



## SAN BENITO COUNTY AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL FORM

Dom Zanger  
District No. 1

Kollin Kosmicki  
District No. 2

Mindy Sotelo  
District No. 3  
Chair

Angela Curro  
District No. 4  
Vice-Chair

Bea Gonzales  
District No. 5

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**Item Number: 2.3**

**MEETING DATE:** 10/24/2023

**DEPARTMENT:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**AGENDA ITEM PREPARER:** Gracie Rodriguez

**DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR:** Ray Espinosa

**SUBJECT:**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Receive a presentation on the San Benito County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for 2023-2027 presented by San Benito County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), in collaboration with Wahlstrom & Associates and Marie Jones Consulting (MJC), and consider the adoption of the resolution adopting the CEDS for fiscal years 2023-2027 as recommended by staff.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 156

RESOLUTION NO.: 2023-136

**AGENDA SECTION:**

REGULAR AGENDA

**BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:**

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) contributes to effective economic development in communities and regions, such as the County of San Benito, through a place-based, regionally driven economic development planning process. Economic Development planning is not only a cornerstone of the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) programs, but it successfully serves as a means to engage community leaders, leverage the involvement of the private sector, and establish a strategic blueprint for regional collaboration. It is a key component in establishing and maintaining a robust economic ecosystem by helping to build regional capacity (through hard and soft infrastructure) that contributes to individual, firm, and community success.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a five-year roadmap for improving economic conditions and resiliency. This economic development-focused "Strategic Plan" outlines goals and actions for the region and is helpful in applying for grant opportunities.

The San Benito County CEDS provides a roadmap to strengthen collaborations within and between San Benito County and City jurisdictions to create jobs and increase household incomes. The CEDS describes San Benito County's economic development opportunities along with ongoing economic development initiatives that can realistically be implemented in 2023 and other long-term initiatives. The presented CEDS highlights the following direct benefits:

- San Benito County, the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista, and all special districts will be eligible to apply for disaster recovery, public works, and planning and technical assistance grants available from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). EDA grants can fund backbone infrastructure and support innovation and entrepreneurship;
- San Benito County's local governments can improve collaborations with the private sector to implement ongoing economic development projects and initiatives that cross jurisdictional boundaries;
- Identifies benchmarks to measure the region's implementation progress of priority economic development initiatives;
- Describes initiatives to improve long-term economic resiliency, and
- Supports funding applications to other federal and state agencies submitted by the county and two cities.

The Economic Development Corporation of San Benito County (EDC), represented by Rene Wells, EDC executive director, has spearheaded and collaborated with consultants, community stakeholders, and various community organizations to provide the final draft of the San Benito County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2023-2027 and resolution, approving the CEDS, for board consideration and approval.

**RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:**

Yes

**CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:**

No

**CONTRACT AND RFP HISTORY:**

n/a

**LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:**

n/a

**STATE IF THIS IS A NEW CONTRACT/ HOW MANY PAST AMENDED CONTRACTS/ OR N/A:**

n/a

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence**

Yes

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth**

Yes

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology**

Yes

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement**

Yes

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community**

Yes

**BUDGETED:**

N/A

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:**

N/A

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

N/A

**UNFUNDED MANDATE:**

N/A

**SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:**

n/a

**CURRENT FY COST:**

N/A

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Accept the presentation of the San Benito County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2023-2027.
2. Adopt the proposed resolution adopting the CEDS for fiscal years 2023-2027; and
3. Authorize the submittal of the resolution and CEDS to the U.S. Economic Development Administration Office if adopted.
4. Provide staff with further direction or recommendation(s) as desired.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[San Benito CEDS BOS Presentation 10-24-2023](#)  
[CEDS Adoption Resolution](#)  
[Final San Benito County CEDS \(October 2023\)](#)