

Kittitas County Commissioners

Agenda Staff Report

AGENDA DATE:

4/17/2012

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve and sign the Resolution supporting the creation of a regional comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) with Yakima County.

Approve and sign the letter to Ms. Sharon Metiva, Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce supporting the planning grant for the CEDS document.

BACKGROUND:

In the past, Kittitas and Yakima Counties have worked cooperatively on economic development issues from a regional perspective. In recent years, those efforts have waned.

The Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce and the Yakima County Development Association have been working to renew the regional economic development efforts between Kittitas and Yakima County with the involvement and support of their respective County Commissioners for the past two years. Regional collaboration provides opportunities for grant funding and other assistance from the Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce, that both Counties currently cannot access.

The first step in being recognized as a regional economic development entity is the creation of a regional comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS). Each County currently has its own CEDS and this effort will seek to combine those documents into one working model for the Kittitas County and Yakima County region.

INTERACTION:

Prosecuting Attorney's Office

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the resolution and the letter.

HANDLING:**LEAD STAFF:**

Paul Jewell