Creation of a Standing Committee on the Topic of Economic Development

Supervisor Glenn McGourty, 1st District

Supervisor John Haschak, 3rd District

April 25, 2023

Economic Development Ad Hoc

Justification

- Present Economic Development ad Hoc is assigned to work on contract with West Business Development Center and expires this fiscal year

- County Counsel concerns about "mission creep" and the Brown Act

- ad hoc committees are meant to be short term

- Economic Development activities are a continuous critical part of Mendocino County Strategic Plan: ***III. A Thriving Economy: a. Support a Vibrant Economy***

- Ongoing opportunities and need for BOS policy making

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Standing Committee Structure

- Standing Committee status, Brown Act Compliant
- Supervisors to serve one year terms, can be reappointed for additional terms
- Will meet quarterly
- Will have a Technical Advisory Committee to convene input from stakeholders
- CEO office participation (Deputy CEO is assigned as liason)

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Committee Responsibilities

Advise full Board on:

- Economic Development Strategies

- Implementation Planning

- Grant Applications assessment and development

- Manage Technical Advisory Committee to convene Stakeholders and County Staff working on Economic Development issues

- BOS advisors for Economic Development Contracts

- Work with other agencies and government entities on policy and grant funding, bringing information to BOS and EO Office

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ED ad HOC Identified Areas of Interest

- Blue Economy in Fort Bragg
- Renewable Energy: "Hydrogen Highway": biofuels, syngas, green hydrogen and biochar, Sonoma Clean Power
- Workforce Development
- Streamlining business permitting
- Representation at Community Economic Resilience Fund and Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District
- Broadband and internet connectivity

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Willing Partners

- West Business Development Center, Regional Government Services**, and Rural County Representatives of California*

- Incorporated cities in the county

- Community Foundation

- Numerous stakeholders in business and NGO communities

**client agency

*JPA member