

# From the Desk of the CEO



Dear CALED Members,

A lot has happened since the last Quarterly Economic Journal we sent you. From legislation to launching new resources for our members, to presenting the conference and seating new board leadership, it's been a very busy summer. Here are some highlights that may interest you.

On the advocacy front, we continued our advocacy to address the challenges created by the State's implementation/interpretation of the Surplus Lands Act (SLA). While we had some success by getting amendments to AB 480 (Ting) which sought to expand the State's reach on the SLA, SB 747 (Caballero) – a bill supported by CALED to bring much needed clarification to the SLA, has also been substantively amended to remove language related to Economic Opportunity Law.

The State's implementation of the SLA has impacted hundreds and hundreds of projects across California. We feel confident that our advocacy this year on this issue has raised awareness of the significant problems it is causing at the local level – including frustrating the State's own priorities related to building housing and creating economic opportunity for all.

As you will see from the pictures in this issue, we presented an energizing conference in Los Angeles. Not only was it an excellent opportunity to learn and to connect with other practitioners, CALED announced the launch of two resources to support local economic development:

- We launched our Project Development & Finance Division (PD&F) to help our members navigate the complexities of moving real estate projects from conception to completion. We have spent the last decade advocating for our members in this space and the launch of PD&F allows for a sustainable structure for us to continue leading with economic development policy and supporting financing and real estate projects. Learn more on page 12.
- CALED partner, the California Enterprise Development Authority, announced the development of its Bonds Assisting New Development or "BAND" Financing Program for local agencies to easily finance public improvements through CEDA. Learn more on page 15.

This is an exciting time for CALED and our affiliate organizations as we stretch to meet the current needs of economic development professionals in California. To that end, CALED, in partnership with The California Academy for Economic Development and Craig School of Business at Fresno State, held the 2023 Advanced Institute at Fresno State from August 14th through the 18th. This training is a component of the Accredited California Economic Developer (ACE) certification program and as the ACE program continues to thrive, it shows the need not only for economic development training, but also for a California-specific designation promoting the value of economic development professionals.

This is just another example of how CALED and our affiliate organizations work and pivot to support our members. Having engaged, inspiring leadership is critical to these efforts. And, as you will see throughout this issue, we have several members joining our leadership as new board members. The CALED staff is excited about delivering on the direction of our Board of Directors and serving our members to the best of our abilities. If you have questions or comments about any of these items, please reach out to us!

Sincerely,

