



**Resource Management
Agency
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

PHILLIP A. COX
District Three

J STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE FENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2015

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Public Hearing Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Published Notice Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advertised Published Notice | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Meet & Confer Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Electronic file(s) has been sent | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Personnel Resolution attached | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s) | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: 559-624-7010 | | | | |

SUBJECT: Update – Economic Development and Planning Branch of the RMA

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:

Receive a presentation providing an overview and update of the Economic Development and Planning Branch of the Resource Management Agency (RMA).

SUMMARY:
To promote economic development effectively, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Strategic Business Plan in 2006 emphasizing a strategic initiative designed to enhance the economic well-being of Tulare County's residents by providing, among other things, "a business-friendly" and "can-do" work ethic.

This Economic Development Initiative is being implemented extensively by the County Administrative Office in conjunction with the Resource Management Agency (RMA) and with the support of the Board of Supervisors. The Economic Development Office was originally established within the RMA in 2012 and subsequently, in March 2015, the entire Planning Branch was rebranded as the Economic Development and Planning Branch, as part of the reorganization of the RMA.

The purpose for the reorganization of the RMA was to solidify the Strategic Management System based on a "business model" that defines and markets Tulare County's mission as being "Open for Business"

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- By proactively managing for public results with a customer-service focus;
- By expeditiously and effectively delivering these results within a collaborative, cross-functional, team-based, and continuously improving organization; and,
- By measuring actual performance with accountability by retaining, creating, increasing, and capturing “public value.”

Within this management system, performance in terms of “public value” can be measured as

- Facilitating economic development by preparing the conditions in which the private sector can create jobs, income and equity;
- Helping to build roads, transit facilities, water-related improvements (i.e., water, wastewater and storm water improvements), and public safety facilities; and,
- Implementing an expeditious permitting and project approval process, thereby approving more projects faster such as planning, zoning, development, construction, and building projects.

The Economic Development and Planning Branch has been able to assist in achieving multiple permit and project approvals that embody the principles of the County’s Economic Development Initiative. Measurable progress has been achieved in the following business sectors; Dairy related development, renewable energy, agribusiness, housing development, healthcare, general commercial tourism and film.

The Economic Development and Planning Branch is comprised of the Economic Development Office, Permit Center, Environmental Planning, Special Project, Project Processing and Building & Housings. Specific functions of each division are outlined in Attachment “A”.

This presentation will highlight current economic development activity and trends while focusing on specific Branch metrics and programs including:

- Business Response Team – Collaboration to provide rapid and substantive assistance to developers, existing businesses as well as prospective new development opportunities.
- Business Expansion, Attraction and Retention (BEAR) Program – Meeting with the owners and top management of existing companies and local businesses to assist decision-makers who seek to locate, establish, and expand businesses within Tulare County.

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- Rural Healthcare Clinics – Development of additional clinics that are providing needed services and employment opportunities within the County's rural communities and hamlets.
- Utility Scale Solar Projects – Six large scale projects are gearing up for construction in the Spring of 2016. Grading permits have been issued and groundbreaking will soon occur.
- General Commercial – Interest in development opportunities continue to grow, specifically, along the CA 99 corridor and in rural communities. Successful openings, such as Dollar General stores, are providing jobs, goods and services to communities that have seen limited, if any, new development in decades.
- Community Plan Updates – The Board of Supervisors has adopted an unprecedented seven Community Plan Updates within the last 12-months which established the conditions to stimulate economic development.
- Complete Streets – Complete Streets Policy Plans have been adopted for 8 communities. These plans include the identification of community priority projects in each community. Grants have been awarded for construction of 3 of these projects.
- Project Processing – Project applications remain robust with 302 projects completed last year including Goshen Village East (Self-Help Enterprise), Darrel's Mini-Storage and Papich Construction.
- Building Permits – Building Permit activity continues to display a steady and sustainable pattern of growth. The County also issues building permits and inspection services for the cities of Farmersville and Exeter.
- Drought Impacts – The Branch is processing the applications for multiple bottled water programs and continue to provide assistance by providing inspection services to the portable water tank program and the Grants Team works closely with the CAO and OES in seeking and obtaining funding for solutions, temporary and long-term, to the ongoing drought emergency.

It should be noted that recent economic development activities throughout the unincorporated area of Tulare County could not have been achieved without the expertise, cooperation, and team-based collaboration of the Economic Development and Planning, Public Works, and Fiscal Branches of the RMA. By continuing to emphasize a strategic management approach, it is anticipated that these advancements will increase during the next fiscal year.

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FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

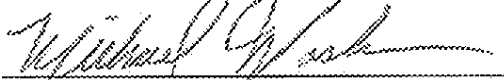
There is no Net County Cost.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Promoting economic development is a key strategic initiative and goal of Tulare County's Strategic Business Plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Michael Washam

Assistant Director – Economic Development & Planning

cc: Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment(s):

Attachment "A" – Economic Development and Planning Organizational Chart

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF UPDATE - ECONOMIC)
DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING BRANCH) Resolution No. _____
OF THE RMA)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____, BY
THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: MICHAEL C. SPATA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

Received a presentation providing an overview and update of the Economic Development and Planning Branch of the Resource Management Agency (RMA).

ATTACHMENT "A"

Economic Development and Planning Organizational Chart

Economic Development & Planning Branch

