

Establishing an Economic Development District in the Bay Area

June 1, 2016

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To: ABAG Regional Planning Committee

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Subject: **Establishing an Economic Development District in the Bay Area**

Introduction

In 2015, staff presented a *draft Regional Economic Development Framework* to both the Executive Board and RPC. The purpose of this presentation was to begin to address the economic challenges and opportunities identified in the first Plan Bay Area adopted in 2013. The Board directed staff to proceed with a comprehensive and inclusive process to assemble existing work by economic organizations to develop a long-term framework and process to identify the region's challenges and potential solutions for collaboration drawing from the large body of existing work in this area. A consensus emerged that more needed to be done to coordinate these and other economic and workforce development efforts across the region.

Overview

Interest is converging in economic development in the Bay Area. Building on the knowledge and past work of business, workforce, and education based organizations in the region, there have been several regional efforts to define a path towards economic resilience in the region. Some of the most recent include the Roadmap for Economic Resilience, the Economic Prosperity Strategy, and the Community College Consortium's recent planning efforts to better align workforce skills with business needs. Important subregional efforts are also underway to identify strategies and plan actions across jurisdictions to strengthen business and workforce capacity. Keeping these efforts in regional perspective has the potential to strengthen their effectiveness. The US Economic Development Administration offers a framework for enhancing economic and workforce development efforts at a multijurisdictional level through establishing an Economic Development District (EDD) with a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report.

Establishing a Bay Area Economic Development District (attachment 1) provides an overview of the steps to establish an EDD, the benefits involved, and next steps. The document also describes the Strategy Committee that would guide the process, which is made up of members of the RPC Economic Prosperity Subcommittee as well as additional subregional representatives. The *Draft Scope of Work* (attachment 2) summarizes the specific tasks and timing to establish a regional EDD and complete the required CEDS report.

ABAG staff will present the approach to establishing a regional EDD and Arrietta Chakos, Senior Policy Advisor, will explain the confluence of economic development efforts with a

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broader resilience perspective for the region. We have also invited Malinda Matson of the US Economic Development Administration, and Darien Louie of East Bay Economic Development Alliance to contribute to this discussion and answer questions. Malinda Matson will explain the role of a regional Economic Development District in obtaining support from the Federal government, and Darien Louie will describe the role subregional areas will play in this effort.

Attachments

1. Establishing a Bay Area Economic Development District
2. Scope of Work