



**Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority**

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority
From: Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Executive Director
Subject: Receive a Presentation on the Sierra Jobs First Collaborative Post-California Jobs First Transition Process

Meeting date: October 22, 2025
Prepared on: October 14, 2025
Attachments: A) Sierra Jobs First Transition Process Overview

BACKGROUND:

Since 2022, the Sierra Jobs First Collaborative has convened diverse regional partners to advance community-led, climate-forward, and economically resilient initiatives across the Sierra region. The effort has been supported by California Jobs First funding and administered by the Sierra Business Council (SBC).

With state funding scheduled to sunset in 2026, SBC has initiated a 10-month transition & future planning process to determine the most effective structure for continuing the collaborative's mission beyond the current grant term. The process will be led by SBC's consultant Agnew::Beck.

The 10-month process will convene partners and leaders across the seven-county region through interviews, conversations, and shared discussions, to inform how the Sierra Jobs First Collaborative should continue once funding ends in September 2026.

ANALYSIS:

The Transition & Future Process (September 2025 – June 2026) will combine listening, research, and structured decision-making to shape the next phase of Sierra Jobs First. Key elements include:

- Formation of a Transition Advisory Committee (TAC) composed of Industry Sector Leads, ESCOG, and a Tribal Coordinator.
- Research and comparative analysis of other Jobs First collaboratives and national governance models.
- Stakeholder engagement through interviews, focus groups, surveys, and Governing Council discussions.
- Development of transition and implementation plans aligned with the preferred future model.

The planning process will deliver three key products:

- 1) Transition & Future Scenario Plan–Models for Consideration: This presentation deck will include a summary of feedback, research and models for consideration.
- 2) Proposed Model for Moving Forward: This presentation deck will expand upon the preferred model decided on by the Governing Council.
- 3) Strategic Plan + Transition Implementation Plan: Based on the preferred model moving forward, Agnew::Beck will develop a short strategic plan and a detailed implementation plan to support next steps. Depending on the model, this could include such things as development of a strategic and business plan for the new effort and include components such as budget, staffing plan, program and core activities, governance, etc.

Preliminary concepts for the Collaborative's future include:

- Continuation: Maintain Sierra Jobs First as a formal seven county regional collaborative.
- Integration: Fold specific projects or functions into existing regional entities.
- Sunset: Wind down Sierra Jobs First formal operations while preserving key work and relationships.
- Hybrid or New Options: Develop a new structures or models based on stakeholder ideas and best practices.

The ESCOG will continue to participate actively in the process through its representation on the Transition Advisory Committee and ongoing coordination with regional partners.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

There are no budget impacts associated with this item.

LEGAL REVIEW:

ESCOG Counsel John-Carl Vallejo has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

RECOMMENDATION:

No action required.