

RESOLUTION No. 2022-12

RESOLUTION OF THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM OF WORK TO BE KNOWN AS THE “ESCOG: COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RESILIENCY FUND PILOT PROGRAM” AND TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM MEMBER AGENCIES FOR THIS WORK

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2020, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments convened as an established Joint Powers Authority as ratified by the votes of the governing bodies of its individual Member Agencies, understanding that it is necessary and desirable for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments as a Joint Powers Authority to speak and to function on behalf of the region and to collectively identify and deliver opportunities to benefit the interests of Member Agencies’ constituents; and

WHEREAS the Member Agencies agreed that the creation of a regional Joint Powers Authority that functions as a separate and discreet legal entity from individual Member Agencies would enable the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments to maximize and take advantage of opportunities for the region; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority (ESCOG) was organized to (1) provide a forum for discussion and study of regional issues of interest to the Member Agencies; (2) identify and plan for the solution of identified regional issues requiring multi-governmental cooperation; (3) facilitate actions and agreements among the Member Agencies for specific project development; (4) conduct other region wide functions as Member Agencies deem appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the ESCOG was further organized to identify and apply for funding resources and to apply for and receive funding for the planning and implementation of Programs of regional impact or significance, and to implement such Programs, upon approval of the governing bodies of each Member Agency; and

WHEREAS, the State of California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development and the Office of Planning and Research have established an unprecedented \$600 million regional economic development initiative known as the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), which will provide a \$5,000,000 planning grant for regional economic development planning in the Eastern Sierra subregion, which includes Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne Counties, to be focused on economic resilience, equity, and transitioning to carbon neutrality; and

WHEREAS, once the Eastern Sierra Region’s CERF planning process is complete, the region will be eligible to apply for \$500 million in competitive funding for implementation of the Eastern Sierra Region’s Regional Plan, with invitations for project solicitations anticipated to be announced in Winter 2023; and,

WHEREAS, The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) has received a grant from the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) and is working with Inyo County as the lead agency to create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to include Inyo and Mono Counties. The development of the CEDS is a mandatory prerequisite to access certain EDA funding sources. The ESCOG can serve to coordinate the implementation of defined elements of the regional CEDS and serve as a funding source for defined EDA or other related grants; and

WHEREAS, Member Agencies will benefit from collective and enhanced collaboration on economic development projects such as those to be defined in the CERF planning effort and the regional CEDS and through regional approach to accessing other State and Federal program to support regional infrastructure, housing solutions, climate resiliency, sustainable recreation, and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, the constituents of the Member Agencies will benefit from funding opportunities to implement economic development activities of regional scope and significance through the authority of the ESCOG.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments as follows:

Section 1. That a program to be known as the “ESCOG: Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program” be established and pursued by the Eastern Sierra Council Government using its Joint Powers Authority.

Section 2. That the “ESCOG: Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program” provides for ESCOG to coordinate and engage with regional economic development opportunities in collaboration with Member Agencies through the State of California’s “Community Economic Resiliency Fund” Planning Phases (CERF) and the development of the region’s “Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy” (CEDS); receive funding to participate in regional economic development planning efforts that have already been funded by agencies outside of the region, including the state of California’s CERF and the completion of a CEDS funded by the federal Economic Development Administration; and support and build upon the economic development efforts of Member Agencies that promote economic development efforts to enhance the region’s economic resilience and prosperity. Member agency funding for such work is subject to approval by each agency.

Section 3. The authority of the ESCOG to participate or receive funding shall expire at the completion of the planning phase of the CERF, at which point the ESCOG will request additional authorities for implementation of the economic development strategies if deemed appropriate by the ESCOG Board and the member agencies.

Section 4. That, in carrying out the these activities, the ESCOG is empowered under the “ESCOG: Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program” to apply for and administer grants and other sources of revenue; to participate in regional economic

development planning efforts; specifically the CERF and the CEDS; engage in any actions already authorized by the ESCOG Joint Powers Agreement, including the securing of appropriate levels of insurance; and take any other actions reasonable related to its pursuit of the above mentioned activities; provided, however, that the "ESCOG: Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program" shall not be authorized to incur debt that is not otherwise secured by the Program's identified revenue. Member agency funding to support such work is subject to approval by each agency and action by the ESCOG shall not obligate members financially.

Section 5. That representatives of the four ESCOG jurisdictions return to their respective governing bodies to seek and secure support for the necessary approvals from each member agency for the ESCOG to pursue this important work.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 12th day of August, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, and Board Members Karen Schwartz, Stacy Corless, Bob Gardner, Jeff Griffiths, and Lynda Salcido

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Board Member Jim Ellis

ATTEST: Angela Plaisted
Clerk

John Wentworth
John Wentworth (Aug 15, 2022 15:22 PDT)
John Wentworth
Chairperson










Resolution 2022-12 Econ Dev ESCOG CERF Pilot Program_FINAL

Final Audit Report

2022-08-15

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