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DATE: March 15, 2018
TO: Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) Board
Representatives and Alternates
FROM: William A. Fashing, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Resolution 18-06 Approving 2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Request

The CWCOG Staff are requesting approval of the 2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document.

Background

The CWCOG is applying to the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) for approval of a two-county Economic Development District (EDD) designation. As part of the application process the prospective applicant must have an EDA approved CEDS document in accordance with 13 CFR 304.1(c).

The CEDS is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development and is the result of a regionally-owned planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of the region. It is intended to help build regional capacity that contributes to community success providing a vehicle for individuals, organizations, local governments, institutes of learning, and private industry to engage in a meaningful conversation and debate about what capacity building efforts would best serve economic development in the region. The CEDS and the EDD program make the region eligible for EDA program funding.

The CEDS document must have been given a sufficient amount time to be reviewed by the local jurisdictions and approved by the agency applying for designation prior to submission to EDA. The CWCOG has held six (6) open public meetings since November 2017 gathering input from both publics and private entities, held two CEDS committee meetings gathering additional input, published two articles in local publications about the CEDS, posted a legal notice announcing the CEDS was available for public input, and posted the CEDS on the CWCOG website for over 30 days as required by both the CWCOG Public Participation Plan and 13 CFR 303.6(b)(2).

Policy Implications

The CEDS document sets the program policies for the CWCOG Economic Development Program.

Budget Implications

All activities to create the CEDS are part of the current CWCOG 2018 budget.

Staffing Implications

None

Executive Committee Review

The CEDS has been reviewed by an appointed CEDS committee in accordance with 13 CFR 303.6(a).

If you have any questions, please contact myself or MaryJane Melink, Community Development Planner (mmelink@cwco.org) or (360) 577-3041. Attached is the document for your review.

BF/ak

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments

A Resolution Approving the)
2018-2022 Comprehensive)
Economic Development Strategy)

RESOLUTION NO. 18-06

WHEREAS, the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments serving as the Economic Development District Organization for the proposed two-county Economic Development District;

WHEREAS, a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy must be in place prior to the application to create a new economic development district;

WHEREAS, the District will support a planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments approves the 2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document as presented.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 22nd day of March, 2018.

William A. Fashing, Executive Director

Troy Stariha, Chair