



County Administrative Office

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: March 18, 2025

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Marta Rodriguez PHONE: 559-636-5005

SUBJECT: Sierra San Joaquin Jobs Initiative Letter of Support

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the County Administrative Officer to sign a joint letter with Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties, encouraging state leadership participate in a Four-County Coordinating Committee for the Sierra San Joaquin Jobs Initiative (S2J2); and
2. Designate Board member(s) to participate in the S2J2 Four-County Coordinating Committee.

SUMMARY:

The State of California has asked that the Central Valley Community Foundation (CVCF) serve as both the regional convener and fiscal sponsor of the Valley Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF). The CVCF is a Fresno-based nationally accredited community foundation serving the San Joaquin Valley. Their mission is to receive donations and provide grants for programs and initiatives that build and develop growth opportunities in the Central Valley.

Funded by the State, the Valley CERF is a Four-County coalition that includes Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings counties working to create a Regional Economic Recovery and Transition Plan (Plan), through the Sierra San Joaquin Jobs Initiative (S2J2). S2J2 will include strategies for the growth of targeted industries and securing economic opportunities for Valley communities. Once the S2J2 Plan is finalized, local communities will be eligible to receive State funds to help implement priority projects included in the Plan.

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The S2J2 Plan will be developed through public outreach with input also to be provided by the proposed Four-County Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee has been proposed to ensure that the S2J2 initiative includes local elected and staff perspectives from all four counties. The Four-County Coordinating Committee would include representatives from each County's Board of Supervisors, CAO, and key planning, economic development and related staff.

CVCF has invited the CAOs of Fresno, Madera, Tulare, and Kings counties to submit a letter to California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Secretary Wade Crowfoot and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Secretary Karen Ross asking for their participation in the proposed Coordinating Committee and to provide technical assistance where needed.

The purpose of this Agenda Item is to request that the Board authorize the County Administrative Officer to submit the proposed letter to the two State Secretaries in response to the CVCF's request; and designate a Board of Supervisors member to the Four-County Coordinating Committee. The CAOs of Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties have all approved the letter.

The letter outlines the following priorities:

1. Designate State staff to the Four-County Coordinating Committee;
2. Establish structured monthly meetings between counties and the State;
3. Encourage collaboration with the Department of Conservation on Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and modeling;
4. Encourage engagement with the California Energy Commission on state-local briefings to discuss regional energy production plans and strategies;
5. Coordinate conservation, land restoration, renewable energy, groundwater recharge, and sustainable agriculture by engaging with the Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Parks and recreation, and the California Conservation Corps; and
6. Coordinate with CDFA to support innovation and market competitiveness.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no Net County Cost to the General Fund for participating in the S2J2 initiative. It is possible that, upon approval of the Plan by the State, local communities will be eligible to receive funding for identified projects.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

This proposal supports the County's Quality of Life initiative as it will increase quality of life for county residents.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Jason T. Britt

Jason T. Britt

County Administrative Officer

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Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: Letter of Support