



**EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority**

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Board

From: Dan Holler, Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager

Subject: CEDS - Town of Mammoth Lakes Project & Program Specific Action Plan

Prepared on: February 21, 2024

Attachments: A) Appendix D - Town of Mammoth Lakes Project & Program Specific Action Plan

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) engaged with Alpine, Inyo and Mono Counties, The Town of Mammoth Lakes and the City of Bishop, completed a regional economic development strategy required to access federal and other funding opportunities known as a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Mammoth Town Council accepted the CEDS on October 18, 2023 and it was subsequently approved by the ESCOG on October 19, 2023. The CEDS was approved by the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) on January 5, 2024.

The CEDS sets forth six focus areas with identified goals and objectives. The CEDS takes a higher level planning approach through the Evaluation Framework section of the document in outlining Metrics for Success for each area. The Town of Mammoth Lakes has submitted an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant relying upon the approved CEDS. The grant includes funding for a regional bioenergy facility, support for expanded childcare, a pedestrian bridge connection in the Village at Mammoth area and support for a performing arts theater. There was a \$30 million grant request, with over \$21 million for the bioenergy facility. Except for the theater project, the grant was well received by EDA staff. However, they are looking for a specific reference to the proposed projects in the CEDS document. While the projects support the stated goals and outcomes of the CEDS the lack of project reference places the grant funding in jeopardy.

In further review of the CEDS by the Town, we are concerned that the lack of specific projects being identified in the document may result in all partner agencies being limited in accessing certain funding opportunities. To address this need, The Town of Mammoth Lakes is

recommending that the CEDS be amended to include an appendix identifying specific projects by agency, including regional projects and programs which support strategic goals and objectives of the regional CEDS document. Ideally this would be an appendix by reference that may be updated at least annually by the ESCOG members and partners. This process will need to be verified with EDA.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

We have provided a sample of what may be included in an appendix (see attached). This provides a list of identified projects and programs necessary to meet the strategic goals and objectives of the regional CEDS document. These projects and programs are in various stages of planning and implementation by the Town and represent ongoing and future work efforts being undertaken. We would like to work through the process to incorporate these projects within the CEDS framework to meet the EDA requirement for potential funding. Other funding sources may have similar requirements. The Town envisions this list to be dynamic and to be updated regularly. The Town has evaluated most of the projects through public engagement exercises. Additionally, Town Staff facilitates several meetings and programs that directly support the advancement of the CEDS goals. The Town has organized its projects under the same framework as the CEDS document and associated projects with the goals and objectives outlined in the strategic action plan.

To be eligible for certain funding opportunities the adopted CEDS document will need to include specific projects. The Town seeks to advance several projects that directly support the CEDS and Town priorities and is proactively looking for additional funding opportunities. The attached documentation may also serve as an initial framework for other agencies and regional projects to be incorporated in the future.

LEGAL REVIEW:

Legal or other staff review is required to determine the appropriate process to incorporate specific projects and programs within the CEDS.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is recommending the ESCOG Board take the following actions:

- 1) Provide direction to determine appropriate process to incorporate specific projects within the CEDS
- 2) Approve the incorporation of the attached Town of Mammoth Lakes Project list as an Appendix to the CEDS.