

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 3.5
(ID # 12223)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, April 07, 2020

FROM : SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ:

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ: Business Opportunity Zone Projects in Unincorporated Communities

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:


1. That the Board of Supervisors direct Economic Development and Transportation and Land Management Agency (TLMA) to investigate and propose business service tools to support the growth of commercial, industrial, and projects located within unincorporated Opportunity Zone communities.
2. That the proposed business support tools be identified within 90 days from the approval of this item and that the recommendations be reported back to the Board of Supervisors.

ACTION:

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: April 7, 2020
xc: Supvr. Perez

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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BACKGROUND:

The Opportunity Zone (OZ) program was created in the Federal 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in order to stimulate the revitalization of economically distressed communities using private investments. To encourage private participation in Opportunity Zone communities, taxpayers who invest in Opportunity Zones may be eligible to receive deferred, reduced, and eliminated capital gains tax incentives if done in accordance within certain program timeframes.

Forty-nine Opportunity Zones spread over the county's 7,300 square miles in both large and small cities and the unincorporated communities of Home Gardens, North Riverside/Highgrove, Mead Valley, Winchester, Homeland, East Hemet/Valle Vista, Thermal, Mecca, Salton Sea, and areas near Desert Hot Springs and Blythe.

While the program was created in 2017 final regulations were issued in December 2019 which require investment to occur within defined, short-term timeframes designed to stimulate investment in OZ communities immediately. The County recently hosted two Opportunity Zone conferences with presentations from experts in the field. The consistent recommendation was that in order to ensure investment occurs in OZ communities, local jurisdictions should develop tools and incentives to encourage business growth.

Partnering with TLMA, Economic Development will lead the County's Opportunity Zone efforts to include engaging private investors to share business opportunities available in Riverside County. In order to ensure that potential projects are considered in unincorporated communities, it is recommended that the County research all business support services to assist projects that expand job creation, create economic growth and prosperity, contain environmentally sustainable components, improve the overall quality of life, as well as those that include community engagement as part of the planning process.