

October 13, 2021

U.S. Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Subject: Inland Empire Application to the EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge, submitted on behalf of Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity (IEGO)

To whom it may concern:

The County of Riverside has reviewed the USED A Build Back Better Regional Challenge application and is committed to supporting several components that will advance the regional growth cluster. As a core member on both the IEGO Coordinating Council and Executive Committee, the County is prepared to play a supporting role in a number of the proposed projects and mobilize key local government decision makers to enact policies that support industry growth and healthy communities.

Riverside is the fourth largest county in California and the tenth largest in the United States. It is a one-of-a-kind mixture of diverse communities, scenic beauty, thriving businesses and economic strength. Combined with our county neighbor, San Bernardino, the Inland Empire region is focusing on the creation of more middle-skill, middle-income and high-skill jobs off its supply chain cluster strengths, bringing forward innovation and entrepreneurial activity while preparing its workforce to move up the value chain through training, credentialing, and education. As one major opportunity that has come is the new home of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in Riverside. CARB is the world's largest air emissions regulator, bringing with it companies and entrepreneurs. The IE offers a living laboratory, strong industry presence, research and innovation in our colleges and universities, and a younger and far more diverse population that aspires to higher quality jobs.

In 2020, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County of Riverside formed an Economic Recovery Task Force to develop recommendations for a safe and equitable recovery. The resulting Strategic Economic Recovery Framework includes several recommended investments in small business, workforce, and industry that are critical to IEGO's cluster strategy, specifically calling out Clean Energy Technology, Logistics, and Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

U.S. Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Page 2

Riverside County has been an integral part of the IEGO collaboration since its inception several years ago. The County has been involved in developing the goals and objectives of its strategies for the advancement of this region as a clean technology and sustainable logistics center. These strategies aim to address the challenges and opportunities of supply chains not only in this region but the entire nation.

We are excited about this grant opportunity and look forward to this collaborative effort.

Sincerely,



Karen Spiegel, Chair
Riverside County Board of Supervisors