

From the Desk of the CEO



Dear CALED Members and Friends,

2020 is an exciting year here at CALED, it marks the 40 year anniversary of the association. We hope to see many of you at this year's annual conference so you can help celebrate this meaningful milestone. You'll hear more about what 40 years of economic development means to CALED

members and our state in the next Journal.

As usual, the beginning of the year marks a push for legislation and conference planning. On the legislative advocacy side, I'm pleased to share that we confirmed a new Legislative Action Committee for 2020.

Legislative Action Committee (LAC)

- Robert Burris, President & CEO, Solano EDC and LAC Chair
- Gregg Foster, Executive Director, Redwood Region Economic Development Commission
- Matthew Hargrove, Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs, California Business Properties Association (CBPA)
- Carolyn Hull, General Manager of the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD), City of Los Angeles
- Steven J. Lantsberger, CED; EDFP; HDFP, Economic Development Director, San Joaquin County Employment & Economic Development Department
- Aaron Laurel, City Manager, City of West Sacramento and CALED Chair
- Kendall DeMatteo Levan, Principal Attorney, Kane, Ballmer & Berkman, a law corporation
- Tim Padden, Economic Development Manager, City of Vacaville
- Gurbax Sahota, President and CEO, California Association for Local Economic Development

Alphonse Wilfred, Assistant Program Manager for CALED, provides staff support to the committee and our legislative efforts. The committee will be working on reviewing bills impacting economic development as well as exploring key areas such as:

- Legislation focused on the future of Tax Increment Financing
- Bills that have significant impact on jurisdictions' ability to engage in and implement economic development (with a lens of "direct and disproportionate impact on members")
- Seek and champion tools and resources for economic development

On the technical side, we are looking at the impacts of AB 1486 (Ting) – the Surplus Land Act – on economic development – specifically, what it means in relationship to AB 806 (Dodd/Frazier) and a jurisdiction's ability to purchase and dispose of land for the purpose of economic development.

Also, we are continuing to look for ways to improve the EIFD tool. Some suggestions are:

- Add the ability and a process to do plan amendments
- Include the ability within a plan to have "plan areas" or "sub zones." The timeclock for bonds and CEQA clearance would be tied to triggers in the "area/zone." We would need to close the loop on potential gentrification issues – all "areas/zones" should see investment.
- Simplify board make up in cases of a single jurisdiction EIFD and in cases where there is one property owner. At the same time, we want to be thoughtful that locals are not left out of decisions impacting their jurisdictions.

For new tools, we are looking at ways to partner with organizations like the California Manufacturers and Technology Association to see if there is something we can do to encourage/increase expansion and location of manufacturing in California. Equally important is retention of our existing manufacturing base. This may or may not end up being legislation.

As you can see, we have a busy spring ahead of us as we advocate for economic development tools and for California's practitioners. If you have suggestions or feedback on any of these items, feel free to reach out to us.

Thank you for the work you do to grow local economies and hope to see you at the conference!

Gurbax Sahota