

## **RESOLUTION No. 25-**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, EXTENDING THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM OF WORK TO BE KNOWN AS THE “ESCOG: COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RESILIENCY FUND PILOT PROGRAM” AND TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM MEMBER AGENCIES FOR THIS WORK**

**WHEREAS**, the Member Agencies agreed that the creation of a regional Joint Powers Authority that functions as a separate and discreet legal entity from individual Member Agencies would enable the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments to maximize and take advantage of opportunities for the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority (ESCOG) was organized to (1) provide a forum for discussion and study of regional issues of interest to the Member Agencies; (2) identify and plan for the solution of identified regional issues requiring multi-governmental cooperation; (3) facilitate actions and agreements among the Member Agencies for specific project development; and (4) conduct other region wide functions as Member Agencies deem appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, the ESCOG was further organized to identify and apply for funding resources and to apply for and receive funding for the planning and implementation of Programs of regional impact or significance, and to implement such Programs, upon approval of the governing bodies of each Member Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development and the Office of Planning and Research have established an unprecedented \$600 million regional economic development initiative known as the California Regional Investment Initiative (CAJF formerly CERF), which provided a \$5,000,000 planning grant for regional economic development planning in the Eastern Sierra subregion, which includes Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne Counties, to be focused on economic resilience, equity, and transitioning to carbon neutrality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Eastern Sierra Region’s CAJF planning process is complete, and the region has submitted applications for \$9 million in regionally allocated funding for implementation of the Eastern Sierra Region’s Regional Plan, with awards anticipated to be announced in March 2025 and an additional \$273 million available in competitive implementation funding through the State Regional Investment Initiative; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments worked with regional partners to develop and adopt a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and has

served to coordinate the implementation of defined elements of the regional CEDS as a funding source for defined EDA or other related grants; and

**WHEREAS**, Member Agencies will benefit from collective and enhanced collaboration on economic development projects such as those defined in the Sierra Jobs First Strategic Plan planning effort and the regional CEDS and through a regional approach to accessing other State and Federal programs to support regional infrastructure, housing solutions, climate resiliency, sustainable recreation, and workforce development; and

**WHEREAS**, the constituents of the Member Agencies will benefit from funding opportunities to implement economic development activities of regional scope and significance through the authority of the ESCOG; and

**WHEREAS**, the ESCOG Board and its Member Agencies unanimously approved the “ESCOG: Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program,” which granted authority to the ESCOG to convene community members to support the development of the Sierra Jobs First Strategic Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program expired on August 31, 2024 at the conclusion of the California Jobs First planning phase; and

**WHEREAS**, the ESCOG served to convene, inform, and advocate for Eastern Sierra communities in Alpine, Inyo and Mono Counties throughout the Sierra Jobs First planning phase to ensure regional communication and representation in the Sierra Jobs First Strategic Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Catalyst Phase of the California Jobs First initiative commenced on September 1, 2024 and will provide opportunities to fund economic development projects at a regional scale, requiring capacity to convene regional partners and identify and coordinate grant applications, and ESCOG has been allocated funding to continue providing the above mentioned services in the benefit of Alpine, Inyo, and Mono Counties under the California Jobs First Initiative.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Mammoth Lakes as follows:

**Section 1.** That a program to be known as the “ESCOG: Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program” be extended to include all authorities previously granted by the Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program through the completion of the Catalyst Phase of the California Jobs First Initiative, at which point the ESCOG will request additional authorities for implementation of the economic development strategies if deemed appropriate by the ESCOG Board and the member agencies.

**Section 2.** That the “ESCOG: Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program” provides for ESCOG to coordinate and engage with regional economic development opportunities in collaboration with Member Agencies through the State of California’s “Community Economic Resiliency Fund” Planning Phases ( CAJF formerly CERF) and the development of the region’s “Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy” (CEDS); receive funding to participate in regional economic development planning efforts that have already been funded by agencies outside of the region, including the state of California’s CAJF and the completion of a CEDS funded by the Federal Economic Development Administration; and support and build upon the economic development efforts of Member Agencies that promote economic development efforts to enhance the region’s economic resilience and prosperity. Member agency funding for such work is subject to approval by each agency.

**Section 3.** That, in carrying out the these activities, the ESCOG is empowered under the “ESCOG: Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program" to apply for and administer grants and other sources of revenue; to participate in regional economic development planning efforts, specifically the CAJF and the CEDS; engage in any actions already authorized by the ESCOG Joint Powers Agreement, including the securing of appropriate levels of insurance; and take any other actions reasonably related to its pursuit of the above mentioned activities; provided, however, that the “ESCOG: Community Economic Resiliency Fund Pilot Program" shall not be authorized to incur debt that is not otherwise secured by the Program’s identified revenue. Member agency funding to support such work is subject to approval by each agency and action by the ESCOG shall not obligate members financially.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

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CHRIS BUBSER, Mayor

ATTEST:

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JAMIE GRAY, Clerk