Dear CALED Members,

As we pass the halfway point of 2022, I am pleased to share so many positive outcomes from the first six months as well as key board-approved work program objectives as we look ahead.

- Opposed & Stopped AB 2357 (Ting) – This bill expanded the State’s reach/role in implementing the Surplus Lands Act. It undermined the ability of cities and counties to conduct appropriate economic development activities on properties they acquire or otherwise own. Learn more on page 21.

- Provided multiple rounds of input on CERF to advocate for inclusion of local governments in the planning phase and building on regions’ already existing economic development work and investments.

- Presented CALED’s 2022 Annual Conference in Long Beach, bringing our members together in person safely for the first time in three years. As the largest gathering of economic developers in California, it was a great venue for networking, sharing model practices, reconnecting with peers, and refreshing spirits. See pictures on pages 10 and 11.

- Administered the third cohort of Accredited California Economic Developer (ACE) exams with ten professionals earning the ACE designation.

- Completed the creation of the Economic Development Recovery and Resiliency Playbook (Playbook) in partnership with the US Economic Development Administration. Watch your mailbox this summer for a copy.

From the Desk of the CEO

Moving forward, we remain committed to finding ways to support California’s economic developers in this ever-changing environment. As a result, the CALED Board of Directors met in June to add several new items to our work program.

CALED will create a new division that allows us to focus on land use, real estate, and economic development finance issues, without detracting from the benefits and services our members want that are not related to these more technical issue areas. There is no statewide entity focused on providing technical assistance and advocating on behalf of economic development finance and real estate issues for both counties and cities. CALED has invested considerably to fill that gap over the last five years and look forward to furthering that work.

With the Playbook completed, we believe that with EDA’s partnership and the writing contributions from multiple practitioners, we have an authoritative piece that shows the value of economic development and what strategic, practical implementation looks like from the perspective of professionals that do the work. We will use the Playbook, as a whole and in parts, to share the subject matter expertise within the book to help create support and influence for local economic development and our members – really showing why experienced economic developers need to be at the table when creating solutions to economic development problems.

These are just two of the areas we are expanding our work to serve you. If you have questions or suggestions you would like to share with us, please feel free to reach out to any of the CALED staff or the Board of Directors & Advisors.

Thank you!

Gartho Babcock