
Paul Saldana

Public Comments

Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Paul Saldana, President & CEO, Tulare County Economic Development Corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Council, albeit from a virtual platform. We wanted to let the Council know of the work the EDC is doing to assist local businesses with managing through the interruption of business as a result of the COVID-19 situation.

On March 15, the EDC launched www.Covid19BizAssist.com to provide information to businesses of the programs and services that are available to assist them. We have maintained current information and direct links to official sites to get assistance from federal, state and local programs. We have had several hundred businesses visit the site since it was launched and numerous businesses, we provided more in-depth technical assistance to navigate the various programs. The EDC has provided direct assistance through our BizCapFund in order to get them the financing they need.

We are working with our federal partners to add more local financial resources available that we can deploy more quickly to businesses in the weeks and months to come. Finally, our Board Chairman will be appointing a Task Force of private sector leaders who will evaluate the initial responses and determine the short and long term needs that various businesses will need to recover. We will be leading the effort to help businesses get back to business. We will have a further report on this process and economic recovery at a future council meeting.

We still, remarkably, still have new prospects considering locating in Tulare County and have responded to two new customers in the last couple of weeks. So business will continue, our job will be to continue to position your community and the other communities of Tulare County to be restored and increase economic activity in the near and long term future.

I look forward to the opportunity to present an update to you in person in the near future. Thank you for your leadership during this crisis and for the partnership we have to help businesses in our communities. Thank you.