

# From the Desk of the CEO



Dear CALED Members and Friends,

2017 is off to a busy start for many of us but before sharing some new tools and updates with you, I wish to acknowledge the impact President Trump is having on local economic development. Whether or not you agree with the current

Administration, the federal government has the ability to have significant impact on economic development in California – not just through policies and executive orders, but also by re-focusing California lawmakers’ agendas away from achieving new goals to defending prior decisions and protecting values in the areas of diversity, healthcare, and climate change – to name a few.

With that in mind, it is incumbent on us (CALED, our leaders, our staff, our members, our partners, and economic development stakeholders) to continue to look for opportunities to support California businesses and grow local economies in order to enhance the quality of life for all residents. As your professional association, we are committed to finding ways to assist you in delivering local economic development services to your community and will continue to keep you informed if we see new opportunities for you. Our board-adopted legislative agenda for 2017 is on page 20 and we will provide you with regular updates on our progress as it relates to those goals.

As we closed out 2016, thanks to our Technical Tax Increment Finance Committee, we created and mailed an FAQ and comparison booklet for California’s new Tax Increment Financing Tools to cities and counties across the state that may be considering using Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) or Community Revitalization Investment Areas (CRIAs) to complete projects. You

can learn more about the TIF Committee and download this document at <http://www.caled.org/tif-technical-committee>.

We will also have a special fourth Technical Track at this year’s Annual Conference to delve into model practices for using these and other development finance tools. As part of attending that track, participants will receive a new Tax Increment Finance Primer on EIFDs and CRIAs. This publication was also written by the TIF Committee and is a great resource for any jurisdiction considering these tools.

The Primer is only one of the many reasons you won’t want to miss the conference. This year, there will be leaders from expanding California businesses who will talk to you about how you can assist them grow and thrive. This is a great opportunity to hear directly from businesses what their needs

are. There are also four tracks on engaging economic development, business assistance, and land development topics. And, of course, we will have great networking opportunities like our popular culinary crawl, the fun run, and a special reception celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the California Enterprise Development Authority.



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Please also join me in my annual report to the membership so that you can hear what we are working on and give us your input so that we can ensure we are serving you in a relevant and responsive fashion. This is your association, and we value your input. I hope to see you at the conference, but in the meantime, feel free to call or email if you have questions or suggestions.

Thank you for your membership and support.

Gurbax Sahota

