



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

**Agenda Number:**

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** County Executive Office  
**Department No.:** 012  
**For Agenda Of:** April 19, 2022  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director(s) Contact Info: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer *NA*

DocuSigned by:  
*Mona Miyasato*  
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**SUBJECT:** Agreement with REACH for preparation of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Risk Management:** Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board to sign a Subrecipient Agreement with the Hourglass Project doing business as REACH for preparing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy;
- B. Authorize the distribution of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$150,000 to REACH for the County’s portion of the project funding in accordance with the Subrecipient Agreement; and
- C. Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organization, administrative, or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, or CEDS, is a plan for regional economic development and is required to qualify for certain assistance from U.S Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance. REACH, formerly known as The Hourglass Project, in coordination with the County of Santa Barbara, County of San Luis Obispo, and private stakeholders, has partnered to develop a five-year CEDS for deployment throughout Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

Through a \$450,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, REACH received economic adjustment assistance to support planning and analysis to help communities capitalize on economic development opportunities. This grant will contribute towards the CEDS development. The County's approved contribution toward the strategic planning effort is \$150,000, funded by the County's ARPA allocation. The proposed subrecipient agreement distributes the funding to REACH to administer the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Planning effort with a consultant of their choice, as well as participating stakeholders.

### **Discussion:**

The total cost for this effort is \$900,000, which includes a \$450,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to develop the strategic plan, \$150,000 of which will be the County's contribution. The strategic plan development is anticipated to be completed within the two-year period of the EDA grant with work on the project beginning in January.

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) regional strategic plan is being developed in partnership with regional stakeholders and organizations to address the COVID impact on businesses and the workforce in Santa Barbara County. Completing a CEDS opens the doors to additional state and federal funding opportunities to address economic development in the region. A CEDS will further identify the industry gaps and ultimately provide solutions to address the workforce shortage, as well as identify funding opportunities for economic development purposes. The REACH Fellowship was recently approved for an EDA grant that will allow for a deep dive analysis of four target industries, the establishment of workgroups, and the development of workforce education and training opportunities for these industries, culminating in the creation of a two-county CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy). The CEDS will allow for regional level planning down to the county and city level, and the CEDS will provide the region with a foundation needed to access additional federal funding.

REACH has received commitment to financially contribute to a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy from the County of San Luis Obispo, Bank of America, and the Economic Development Administration. The dollar amounts committed are listed in the chart below.

**Table 1: CEDS Financial Contribution**

EDA	\$450,000.00
Bank of America	\$150,000.00
San Luis Obispo County	\$200,000.00
<b>Total County Contribution</b>	<b>\$150,000.00</b>

<b>Total Project</b>	\$900,000.00
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**Background:**

County staff have been working with REACH over the past year to discuss the development of a CEDS. The County received a proposal to participate in the development of a CEDS for economic vitality throughout the central coast region. On September 2, 2021, REACH received a Notice of Investment Award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for \$450,000 for the creation of an economic mitigation plan, which includes the development of a CEDS. The CEDS proposal, spearheaded by REACH, was approved for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding on October 19, 2021. The attached subrecipient agreement was approved and signed by REACH on April 1, 2022.

**Key Contract Risks:**

None.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The Board allocated ARPA funding for this project in the amount of \$150,000 on October 19, 2021. This item requests that the funds be directed to REACH for coordination of the project. No additional funding is requested.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			
State			
Federal	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00
Fees			
Total	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00

**Special Instructions:**

Please return electronic copy of executed subrecipient agreement and one hard copy to Jasmine McGinty at [jmcginty@countyofsb.org](mailto:jmcginty@countyofsb.org), 805-448-4028.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Subrecipient Agreement

**Authored by:** Jasmine McGinty, Principal Analyst