

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 4

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION HUB DESIGNATION
FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a competition through the Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program (Tech Hubs Program) to support regions to “become globally competitive, within approximately ten years, in the technologies and industries of the future.” In Phase 1, the EDA will designate certain regions as Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs). The County of San Diego’s (County) Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs (EDGA), has been serving as the convener of a consortium of private and public partners, and has the ability to apply for a designation as a Tech Hub in the area of advanced energy and industrial efficiency technology. This designation will signal that the region has a strong potential to become globally competitive in this industry in the next ten years. Additionally, these efforts support the goals set forth in the County of San Diego’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Today’s actions will authorize the Interim Chief Administrative Officer, or designee, to apply for Technology and Innovation Hub (Tech Hub) designation from the Economic Development Administration and to work with necessary parties and other stakeholders to establish the consortium needed.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHAIRWOMAN NORA VARGAS

1. Authorize the Interim Chief Administrative Officer, or designee, upon successful negotiation with appropriate consortium partners, to apply for and accept Technology and Innovation Hub (Tech Hub) designation from the Economic Development Administration’s Fiscal Year 2023 Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program (Tech Hubs Program).
2. Authorize the Interim Chief Administrative Officer or designee to execute any contracts, agreements, certifications, or other documents necessary for submission of the application for the Economic Development Agency Technology and Innovation Hub designation.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

As a requirement of the application for designation as a Tech Hub, the consortium must engage underserved communities in planning in an inclusive way and explain how benefits from the tech hub will be shared equitably. This could include removing barriers to good jobs for those from underserved communities, creating new economic opportunities for economically disadvantaged and underrepresented populations, and increasing opportunities for minority business enterprises and socially and economically disadvantaged individual owned businesses.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

As the key technology focus area is around advanced energy and industrial efficiency technology, there is potential for more sustainable technology because of partnerships and shared information in the consortium. Additionally, projects must be designed to minimize the potential for adverse impacts on the environment and the local community and to account for current and future weather- and climate-related risks.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the application for Tech Hub designation. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

If funding is required in future phases, staff will return to the Board with a request which may include an associated grant application, in accordance with Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

If approved, these recommendations will have a positive impact on the energy and technology businesses. The designation will create a platform for businesses to work together and will help bring resources and investments in energy and technology into the region. Potential benefits could include increased number of high-wage, high-quality jobs; creating new economic opportunities; and building and retaining wealth in the region.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 4 Seat Vacant)

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

