



**STANISLAUS COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION COMMITTEE (EDAC)**

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 MEETING MINTUTES

Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Road Modesto, CA 95355

Members Present:

Voting members and alternates representing

Seat 3	City of Hughson	Randy Crooker, Alternate
Seat 4	City of Modesto	Sue Zwahlen, Vice Chair
Seat 6	City of Riverbank	Melissa Holdaway, Alternate
Seat 7	City of Turlock	Kevin Bixel
Seat 11	District 1	John Ismail
Seat 12	District 2	Doris Foster
Seat 13	District 3	Christine Schweininger
Seat 14	District 4	Cecil Russell
Seat 15	Community	Harpreet Singh
Seat 16	Community	Rosalinda Vierra
Seat 18	Community	Dillon Olvera
Seat 19	Community	Barbara Jensen
Seat 20	Community	Ali Arshad
Seat 21	Community	David White

Members Absent (excused)

Seat 1	Board of Supervisors	Mani Grewal
Seat 2	City of Ceres	Javier Lopez
Seat 3	City of Hughson	George Carr
Seat 5	City of Newman	John Pimentel
Seat 8	City of Waterford	Elizabeth Talbott
Seat 9	City of Oakdale	Kayleigh Gilbert
Seat 10	City of Patterson	Carlos Roque, Chair
Seat 17	Community	Jose Ibarra

Support Staff Present: Patricia Lord (Committee Secretary/CEO's Office), Erica Inacio (CEO's Office), Michelle Avery (CEO's Office), Monica Flynn (Opportunity Stanislaus)

- 1. Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m. by Committee Vice Chair Sue Zwahlen.
- 2. Roll Call**
Committee Vice Chair Sue Zwahlen welcomed all and conducted roll call. A quorum was met.
- 3. Welcome and Introductions**
New committee members and alternates were introduced.
- 4. Approval of Minutes from the October 4, 2023 Meeting**
A motion was made by David White to approve the October 4, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Doris Foster, with unanimous committee approval.



5. **Public Comment**

Public comments for items not on the agenda included:

- Mr. Mataka posed questions about the criteria for community representative seats and how is EDAC to serve the community without translation.
- Ms. Arias commented on several items related to representing Latinos and the need to empower equity including advocacy for translation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

6. **Update on 2023-2028 Stanislaus County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Related Actions**

Erica Inacio, Deputy Executive Officer for Stanislaus County Community and Economic Development, updated the Committee that the CEDS has not been accepted by the Board of Supervisors.. Staff will be taking the CEDS to the Board of Supervisors once the Board is presented with a response as it pertains to a question posed by the Board at the December 19, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting. Staff were directed to identify the threshold that determines when a document needs to be translated. Once the Board hears the presentation, the CEDS document will be taken to the Board for acceptance. Staff will keep the Committee updated on the progress if this occurs prior to the next Committee meeting.

Committee member comments on the CEDS process included:

- CEDS is mostly used by government agencies;
- EDAC needs a better explanation of the County's position on language access;
- Why not outreach to the community? Is it the cost? Does not understand the County process;
- Each City has a different demographic; may need many languages; consider various dialects

7. **Discussion Items**

Review and Consider Draft Updates to 2009 Rules and Regulations. Possible creation of a special committee to analyze and define new Committee By-laws.

- a. The Committee was presented with the current Rules and Regulations. Staff asked the Committee to provide any suggested edits, revisions, and updates to staff so that they may be compiled and brought forth in a future red lined version. The Vice Chair Zwalen requested for a future meeting that the Committee include consideration to appoint a subcommittee to continue to work on the revisions to the Rules and Regulations.
- b. Public Comments on Rules and Regulations included:
 - recommendations addressing the membership term
 - representation
 - conflict of interests.

8. **Committee Member Reports**

- a. Updates on Economic Development Projects and Initiatives



- The City of Modesto provided updates on the Shop Greater Modesto Online grant provided to the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Revitalization efforts, Parking Garage Mural installation on the 11th and K Street parking structure, upcoming planning efforts, as well as new City developments. (See Attachment).
- Committee Member Barbara Jensen noted that the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Committee is offering a \$3,000 stimulus grant to promote City of Turlock businesses to generate activities and services to boost commerce.
- Committee member Dillon Olvera advised the Committee that Sierra Northern Railway received a \$12-million-dollar Federal grant for the safety improvements of railroad crossings in the Modesto and Empire traction.

9. **Officer Selection**

- a. Discuss and Select Chairperson

A motion to select Carlos Roque as Committee Chairperson was made by Dillon Olvera and seconded by Barbara Jensen. It was unanimously approved.

- b. Discuss and Select Vice Chairperson

A motion was made to select Sue Zwahlen as Committee Vice Chair was made by Cecil Russell and seconded by Christine Schwieininger. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. **Next Meeting Dates To Be Determined**

The date for the next meeting will be decided and announced later, with an anticipated meeting held in June 2024.

11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.