



May 25, 2017

County of Fresno
Supervisor Sal Quintero
2281 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Supervisor Quintero,

As President/CEO of the Fresno County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), I am writing this letter of support for the plan to create a County of Fresno Economic Development Action Team. The Fresno County Economic Development Corporation is a private non-profit organization established to market Fresno County as the premier location for business prosperity, who also assists businesses with expansion, attraction and retention. As a partner with many community organizations, we are excited to be a part of this county project.

Fresno County is a part of the cultural and economic center of California's Central Valley, which holds a population of nearly 4.2 million. Fresno County and its population of almost 1 million is among the fastest growing areas in the state, with a projected growth rate of 22.4% by 2030, compared to the projected 13.4% growth for California as a whole. Our collaborative efforts to grow and diversify Fresno County's \$38.8 billion economy, is demonstrated by the job creation it has experienced since 2011. Between April of 2011 and 2017, Fresno County's unemployment rate has decreased by 8.0%, with a total of 52,100 jobs created, 42,000 of which were private sector jobs. The industries with the highest job growth include health care, professional & business services, and construction.

We look to continue our efforts to grow and diversify Fresno County's economy with participation in the Brookings Institute's Global Cities Initiative, designed to increase international trade and foreign direct investment in the valley, and by implementing our Reverse Attraction program. Our Reverse Attraction program will represent a new way of doing economic development, by using hard data to identify industries and target businesses most appropriate for Fresno County and our leading industry clusters.

As an essential connection between businesses and the community, the EDC is committed to seeing Fresno County prosper. By working with the County and other community partners we will be able to maximize our efforts together.

For the aforementioned reasons, I support the creation of the County of Fresno Economic Development Action Team. If you would like to discuss further with me please contact me at 559.476.2513.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Eager
President/CEO

LAE/mp