



Community Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC) Findings and Recommendations

February 2023

FINDINGS

- While not required by State law, the County's General Plan includes an Economic Development Element, which establishes economic policy objectives for the County, and also **requires a collaborative approach that utilizes the Economic Development Providers Network** or other Board of Supervisors policies to advise and recommend to the Board of Supervisors policies and a course of action that will facilitate the County's economic vitality.

FINDINGS

- CEDAC does not have approved bylaws and instead relies solely on Resolution 177-2017 in regard to its operations and responsibilities.
- A review of 2022 meeting minutes identified that CEDAC did not have a full slate of members present for the meeting.

FINDINGS

- Resolution 177-2017 states CEDAC shall operate *“At the direction of the Board of Supervisors and in collaboration with the County Economic Development Division”*. There is a fundamental difference in the interpretation of this Resolution.
 - *County staff’s interpretation is that CEDAC is able to work on only items approved by the Board.*
 - *CEDAC’s interpretation is that directives from the Board will be a priority within its workplan but that CEDAC could add to its workplan if the item met the responsibilities listed within the Resolution.*

FINDINGS

- Based on discussions with County staff and CEDAC members, there is agreement that CEDAC historically has not received clear direction from the Board of Supervisors regarding the structure of adding items to the workplan.

FINDINGS

- County staff and current members of CEDAC agree that CEDAC could be more effective if structured appropriately.
- At this time there are three policy and/or priority-setting documents relative to economic development in El Dorado County:
 - a. Economic Element of the General Plan;
 - b. County Strategic Plan; and
 - c. Resolution 177-2017 establishing CEDAC.

CONCLUSIONS

1. In order to comply with the County's General Plan, the County is required to have an Economic Development Providers Network which, at this time, is CEDAC.
2. CEDAC has used staff time to discuss items that were not directed by the Board of Supervisors, but instead were added based on CEDAC's list of responsibilities within the Resolution, resulting in a diversion of staff time from other Board directed priorities.

CONCLUSIONS

3. Historically, CEDAC has not received clear direction regarding the process for adding items to their workplan from the Board of Supervisors, which results in confusion and frustration for County staff as well as CEDAC members.

4. The existing resolution provides a process for removing Committee members, but this process was not followed in 2022.

CONCLUSIONS

5. During 2022, CEDAC did not have full attendance at any of their regular meetings, had to cancel their regular meeting in November due to lack of a quorum, and had to adjourn their December 2022 meeting early, due to losing a quorum.

CONCLUSIONS

6. With three non-mandated policy/priority setting documents (e.g, Economic Element of the General Plan, County Strategic Plan and Resolution 177-2017), it is difficult to establish a consistent short-, medium- and long-term economic development strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Direct CEDAC to discontinue all existing work from their work plan and any other tasks they were working to address.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2) Appoint a representative from each Supervisorial District to CEDAC, fill the at-large vacancies, and direct CEDAC, in collaboration with County staff, to review similar committees/commissions in other jurisdictions, including Placer County, and use that information to develop a set of by-laws for consideration and approval by the Board of Supervisors. The by-laws should include the following at a minimum:

- a) Membership and make-up of CEDAC;
- b) Guiding Principles for CEDAC, focusing on long-term economic development strategies;
- c) Meeting schedule identifying the minimum number of meetings each year;
- d) Method to remove members for failure to attend CEDAC meetings; and
- e) Governance process and expectations, including how items are added to CEDAC agendas and the workplan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3) Direct CEDAC, in collaboration with County staff, to review the County's Economic Element of the General Plan and the Economic Development Goal of the County's Strategic Plan, to identify any inconsistencies or redundancies, and provide a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors as to whether the Economic Element and/or the Strategic Plan goal should be eliminated, consolidated, or continue to be two separate documents.