



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



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Strategic Growth Council Awards More Than \$257 Million to Build Affordable Homes and Make It Easier for Californians to Walk, Bike, Use Transit

Third Round of Climate Investment Projects Continue to Combat Climate Change

Today, the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) awarded more than \$257 million from a successful state program to 19 new projects around the state. Each project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help more Californians live closer to the things they need every day, such as jobs, grocery stores, health care facilities, and more.

By integrating affordable homes and sustainable transportation, the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program makes it easier for Californians to drive less by making sure housing, jobs, and key destinations are accessible by walking, biking, and transit.

To date, affordable home development and other projects awarded through the highly competitive AHSC program will avoid the release of more than 1.5 million metric tons of greenhouse gases, the equivalent of taking 320,000 cars off the road. The program has also awarded funding for the construction of more than 6,000 homes for Californians who struggle to make ends meet.

Ken Alex, SGC Chair and Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, said, "With over \$700 million in grants for housing and transportation projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Strategic Growth Council is helping make a difference in communities around the state."

SGC Councilmember and California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Secretary Matt Rodriguez said, "These investments will improve the lives of thousands of Californians and put our communities on a more sustainable course. At the same

time, they will help achieve our statewide climate goals by employing a variety of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They are critical investments in California's future health and well-being."

Dr. Manuel Pastor, SGC Councilmember and Director of the University of Southern California Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, said, "I am pleased that 71 percent of all awarded funds are going to benefit communities designated as 'disadvantaged' due to their high scores on CalEPA's CalEnviroScreen, a mapping tool that helps highlight neighborhoods that are environmentally over-exposed and socially vulnerable. Nearly 50 percent are going to those facing the most disadvantage according to this tool. With this kind of prioritization, AHSC is doing its part to meet environmental justice mandates and address past inequities in our state's development."

"Research shows that people of modest means who live near public transit are more likely to use it, helping them save money and reduce greenhouse gases, which benefits all Californians," said Ben Metcalf, Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). "Because these homes remain affordable for at least 55 years, multiple households will be served, allowing families the chance to access opportunities, break the cycle of poverty, and begin to build wealth for future generations."

SGC Executive Director Randall Winston said, "We are excited to support these 19 innovative affordable housing developments that will provide homes for the most vulnerable among us and benefit *all* residents through transit improvements, parks, bike lanes, and other local amenities. We are especially glad to broaden our reach into some new communities that have not yet received AHSC funding, and look forward to seeing all of these great projects benefit people throughout the state."

The list of staff recommended projects that were approved by the Council is available on the [Strategic Growth Council's website](#). When completed, the developments will provide nearly 2,000 new homes affordable to Californians with modest incomes.

The AHSC Program is administered by the SGC in coordination with the California Department of Housing and Community Development and the California Air Resources Board. The program is a key part of the [California Climate Investments](#), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Learn more on the SGC's [Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities](#) and the [California Climate Investments](#) webpages.

The California Strategic Growth Council brings together state agencies and departments to coordinate activities that support sustainable communities, emphasizing

strong economies, social equity, and environmental stewardship. More information on the SGC can be found at www.sgc.ca.gov and on LinkedIn and Twitter at @CalSGC.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development is dedicated to the preservation and expansion of safe and affordable housing, so more Californians have a place to call home. Our team works to ensure an adequate supply of housing for Californians and promotes the growth of strong communities through its leadership, policy, and program development. For more information, visit www.hcd.ca.gov and follow us on Twitter, @California_HCD and Facebook, @CaliforniaHCD.

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