue resulting recommendations. *A description of each data project can be found in Appendix B.*

Purpose: In 2010, the SGC approved four data project proposals. These projects will be supported through completion and data will be made available to support regional and local jurisdictions in their sustainable community planning efforts. In addition, these data sets will serve as important resources for the California Regional Progress Report.

Methods: Cross-agency staff will continue working on the existing data projects through completion in accordance with the approved proposals and contracted statements of work. Recommendations resulting from data projects will be documented and presented to the Council for endorsement and implementation, as appropriate. Once completed, data will be made available to the public, as appropriate, through the ***data.sgc.ca.gov*** data library. Additionally, SGC staff will work with the Governor’s Office of Planning & Research and the California Technology Agency to ensure a consistent platform for distribution and sharing of statewide data.

Leads:

Vegetative Mapping: Department of Fish and Game

Parcel Data & Protocols: Air Resources Board, California Technology Agency, Board of Equalization

Protected Lands: Department of Fish and Game

Healthy Community Indicators: Department of Public Health

12. **Produce a 2013 California Regional Progress Report** in coordination with the update of the Governor's Environmental Goals and Policy Report.

Purpose: The California Regional Progress Report serves as a resource for decision makers at all levels preparing for the future of our state. The Report provides a baseline for measuring sustainability and progress made over time by California's regions and the state as a whole. Measurement across approximately twenty integrated, place-based quality of life indicators serves as a focused mechanism to drive partnerships across all levels of government and between sectors. Taken together, these indicators compose a snapshot of each region's trends, challenges, and successes in the areas of efficient transportation and land use, economic competitiveness and opportunity, environmental health, and resource efficiency and conservation. Identification of disparities in regional outcomes will help inform SGC decision-making to focus on areas of need or specific issue areas to be addressed.

Methods: The 2013 California Regional Progress Report will build upon the 2010 and 2007 California Regional Progress Reports. Indicators to be included in the 2013 Report will be updated to reflect the Council members' priority policy drivers and associated outcomes to be targeted, in coordination with the Governor's Environmental Goals and Policy Report being completed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. SGC Executive Staff will work with contractor to develop an interview protocol and consult with Council members, Key Staff, and other stakeholders and experts on policy issues and indicator priorities. Selection of indicators will be followed by data collection, analysis, and recommendations for Council consideration. These indicators will be coordinated with the Healthy Community Indicators Project (see Action 11 and Appendix B).

Lead: SGC Executive Staff

Strategy 4

Recommend Policies Advancing Sustainable Communities

“Recommend policies and investment strategies and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and to appropriate state agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities.”

Many of the foregoing actions may lead to recommendations for policy changes, program and data improvements, and/or investment strategies that enhance the effectiveness of State programs to support sustainable communities. Should this action plan lead to such recommendations, the Council may issue recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, or other state agencies, either by Council action or by other means, as needed. Additionally, activities outside of the SGC’s Action Plan (such as future infrastructure bonds or legislative proposals) may lead to the Council offering recommendations that advance the concepts of sustainability and foster alignment of investments with State Planning Priorities.

Roles & Responsibilities

The success of the Strategic Growth Council and the implementation of the Strategic Plan depend upon the continued leadership of the Council Members, Key Staff, Executive Director and work groups, and active support of member agencies and departments. This level of commitment is outlined below.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The six Governor-appointed council members constitute the Strategic Growth Council itself. They have final responsibility and authority over all decisions within the SGC's purview.

Council Members will:

- Represent the strategic vision of the Governor.
- Provide leadership by directing their respective agencies to implement Council decisions.
- Provide direction to Executive Director and Key Staff to carry out the SGC's mission and Strategic Plan.
- Identify and provide necessary resources to support the SGC projects and programs, including a Key Staff member who represents the interests of their agencies.
- Attend SGC meetings and actively engage in discussions and decision making.
- Collaborate with agencies and departments (both within and beyond the SGC member agencies) in support of SGC objectives.

In addition, those Council Members representing a state agency will:

- Represent the interests of their respective agencies and the departments within.

In addition, the Public Member will:

- Represent the interests of the public, which may be ascertained by convening public stakeholder meetings as needed, in collaboration with the Executive Director.

KEY STAFF

Each Agency directly represented on the SGC has a Key Staff member, designated by that Council Member, who serves as a senior policy representative of the agency.

Key Staff will:

- With Executive Director, provide strategic guidance for SGC work efforts.
- With Executive Director and other Key Staff, develop staff recommendations and products for the Council.
- Serve as a liaison to their agency and departments to promote and support SGC objectives.
- Serve as (or designate) Leads for working groups; and identify work group participants.
- Attend regular Key Staff and Council meetings.
- Keep Council members informed of SGC activities.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Council hires an Executive Director to manage day-to-day activities of the Strategic Growth Council. The Executive Staff supports the Executive Director in these efforts.

Executive Director will:

- Manage or oversee all work efforts initiated by the Council, including Strategic Plan implementation, and provide strategic direction for all such efforts.
- With Key Staff, develop staff recommendations and products to be taken to the Council.
- Represent the SGC through interaction and outreach with state agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders.
- Provide administrative oversight of SGC functions and contracts.
- Organize and coordinate Strategic Growth Council meetings and Key Staff meetings.
- Keep Council Members and Key Staff informed of SGC activities and contracts.

WORK GROUPS

For assistance in conducting its business, the Council may establish Work Groups. Such groups gather information, conduct research, analyze relevant issues and facts, and draft proposed position papers and/or recommendations for deliberation by the Council. Given limited staffing for participation in multiple cross-agency workgroups, effort will be made to streamline the business and number of Work Groups.

Work Group membership will be determined based on the issues and outcomes sought for the given project or effort. Membership may include staff from SGC member agencies and departments, staff from interested state agencies and departments that are *not* represented on the Council, and other interested parties as identified by the SGC Executive and Key staff.

Work Groups established by the SGC may not conduct business independent of the Council, represent the Council, or determine policy without approval of the Council as their role is to provide information and recommendations for consideration by the Council.

The Climate Change, Land Use & Infrastructure Work Group (CCLU-In) of the Climate Action Team is a cross-agency work group established to help coordinate the State's efforts that address climate change, land use, and infrastructure vulnerabilities and opportunities. Though CCLU-In is independent of the Strategic Growth Council, the similar mission and membership may lead the SGC to request that CCLU-In conduct research or provide analysis to the Council.

Looking Ahead

Strategic Plan Implementation

This Strategic Plan sets out an action plan for the Council over a three-year period, from 2012 through 2014. The actions will be prioritized for implementation, and an implementation plan will be developed for each of the twelve actions, detailing a timeline of specific tasks, required resources, and targeted milestones. Creating these implementation plans will be a joint effort between SGC Executive Staff and each action's lead agency/department, with guidance and direction from the Council. Implementation will focus on the Council's and the Governor's priorities, as they evolve over the three year period.

Measuring Progress

By including timelines and milestones, each implementation plan will specifically address how that action's progress can be measured. The Council will regularly review the progress and status of each action to ensure they implement the SGC's mission and mandate, and adaptive management techniques will be employed. In addition to monitoring results to evaluate their effectiveness, strategies and actions may need to be adjusted in the face of uncertain resources (funding and staff).

Public Participation

Recognizing that public participation is central to the SGC's success, the Council and staff will actively seek opportunities for *broad* and *diverse* public engagement throughout Strategic Plan implementation. Each of the twelve implementation plans will highlight the public's role, and these opportunities for public input will be publicized on the SGC website and elsewhere, as appropriate.

Beyond 2014

Although this Strategic Plan maps an action plan for only 2012 through 2014, the SGC is cognizant of the need to consider its future beyond this three-year time horizon. As implementation of this plan progresses and its effectiveness is measured, the SGC will consider its future focus, work efforts, and resource needs. Immediately following the adoption of this Plan, the SGC will work to identify and secure continued funding for SGC staff and programs

Appendix A: Strategic Planning Process & Participants

In order to establish priorities over the next three years (2012 - 2014), the Strategic Growth Council embarked on a strategic planning process in May 2011. This was the first formal strategic planning process the Council had undertaken and included a robust public participation component. Through this process, the SGC was able to engage and receive valuable input from more than 150 stakeholders.

The effort began with interviews to inform the design for the Strategic Planning effort. Those interviews included SGC members, SGC Executive and Key Staff, local government, non-governmental organizations, and other key stakeholders.

Subsequently, four half-day focus groups were held in June and July 2011 to allow stakeholders to meet and discuss how the SGC could be most effective in supporting California to achieve its sustainability objectives. Specifically, the events sought to understand stakeholder priorities and goals for the SGC given the constrained financial environment California faces; to seek advice on how to better leverage current efforts and resources given the board spectrum of organizations working around the state on sustainability related issues; to educate participants as to the SGC's legislative mandates and current programmatic efforts; and to network, encouraging stronger relations amongst those involved in sustainability efforts within state government, local government, and non-government organizations throughout California.

In August, 2011, the Council held an all-day strategic planning session. With participation from all 6 SGC members, and over 100 people in attendance from a wide-variety of organizations, the feedback received at this meeting was invaluable in shaping the content of this report.

The two key objectives of the session were to gather specific refinement on the goals for the Strategic Plan and to poll participants as to their view of the SGC's most important programmatic priorities, assuming constrained resources, through 2013. The goals and actions presented were drafted per the feedback received during the initial phase of the process. The secondary objectives of the session included opinions as to the SGC's "ideal future state", validation of draft criteria for implementation actions, and detailed input as to how those actions that participants deemed most important might be resourced best to ensure successful implementation.

RECURRING THEMES FROM STAKEHOLDER INPUT

- Success depends on leadership and vision from the Governor and Council Members.
- The Council must cut through regulatory contradictions and competing State mandates and priorities in order to achieve objectives.
- Supported efforts and programs should:
 - Include diverse public participation, create buy-in, and build capacity to increase awareness.
 - Be outcome oriented, include monitoring and provide data to inform future endeavors.
- Local governments and regional agencies need support and want to partner with the State to improve sustainability efforts.

- The SGC needs a reliable funding source for staff and grant programs.
- The SGC should focus on convening stakeholders to promote constructive dialogue and integrated planning.
- The SGC should assist in efforts to help the State be competitive for federal funding.
- In order to ensure a culture shift throughout state government, committed participation is needed from those at the agency secretary and department director level down to program staff to understand and implement the sustainability programs and principles of the SGC.
 - Some state employees are passionate and have expertise on topics related to sustainability, but feel that they don't have the authority or approval to work on sustainability or inter-agency collaboration. The state needs to find practical ways to support inter- and intra-agency dialogue and coordination, incorporating this into job duties and expectations.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS PARTICIPANTS

- American Farmland Trust: Ed Thompson
- American Lung Association: Bonnie Holmes-Gen
- American Planning Association: Lauren Silva
- Applied Development Economics: Trish Kelly
- Association of Bay Area Governments: Ezra Rapport
- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments: Linda Meckel
- California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency: Acting Secretary Traci Stevens, Carol Farris
- California Chamber of Commerce: Amy Morgan
- California Air Resources Board: Doug Ito, Ryan McCarthy, Nancy McKeever, Lynn Terry
- California Association for Coordinated Transportation: Patrisha Piras
- California Association of Alcohol and Drug Educators: Carleen Bedwell
- California Association of Councils of Governments: Bill Higgins
- California Association for Local Economic Development: Wayne Schell
- California Building Industry Association: Silvio J. Ferrari, Michael Winn
- California Climate Change Center: Jerry Jeffe
- California Department of Conservation: Bruce Gwynne, John Lowrie, Molly Penberth
- California Department of Education: Kathleen J. Moore, Kathleen Seabourne
- California Department of Fish and Game: Tom Lupo
- California Department of Finance: Michael Cohen, Madelynn McCain
- California Department of Forestry and Fire: May Klaas Suin, John Melvin
- California Department of Housing and Community Development: Cathy Creswell, Jennifer Seeger, Linda Wheaton,
- California Department of Public Health: Kathy Devin, Jaquolyn Duerr, Neil Maizlish, Aimee Sisson
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control: Trina Gonzalez
- California Department of Transportation: Coco Briseno, Garth Hopkins, Andy Knapp, Marilee Mortenson, Sharon Scherzinger, Joan Sollenberger, Martin Tuttle
- California Department of Water Resources: Mark Cowin, Kamyar Guivetchi, Charlie Kratzn, Gregg Smith
- California Emerging Technology Fund: Sunne McPeak

- California Energy Commission: Panama Bartholomy, Anthony Eggert, Bill Pfanner
- California Environmental Protection Agency: Secretary Matt Rodriquez, Andrew Altevogt, Marian Ashe, Claire Halbrook
- California Forward: Jim Mayer
- California Health and Human Services Agency: Secretary Diana Dooley, Suanne Buggy
- California High Speed Rail Authority: Michael Gimbel
- California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (iBank): Roma Cristia-Plant, Winnie Fong, John Lee
- California Natural Resources Agency: Secretary John Laird, Julie Alvis, David Harris, Patrick Kemp, Seth Litchney
- California Ocean Protection Council: Amber Mace
- California Pan Ethnic Health Network: Sarah Mercer
- California ReLeaf: Joe Liszewski, Chuck Mills
- California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation: Brian Augusta
- California State Association of Counties: DeAnn Baker, Kiana Buss
- California Strategies LLC: Carole Whiteside
- California State University, Fresno: Mike Dozier
- California Technology Agency: Scott Gregory
- California Transit Association: Sabrina Means
- California Urban Forests Council: Nancy Hughes
- Center for Cities and Schools: Jeffrey Vincent
- City of Benicia: Elizabeth Patterson
- City of West Sacramento: Christopher Cabaldon
- ClimatePlan: Autumn Bernstein
- Conservation Strategies: Joe Caves, Connie Gallippi, Jessica Little
- Delta Stewardship Council: Jessica Pearson
- Design, Community and Environment Planning: Bill Fulton
- Estolano LeSar Perez Advisors: Katherine Aguilar- Perez, Brandon Louie
- Fresno Council of Governments: Barbara J. Steck
- Greenbelt Alliance: Jeremy Madsen
- Governor's Office of Economic Development: Florentino Castellon
- Governor's Office of Planning and Research: Chair Ken Alex, Chris Calfee, Chris Ganson, Allison Joe, Michael McCormick, Scott Morgan
- Housing California: Felicity Lyons, Julie Snyder
- Infill Builders Association: Meea Kang, Terry Watt
- Institute for Local Government: Jessica Aviña, Lindsay Buckley, Kate Elliot, Christal Love, Steve Sanders
- Latino Coalition of a Healthy California: Chad Silva
- League of California Cities: Kirstin Kolpitcke, Betsy Strauss
- Little Hoover Commission: Whitney Barazoto
- Local Government Commission: Judy Corbett, Kate Meis, Amy Mmagu
- National Charrette Institute: Steve Coyle

- Natural Resources Defense Council: Amanda Eaken
- Parsons Brinckerhoff: Gregg Albright, Meg Cederoth
- Placer County: Loren Clark
- PolicyLink: Chione Flegal
- Prevention Institute: Jeremy Cantor, Carolina Guzman
- Professional Engineers in California Government: Chelsea Merrill
- Resources Law Group: Gordon Burns
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments: Mike McKeever
- Sacramento County: Judy Robinson
- Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission: Chris Tooker
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District: Christina Ragsdale
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy: Elisa Sabatini
- San Francisco Planning Department: Sheila Nickolopoulos
- San Luis Obispo Council of Governments: Steve Devonchenzi
- Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee: Bill Craven
- Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency: Daniel Wayne
- Sloat, Higgins, Jensen & Associates: Moira Topp
- Sonoma State University, Center for Sustainable Communities: Alex Hinds
- Southern California Association of Governments: Hasan Ikhata, Jennifer Sarnecki
- Stanislaus Council of Governments: Vince Harris
- Strategic Growth Council: Heather Fargo, Tamara Cronin, Michael Larsen; Interns: Gladys Delgadillo, Jeffrey Gordon
- Strategic Growth Council Public Member: Bob Fisher
- Sutter Buttes Tea Party: John T. Larimer
- The Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities: Nina Bohlen
- The Nature Conservancy: Elizabeth O'Donahue
- TreePeople: Andy Lipkis
- Townsend Public Affairs: Ashley Setovdeh
- Tulare County Association of Governments: Roberto Brady
- UC Davis, Information Center for the Environment: Karen Beardsley, Nathaniel Roth, Kevin Ward
- UC Davis Extension: Julia Lave Johnston
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: Cynthia Abbott
- Valley Vision: Bill Mueller
- WELL Network: Peggy Lauer
- Yolo County: Don Saylor
- Members of the public: Don Kessel; Tim McSorley; Luree Stetson

Appendix B: SGC Data Project Descriptions

Vegetative Mapping

This project provides vegetative mapping in high priority areas of the Sacramento Valley, filling an absent data set. Vegetation data plays a vital role in wildlife and natural lands conservation and management. This digital vegetation map will assist cities, counties, and regional entities in developing land use plans that protect important biological habitats.

Parcel Data & Protocols

A collaborative effort with California Technology Agency and Board of Equalization, this project will provide recommendations for new policies that cover development protocols (guidelines) and sharing of parcel data between local, regional, and state entities. Recommendations will also include consistent land use attributes, which will reduce data collection and compilation costs in the development of regional plans and scenario to support modeling for greenhouse gas emissions targets required under SB 375. Consistent parcel data will simplify the development of land use plans within and across regional boundaries.

Protected Lands

This project will compile protected lands data from disparate sources into a central GIS database for use in local, regional, and state planning; develop protocols (guidelines) for developing, updating, and sharing protected lands data for planning decisions; and make protected lands GIS data layer and information publically available. The project will reduce costs for jurisdictions that currently must collect or pay for this information, and will result in the development of better land use plans by providing a more complete and up-to-date protected lands data set.

Healthy Community Indicators

With guidance from Health in All Policies objectives, SGC staff, Key Staff and stakeholder input and review, and subject to coordination with the Regional Progress Report project, this project will create an associated set of healthy community metrics and provide a framework for establishing and monitoring community progress toward health and sustainability. The framework and indicator set will help cities/counties and regional partners develop plans and programs that meet broad sustainability objectives of SGC.

Ongoing Coordination

The data sets referenced above will be important resources for the California Regional Progress Report. In addition, there is ongoing coordination between these efforts to identify data for indicators in an integrated framework.

Appendix C: SB 732 (2008), Chapter 13

INTRODUCED BY Senator Steinberg

(Principal coauthor: Senator Negrete McLeod)

(Coauthor: Senator Wiggins)

APPROVED BY GOVERNOR SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

CHAPTER 13. STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION

75120. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Council" means the Strategic Growth Council established pursuant to Section 75121.

(b) "Regional plan" means either of the following:

(1) A long-range transportation plan developed pursuant to Section 134(g) of Title 23 of the United States Code and any applicable state requirements.

(2) A regional blueprint plan, which is a regional plan that implements statutory requirements intended to foster comprehensive planning as defined in Section 65041.1 of, Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 65080) of Division 1 of Title 7 of, and Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 of, the Government Code. A regional blueprint plan articulates regional consensus and performance outcomes on a more efficient land use pattern that supports improved mobility and reduces dependency on single-occupancy vehicle trips; accommodates an adequate supply of housing for all income levels; reduces impacts on valuable farmland, natural resources, and air quality, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increases water and energy conservation and efficiency; and promotes a prosperous economy and safe, healthy, sustainable, and vibrant neighborhoods.

75121. (a) The Strategic Growth Council is hereby established in state government and it shall consist of the Director of State Planning and Research, the Secretary of the Resources Agency, the Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing, the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and one member of the public to be appointed by the Governor. The public member shall have a background in land use planning, local government, resource protection and management, or community development or revitalization.

(b) Staff for the council shall be reflective of the council's membership.

75122. The members of the council shall elect a chair of the council every two years.

75123. (a) The council's meetings shall be open to the public and shall be subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(b) The council may sponsor conferences, symposia, and other public forums, to seek a broad range of public advice regarding local, regional, and natural resource planning, sustainable development, and strategies to reduce and mitigate climate change.

75124. Of the funds made available pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (c) of Section 75065, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is hereby appropriated to the Resources Agency to be used in support of the council and its activities in accordance with this chapter.

75125. The council shall do all of the following:

(a) Identify and review activities and funding programs of member state agencies that may be coordinated to improve air and water quality, improve natural resource protection, increase the availability of affordable housing, improve transportation, meet the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing

with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code), encourage sustainable land use planning, and revitalize urban and community centers in a sustainable manner. At a minimum, the council shall review and comment on the five-year infrastructure plan developed pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 13100) of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 3 of the Government Code and the State Environmental Goals and Policy Report developed pursuant to Section 65041 of the Government Code.

(b) Recommend policies and investment strategies and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and to appropriate state agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities, such as those communities that promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety, and is consistent with subdivisions (a) and (c) of Section 75065.

(c) Provide, fund, and distribute data and information to local governments and regional agencies that will assist in developing and planning sustainable communities.

(d) Manage and award grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities, pursuant to Sections 75127, 75128, and 75129. To implement this subdivision, the council may do all of the following:

(1) Develop guidelines for awarding financial assistance, including criteria for eligibility and additional consideration.

(2) Develop criteria for determining the amount of financial assistance to be awarded. The council shall award a revolving loan to an applicant for a planning project, unless the council determines that the applicant lacks the fiscal capacity to carry out the project without a grant. The council may establish criteria that would allow the applicant to illustrate an ongoing commitment of financial resources to ensure the completion of the proposed plan or project.

(3) Provide for payments of interest on loans made pursuant to this article. The rate of interest shall not exceed the rate earned by the Pooled Money Investment Board.

(4) Provide for the time period for repaying a loan made pursuant to this article.

(5) Provide for the recovery of funds from an applicant that fails to complete the project for which financial assistance was awarded. The council shall direct the State Controller to recover funds by any available means.

(6) Provide technical assistance for application preparation.

(7) Designate a state agency or department to administer technical and financial assistance programs for the disbursing of grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities, pursuant to Sections 75127, 75128, and 75129.

(e) No later than July 1, 2010, and every year thereafter, provide a report to the Legislature that shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) A list of applicants for financial assistance.

(2) Identification of which applications were approved.

(3) The amounts awarded for each approved application.

(4) The remaining balance of available funds.

(5) A report on the proposed or ongoing management of each funded project.

(6) Any additional minimum requirements and priorities for a project or plan proposed in a grant or loan application developed and adopted by the council pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 75216.

75126. (a) An applicant shall declare, in the application submitted to the council for financial assistance for a plan or project pursuant to this chapter, the applicant's intention to follow a detailed budget and schedule for the completion of the plan or project. The budget and schedule shall be of sufficient detail to allow the council to assess the progress of the applicant at regular intervals.

(b) A project or plan funded pursuant to this chapter shall meet both of the following criteria:

(1) Be consistent with the state's planning policies pursuant to Section 65041.1 of the Government Code.

(2) Reduce, on as permanent a basis that is feasible, greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code), and any applicable regional plan.

(c) The council may develop additional minimum requirements and priorities for a project or plan proposed in a grant and loan application, including those related to improving air quality.

75127. (a) To support the planning and development of sustainable communities, the council shall manage and award financial assistance to a city or county for preparing, adopting, and implementing a general plan or general plan element that is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote water conservation, reduce automobile use and fuel consumption, encourage greater infill and compact development, protect natural resources and agricultural lands, and revitalize urban and community centers.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the preparation and adoption of a general plan may include a comprehensive update of a general plan, amendment or adoption of an individual element of a general plan, or any other revision consistent with the intent of Section 75065.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the implementation of a general plan may include amendment or adoption of a specific plan, community plan, zoning ordinance, or any other plan, ordinance, or policy that is consistent with the intent of Section 75065.

(d) The funding provided pursuant to this section for the preparation, adoption, and implementation of a general plan may also include funding any activity necessary to conform a general plan to a regional plan.

75128. (a) To support the planning and development of sustainable communities, the council shall manage and award financial assistance to a council of governments, metropolitan planning organization, regional transportation planning agency, city, county, or joint powers authority, to develop, adopt or implement a regional plan or other planning instrument consistent with a regional plan that improves air and water quality, improves natural resource protection, increases the availability of affordable housing, improves transportation, meets the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code), and encourages sustainable land use. The financial assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be funded from moneys made available pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 75065.

(b) In awarding financial assistance pursuant to this section, the council shall give first priority to an application seeking funding to add or enhance elements of a regional plan that are not funded with federal moneys.

75129. (a) To support the planning and development of sustainable communities, the council shall manage and award financial assistance to a city, county, or nonprofit organization for the preparation, planning, and implementation of an urban greening project that provides multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, a decrease in air and water pollution, a reduction in the consumption of natural resources and energy, an increase in the reliability of local water supplies, or an increased adaptability to climate change. An eligible project funded pursuant to this section shall not include a mitigation action that is required under existing law. The financial assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be funded from moneys made available pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 75065.

(b) The council shall develop minimum requirements for funding eligible projects pursuant to this section, which shall require a project to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) Use natural systems, or systems that mimic natural systems, to achieve the benefits identified in subdivision (a).
- (2) Create, enhance, or expand community green spaces.

(c) The multiple benefits of a project, may include, but are not limited to, the establishment or enhancement of one or more of the following:

- (1) Tree canopy.
- (2) Urban forestry.
- (3) Local parks and open space.
- (4) Greening of existing public lands and structures, including schools.
- (5) Multi-objective stormwater projects, including construction of permeable surfaces and collection basins and barriers.
- (6) Urban streams, including restoration.
- (7) Community, demonstration, or outdoor education gardens and orchards.
- (8) Urban heat island mitigation and energy conservation efforts through landscaping and green roof projects.
- (9) Nonmotorized urban trails that provide safe routes for both recreation and travel between residences, workplaces, commercial centers, and schools.

(d) The council shall give additional consideration to a funding project pursuant to this section that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) The project uses interagency cooperation and integration.
- (2) The project uses existing public lands and facilitates use of public resources and investments including schools.
- (3) The project is proposed by an economically disadvantaged community.

(e) Up to 25 percent of the moneys allocated pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 75065 may be used to award revolving loans or grants to a council of governments, countywide authority, a metropolitan planning organization, local government, or nonprofit organization, for the purpose of creating urban greening plans that will serve as the master document guiding and coordinating greening projects in the applicant's jurisdiction. These urban greening plans shall be consistent with the jurisdiction's general plan or regional plan, where one exists.

75130. This chapter does not authorize the council to take an action with regard to the exercise of a local government's land use permitting authority.

SEC. 5. In any case in which any of the provisions of this act, and Division 43 (commencing with Section 75001) of the Public Resources Code conflict, that division shall prevail.

SEC. 6. The provisions of this act are severable. If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.