SGC Staff and HiAP Task Force Priorities for Near-Term Implementation

Background
California's Health in all Policies (HiAP) Task Force was established by Executive Order S-04-10 on February 23, 2010, under the auspices of the Strategic Growth Council (SGC). The Task Force was charged with identifying priority actions and strategies for state agencies to improve community health while also advancing the other goals of the SGC.

On December 3, 2010, the SGC accepted the *Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council.* This report identified 34 recommendations for state action to improve health outcomes by promoting healthy communities and healthy public policy. The broad recommendations address active transportation; housing and indoor spaces; parks, urban greening, and places to be active; violence prevention; healthy food, state guidance; embedding health in decision-making; data and research; cross-agency collaboration and expertise; and community engagement (the full report is available at http://sgc.ca.gov/hiap/docs/publications/HiAP_Task_Force_Report.pdf).

At its December 3, 2010 meeting, the SGC directed "SGC staff to identify priority recommendations from the [HiAP Task Force] report for SGC consideration." The SGC noted that "Criteria to select priority recommendations should include (1) consideration of whether or not the recommendation is within the SGC's jurisdiction, (2) whether or not the recommendation is feasible in the near term, and (3) the potential impact of the recommendation's implementation."

Additional factors were considered by the Task Force, such that the final priorities were determined based on:
- Potential impact
  - Addresses a significant need
- Clear role for state agency involvement
- Near-term feasibility
  - Opportunity to build on existing work
  - Availability of near-term resources
  - Window of opportunity available
- Opportunity to involve multiple SGC and Task Force agencies

To inform the process and help the Task Force reach agreement on priorities and cross-cutting considerations, HiAP staff held:
- One-on-one meetings with each Task Force member (March and April)
- Public workshops in five cities (March)
- Three all-Task Force meetings (February 10th, April 14th, May 12th)
- Six topic-specific conference calls for Task Force members (April)
- One meeting of the stakeholder advisory group (May 5th)

Priority Recommendations
Priorities are listed in order of topic area presentation in the *Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 2010*. Numbers in parentheses refer to recommendation numbering in the original report.

Active Transportation
1. Support active transportation through implementation of "complete streets" (I.A2.).

2. Highlight the opportunities presented by SB 375 to promote active transportation (I.A4.).

Housing and Indoor Spaces
3. Promote sustainable development through smart housing siting; Develop recommended processes for balancing multiple public policy objectives affecting air quality and the permit processing and siting of transit-oriented development (I.B3c.).

Parks, Urban Greening, and Places to be Active
4. Support urban greening and access to green spaces (I.C1.).

Community Safety through Violence Prevention
5. Disseminate existing guidance on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (I.D2.).

6. Build violence prevention capacity statewide by supporting community-level efforts to engage and convene stakeholders to develop data-informed prevention actions, including through training to promote effective community engagement and joint action (I.D1.).

Healthy Food
7. Encourage and expand the availability of affordable and locally grown produce through "farm-to-fork" policies and programs (I.E1.).

8. Leverage government spending to support healthy eating and sustainable local food systems (I.E4.).

Healthy Public Policy
9. Incorporate a health and health equity perspective into state guidance, surveys, and technical assistance documents where feasible and appropriate (II.A1.).

10. Incorporate health and health equity criteria into state grant Requests for Applications, review criteria and scoring, technical assistance, and monitoring/ performance measures, where feasible and appropriate (II.B.1.).

11. Explore appropriate ways to integrate health analysis into existing state projects and plans. Design and conduct a feasibility study to explore possible methods or approaches for incorporating a health lens into analyses of a subset of legislation and Budget Change Proposals (BCPs), to consider long-term health and state health-care expenditure consequences of short-term financial and policy decisions (II.B.3a.).

Cross-Cutting Considerations
Interagency collaboration, equity, community engagement, and data are cross-cutting themes that emerged as critical considerations for implementation of the priority recommendations. Each implementation plan will address all four of these considerations.

A. **Interagency Collaboration:** The potential benefits of collaboration and coordination underlie the establishment of both the SGC and the Task Force. Collaboration has been a critical goal and outcome of the HiAP Task Force and has continued to emerge as a priority through the public input process.

B. **Equity:** The Task Force received consistent and strong feedback in all of the public workshops and in many discussions with Task Force members that explicit inclusion of equity considerations is important. Executive Order S-04-10 required the Task Force to evaluate the equity benefits that may result from the implementation of the recommendations. SB 732, which established the SGC, made equity a priority of the SGC by outlining sustainable communities as those "that promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety." The Task Force includes health and social equity as a component of its definition of a healthy community. There are many different definitions of equity and diverse strategies for pursuing equity, requiring further clarification within the Task Force and the SGC.

C. **Community Engagement:** Feedback from the public workshops and within the Task Force solidified the importance of community engagement as a consideration in the development of implementation plans. The Task Force received many comments that state agency perceptions of what constitutes robust community engagement are not aligned with those of community members and advocates. The roles of local and state agencies in community engagement remain ill-defined, and merit further discussion.

D. **Data:** The Task Force received many comments as to the importance of assisting local agencies and communities in obtaining, analyzing, understanding, and using data. The State has an important role in providing data and technical assistance to local entities to facilitate their implementation and evaluation of programs and measure their progress toward various goals, including in relationship to other communities.

Discussion of Priority Recommendations
The following priority recommendations have been identified for near-term implementation by Health in All Policies Task Force members, in collaboration with SGC staff. The bolded language associated with numbered recommendations is taken directly from the *Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 2010.* Table 1 at the end of the document illustrates how each prioritized recommendation aligns with SGC goals. Potential partner agencies are identified for each priority recommendation.

Active Transportation[†]

1. **Support active transportation through implementation of "complete streets[‡]" (I.A2.).**

Rationale for Prioritization
- Potential for large impact:
  - Transportation infrastructure impacts health in many ways, including by:
    - Influencing the level of access to jobs, medical care, healthy food, educational opportunities, and other necessities
    - Impacting the risk for motor vehicle crashes and injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists
    - Changing the desirability of walking, biking, and public transit use, thereby supporting physical activity. Physical activity is protective against premature death and development of chronic diseases (including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, hypertension, obesity, and osteoporosis) and also improves psychological health.
  - Complete streets can have economic benefits by revitalizing communities and supporting low-cost transportation options.
- There is a near-term opportunity for the Task Force to capitalize on momentum related to complete streets. This momentum derives from:
  - California Complete Streets Act (AB 1358, 2008)
  - Caltrans Deputy Directive DD-64-R1 (2008)
  - OPR's recent *Update to the General Plan Guidelines: Complete Streets and the Circulation Element.*

Considerations for Implementation
- Local agencies and community-based organizations have expressed a need for training, technical assistance, and outreach on complete streets implementation, including context-sensitive solutions. The varied transportation planning needs of rural, urban, and suburban areas require flexibility and stakeholder engagement in implementation.

[†] Active transportation can be defined as walking, cycling, and wheeling to destinations. Public transit is included in the definition of active transportation to the extent that public transit users walk, cycle, and wheel between transit stops and their final destination.

[‡] Caltrans defines a "complete street" as "a transportation facility that is planned, designed, operated, and maintained to provide safe mobility for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit vehicles, truckers, and motorists, appropriate to the function and context of the facility."

- Safety considerations (for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, public transit riders, those with special needs, and roadway workers) are an essential part of supporting active transportation. In addition to design features, education, incentives, and penalties are essential to improving safety.
- Trails and greenways can be integrated into transportation systems, increasing green space and promoting active transportation by improving connectivity.

Potential Agencies
Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency (BTHA), CAL FIRE, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Caltrans, Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks), Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and Office of Traffic Safety (OTS)

2. **Highlight the opportunities presented by SB 375[§] to promote active transportation (I.A4.).**

Rationale for Prioritization
- Large potential impact on health and sustainability:
   o Strategies to increase active transportation are a core component of reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions by reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and are the VMT-reduction strategy with the greatest potential health benefits.
- SB 375 presents a timely opportunity to promote active transportation:
   o Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is preparing a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as a part of the Regional Transportation Plan update.
- There are opportunities to build upon existing work:
   o SGC is supporting learning networks that provide technical assistance, training, and forums for the State, regions, and locals to share best practices and implement sustainable practices.
   o SGC is offering funding through competitive grants to support communities in the development of sustainable community plans and projects.
   o CDPH held workshops for local health departments and MPOs in June 2010 on incorporating health into transportation modeling.
   o CDPH is quantifying the health impacts of shifts from automotive-centered transport to active transportation modes.

Considerations for Implementation
- Feedback from public workshops and Task Force members suggests the value of technical assistance and training to local agencies and MPOs to help them understand the relative health benefits of various strategies, and to incorporate and implement health-promoting strategies, such as active transportation, in planning processes.
- Parks and urban greening play an important role in creating spaces that support active transportation.

Potential Agencies

[§] SB 375 aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles by encouraging land use, transportation, and housing planning that will reduce urban sprawl and vehicle miles traveled.

BTHA, CAL FIRE, California Air Resources Board (CARB), California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), CDPH, California High-Speed Rail Authority*, Caltrans, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), OPR, OTS, and Parks

Housing and Indoor Spaces

3. **Promote sustainable development through smart housing siting; Develop recommended processes for balancing multiple public policy objectives affecting air quality and the permit processing and siting of transit-oriented development (I.B3c.).**

Rationale for Prioritization
- Clear state role in clarifying guidance for local and regional entities and reconciling competing public policy goals.
- Opportunity exists to build on existing efforts involving multiple agencies:
  - Efforts are ongoing to harmonize policies related to siting of affordable housing, promotion of high-density development, and air quality by convening leaders in affordable housing, air quality, transit-oriented development, and public health.

Considerations for Implementation
- Clarification of existing guidance related to siting of housing near busy roadways would assist local and regional governments and affordable housing developers and advocates in decision-making.
- Potential actions include preparing for, convening, and facilitating a California Affordable Housing Siting and Air Quality Forum, a statewide stakeholder meeting to address the issues of siting of affordable housing and air quality.

Potential Agencies
Caltrans, CARB, CDPH, Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), HHSA, and OPR

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* Indicates agency not currently on HiAP Task Force.

Parks, Urban Greening, and Places to be Active

4. Support urban greening and access to green spaces (I.C1.).

Rationale for Prioritization
- Addresses an underlying barrier to SGC goals:
  - In order to support SGC objectives of promoting infill, reducing sprawl, and addressing climate change, it is necessary to create environments that attract individuals to urban areas. Parks and trees are critical components of healthy and sustainable environments.
- SB 375 presents an additional timely opportunity to promote parks and urban greening.
- Builds on existing work across several state agencies:
  - Proposition 84 Urban Greening Grant Program
  - CAL FIRE's Urban Forestry program
  - Department of Parks and Recreation efforts to increase access to parks for disadvantaged communities.
- A near-term funding opportunity may exist through USDA specialty crop block grants.

Considerations for Implementation
- Fruit trees, orchards, and school and community gardens offer multiple benefits, including reductions in urban heat islands and access to locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Potential Agencies
BTHA, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), CalEPA, CAL FIRE, CARB, CDE, CDPH, HHSA, and Parks

Community Safety through Violence Prevention

5. Disseminate existing guidance on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (I.D2.).

Rationale for Prioritization
- Community safety is a fundamental precursor for attaining the sustainability goals of the SGC.
  - Violence and fear of violence may be important factors in impeding acceptance of infill and affordable housing, and in reducing willingness to use public transit or other forms of active transportation.
- Large potential impact:
  - Violence is a leading cause of injury, disability, and premature death, and disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color.
  - Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), a strategy to decrease violence and associated negative health outcomes through incorporation of certain principles in the design of neighborhoods, housing, schools, business and commercial districts, and outdoor spaces, can support efforts to promote infill and transit-oriented development.

- There may be funding available to support developing and disseminating CPTED guidelines. The Task Force has submitted an application to a private foundation for this work.

Considerations for Implementation
- CPTED guidelines should specifically incorporate the design of housing and parks.
- While CPTED guidance is available (primarily from international agencies), it is not readily accessible to local agencies, and there is no guidance with a California perspective.
- Potential actions include reviewing available CPTED guidelines, developing California-specific guidelines, and disseminating and providing training on California-specific guidelines.

Potential Agencies
AG, CDE, CAL FIRE, CDPH, CSD, HCD, OGYVP, OPR, and Parks

6. **Build violence prevention capacity statewide by supporting community-level efforts to engage and convene stakeholders to develop data-informed prevention actions, including through training to promote effective community engagement and joint action (I.D1.).**

Rationale for Prioritization
- Community safety is a fundamental precursor for attaining the sustainability goals of the SGC.
  - Violence and fear of violence may be important factors in impeding acceptance of infill and affordable housing, and in reducing willingness to use public transit or other forms of active transportation.
- Large potential impact:
  - Violence is a leading cause of injury, disability, and premature death, and disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color.
- Builds on existing efforts and funding in several agencies:
  - Governor's Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy (OGVYP) recently received foundation funding to support their efforts to develop indicators on violence risks and resilience factors for community use.
  - OGYVP's effort aligns closely with the SGC-funded CDPH Healthy Community Indicators project.

Considerations for Implementation
- Coordination across indicator development projects is critical for efficiency and consistency.
- Task Force members can support data-informed actions by providing training for communities on how to use the to-be-developed indicators.
- Communities need assistance in understanding evidence-based approaches to community safety through violence prevention, and in the implementation and evaluation of violence prevention programs.

Potential Agencies
AG, CDPH, Department of Community Services and Development (CSD), California Department of Education (CDE), Department of Social Services (DSS), HHSA, and OGYVP

Healthy Food

7. Encourage and expand the availability of affordable and locally grown produce through "farm-to-fork" policies and programs (I.E1.).

Rationale for Prioritization
- Supports multiple SGC goals and has large potential impact:
  - Increasing access to fresh, local, and sustainably grown produce in communities and institutions supports a food system that uses less energy, supports the preservation of agricultural land, contributes fewer GHGs and other air pollutants, and is more prepared to adapt to climate change.
  - "Farm-to-fork" policies and programs support consumers in buying local produce, increasing access to and availability of healthy, affordable foods.
  - The State's agriculture and food industries are essential economic resources, providing jobs and promoting commerce; increasing fruit and vegetable consumption would significantly benefit California's agricultural economy.
- Opportunity exists to build upon existing efforts and models:
  - There are many local models the Task Force can learn from and disseminate to assist with implementation, making this recommendation feasible in the near-term.
  - The USDA recently issued a rule allowing schools to give preference to locally grown and locally raised agricultural products when they purchase food as part of federal nutrition programs.
- Role for the State in providing guidance to facilitate local and regional farm-to-fork efforts.

Considerations for Implementation
- Public workshop participants identified a number of barriers that must be addressed, including local regulations, distribution systems, processing challenges, etc. Many communities lack mechanisms and venues for the distribution of locally-grown produce and animal products. For example, much of San Diego's locally grown produce is shipped to Los Angeles for packaging and processing before returning for sale in San Diego.
- Potential actions include identifying state and local regulations posing barriers to access to locally grown or healthy foods and exploring the joint use of state property for community gardens and farmers' markets.

Potential Agencies
AG, Caltrans, CDE, CDFA, CDPH, DSS, and HHSA

8. **Leverage government spending to support healthy eating and sustainable local food systems (I.E4.).**

Rationale for Prioritization
- Potential source of funding exists. The Task Force has submitted an application to a private foundation to provide resource support for implementation of this recommendation.
- Large potential impact on health and state expenditures:
  - Healthy food procurement policies allow the State to leverage its immense buying-power as a tool for supporting healthy food and a local agricultural economy. By restricting state food spending to healthy and local foods, whenever possible, the State can increase access to healthy foods and support robust local food systems.
  - Provision of healthy foods in state institutions, such as prisons, may result in long-term reductions in state health care expenditures.
- Opportunity to build on existing state agency efforts:
  - Department of Parks and Recreation encourages healthy food and beverage procurement in concession contracts by offering points in competitive bidding processes.
  - CDPH has reached out to the Department of Rehabilitation's Business Enterprise Program manager to discuss healthier options in vending machines on state property and to DGS regarding statewide food procurement.

Considerations for Implementation
- Existing public contract code encourages "environmentally preferable purchasing," which allows for the "procurement or acquisition of goods and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing goods or services that serve the same purpose."
- A state food procurement policy should specifically align with other "farm-to-fork" goals and strategies.
- Potential activities include researching, preparing, and disseminating a report summarizing current state procurement policies and practices; preparing guidelines outlining healthy food procurement nutrition standards and location-efficient procurement practices for state agencies, including model policy language and recommendations; and securing commitment from at least one state agency to pilot implementation of a healthy and/or location-efficient food procurement policy.

Potential Agencies
CDE, CDFA, CDPH, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)*, DGS*, DOR*, HHSA, and Parks

Healthy Public Policy

9. **Incorporate a health and health equity perspective into state guidance, surveys, and technical assistance documents where feasible and appropriate (II.A1.).**

Rationale for Prioritization
- Role for State in providing guidance:
  - State guidance and technical assistance documents are used by local governments in developing local and regional planning documents.
- Opportunity exists to build on local models:
  - Many local governments are already incorporating a health lens into general plans, climate action plans, and other planning processes.
- Potential for large and ongoing health and sustainability impact:
  - Incorporating health and equity into state documents, and providing related technical assistance, offers an opportunity to profoundly influence land use and transportation planning statewide.
- Small source of funding is available to support development of health-promoting guidance documents through an existing grant from a private foundation.

Considerations for Implementation
- Many guidance documents are updated on a fixed timeline and are not due for an update in the near future, but supplemental advisories, technical assistance documents, or a resource compendium would be useful to provide guidance in the interim.
- Explore the development of guidance materials related to the incorporation of health into General Plans and Regional Transportation Plans.

Potential Agencies
Caltrans, CARB, CDPH, CSD, California Transportation Commission (CTC)*, CalEPA, HCD, and OPR

10. **Incorporate health and health equity criteria into state grant Requests for Applications, review criteria and scoring, technical assistance, and monitoring/ performance measures, where feasible and appropriate (II.B.1.).**

Rationale for Prioritization
- Broad potential health and health equity impact:
  - Inclusion of criteria and performance measures in state grant RFAs can foster more attention to health and health equity impacts. Combined with targeted technical assistance, health and health equity criteria can ensure that state funding promotes health in concert with efforts to address other SGC goals.
- Builds upon existing work:
  - SGC's Sustainable Communities Planning Grants and Urban Greening Grants and HCD's Catalyst grants all include health criteria in their Requests for Proposals.

Considerations for Implementation
- Evaluate the incorporation of health considerations into the grants given through Proposition 84 and HCD's Catalyst program.
- Prioritize grant programs with broad reach and deeper funding streams.

Potential Agencies
BTHA, CalEPA, CAL FIRE, Caltrans, CARB, CDE, CDFA, CDPH, CSD, HCD, HHSA, OGYVP, OPR, OTS, and Parks

11. **Explore appropriate ways to integrate health analysis into existing state projects and plans. Design and conduct a feasibility study to explore possible methods or approaches for incorporating a health lens into analyses of a subset of legislation and Budget Change Proposals (BCPs), to consider long-term health and state health-care expenditure consequences of short-term financial and policy decisions (II.B.3a.).**

Rationale for Prioritization
- Large potential impact on health and state health care expenditures:
  - Apprising policy-makers of the long-term health and health care cost implications of proposals would provide them with important information for decision-making.
  - The State routinely analyzes legislative and budget change proposals in order to provide information to policy-makers about the cost consequences of proposals. However, these analyses do not typically consider longer-term health impacts that could yield serious increases in health care costs or, on the other hand, significant long-term savings to the State.
- External funding for a feasibility analysis may be available through a private foundation.

Considerations for Implementation
- Feasibility of this type of analysis is uncertain, and many issues need to be addressed. For example, how would bills appropriate for analysis be identified? What methods and tools would be used? Who would do the analysis and under what auspices? How would the information be disseminated and used?

Potential Agencies
CDPH, Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Health Care Services* (DHCS), DSS, HHSA, and Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)*

Table 1. Linkages Between Strategic Growth Council Goals and Proposed Priorities.

Identifier	Abbreviated Recommendation	Strategic Growth Council Goals					
		Air and water quality	Affordable housing	Infrastructure systems	Natural resources and agricultural land	Sustainable communities planning	Climate change
I. PROMOTE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES							
I.A. Active Transportation							
I.A2.	Support active transportation through implementation of "complete streets."	X		X		X	X
I.A3.	Incorporate safety considerations of all roadway users into programs, policies, and community designs.	X		X		X	X
I.B. Housing and Indoor Spaces							
I.B3.	Promote sustainable development through smart housing siting.	X	X	X	X	X	X
I.C. Parks, Urban Greening, and Places to be Active							
I.C1.	Support urban greening and access to green spaces.	X			X	X	X
I.D. Violence Prevention							
I.D1.	Build violence prevention capacity statewide by supporting community-level efforts to engage and convene stakeholders to develop data-informed prevention actions, including through training to promote effective community engagement and joint action.		X		X	X	X
I.D2.	Disseminate existing guidance on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.		X		X	X	X
I.E. Healthy Food							
I.E1.	Encourage and expand the availability of affordable and locally grown produce through "farm-to-fork" policies and programs.	X			X	X	X

Identifier	Abbreviated Recommendation	Strategic Growth Council Goals					
		Air and water quality	Affordable housing	Infrastructure systems	Natural resources and agricultural land	Sustainable communities planning	Climate change
I.E4.	Leverage government spending to support healthy eating and sustainable local food systems.	X			X		X
II. PROMOTE HEALTHY PUBLIC POLICY							
II.A. State Guidance							
II.A1.	Incorporate a health and health equity perspective into State guidance, surveys, and technical assistance documents where feasible and appropriate.	X	X	X	X	X	X
II.B. Embedding Health in Decision Making							
II.B1.	Incorporate health and health equity criteria into State grant Requests for Applications, review criteria and scoring, technical assistance, and monitoring/performance measures, where feasible and appropriate.	X	X	X	X	X	X
II.B3.	Explore appropriate ways to integrate health analysis into existing State projects and plans.	X	X	X	X	X	X