



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
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AGENDA ITEM 8a
HCAOG Board Meeting
March 21, 2024

DATE: March 15, 2024
TO: HCAOG Board of Directors
FROM: Beth Burks, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Authorization of Executive Director to Complete the Redwood Region Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy (RISE) High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC) Collective Partnership Agreement Letter and to Participate in the HRTC Voting Member Block

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Background materials on Redwood Region RISE
- Collective Partnership Agreement Letter

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss item and consider making the motion:
"I move that the HCAOG Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the Partnership Agreement Letter and participate in the Redwood Region RISE Voting Member Block."

Staff Summary:

Redwood Region Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy (RISE) is a regional economic development effort funded through the California Jobs First program. Coordinated by the Center for Rural Policy at Cal Poly Humboldt, a coalition of close to a thousand members

working throughout Del Norte, Humboldt Mendocino and Lake Counties, and Tribal Lands are developing a 10-year vision that aims to bring good, sustainable jobs to the region.

California Jobs First is a \$600 million state-wide initiative designed to promote a sustainable and equitable recovery from the economic distress of COVID-19. Through Jobs First, Redwood Region RISE strives to:

1. Create thriving-wage opportunities for workers in our Region ("quality jobs")
2. Pursue sustainable economic growth (diversifying our local and regional economies)
3. Get us closer to California's goals for a climate-forward future (carbon-neutrality and beyond).

As part of this initiative, each of California's 13 regions will receive approximately \$5M each to create a High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC) to lead an inclusive, diverse, and accountable regional planning process resulting in a regional strategy and recommended investments to grow sustainable industries, diversify regional economies, and increase access to high-quality jobs.

The HRTC includes an approximately 50-member voting block that will vote on key decisions throughout the process. The Voting Member Block is meant to be balanced regionally and across sectors and include all partner categories and priority communities. The Voting Member Block will be informed and advised by several "planning tables" made up of individuals working in specific focus areas throughout the region, an Equity Council, and subject matter experts.

HCAOG has been invited to be a member of the voting block. The Mendocino Council of Governments is also a voting member. This commitment will involve monthly meetings for at least the next year. HCAOG staff has already been participating informally and has the capacity to continue participating. The efforts of Redwood Region RISE are in line with HCAOG adopted priorities in the Regional Transportation Plan, especially those related to the Safe and Sustainable Transportation Targets.

Additional information on this Redwood Region RISE initiative can be found on their website: <https://ccrp.humboldt.edu/redwood-rise>