

November 4  
2025

# Angels Camp City Council

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Central Sierra Economic Development District  
Regional Update

# Agenda:

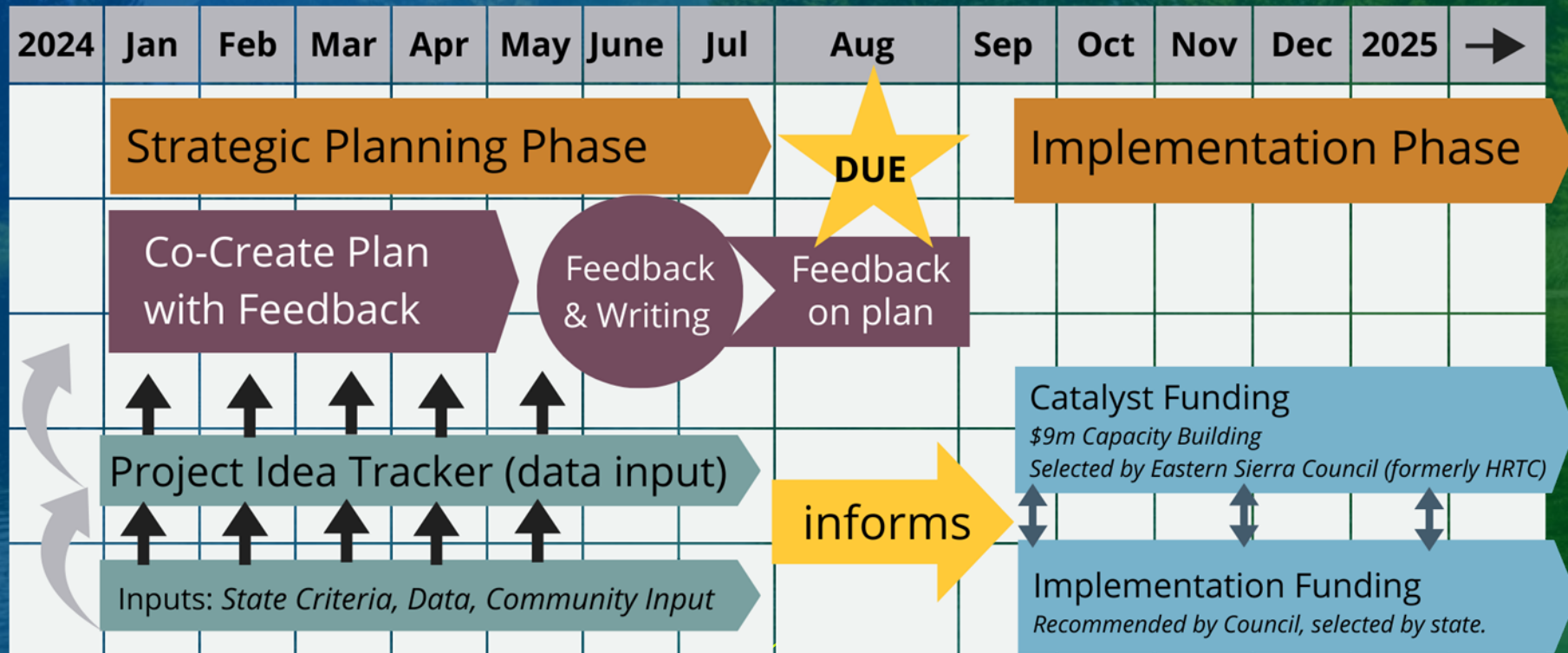
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- California Jobs First Initiative Update
- CASF Grant Update
- Funding Sources & Sustainability
- CEDS Annual Report
- Regional Activities
- Discussion / Q & A



# CA Jobs First Update

## Transition to the Implementation Phase



# Planning Phase

Mar 2023-Sep 2024

## Community Outreach

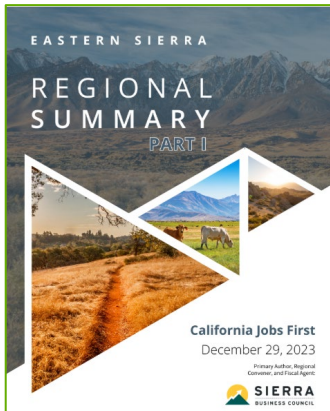
14 Focus Groups  
11 Community Workshops  
59 Organizational Surveys

## Formed Governing Council

## Convened Committees

Local Government, Workforce & Education,  
Tribal, Business, Project Identification

## Created Regional Summary and Strategic Plan



# Sierra Jobs First

Our work to date as a region

## Catalyst Phase

Jun 2024-Sep 2026

### Industry Sector Coordination

Community Healthcare  
Agriculture, Natural & Working Lands  
Recreation & Tourism

### Developed Activation Plans

### Facilitated Working Groups

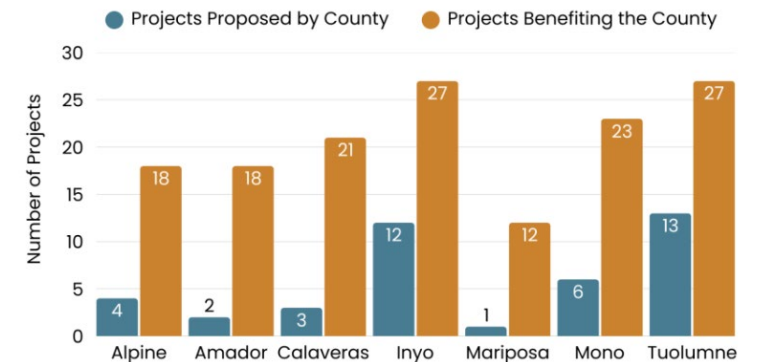
### Supported Projects with Industry Expertise

### Catalyst Projects

\$9M in Grant Funding

47 applications

39 projects funded to date



## Transition Phase - Preparing for What's Next

Sep 2025-2026

# Ongoing Support for Regionalism at the State Level

New funding opportunities using CJF regions/priorities

INTRODUCTION

**Developing the 13 Jobs First Regions**

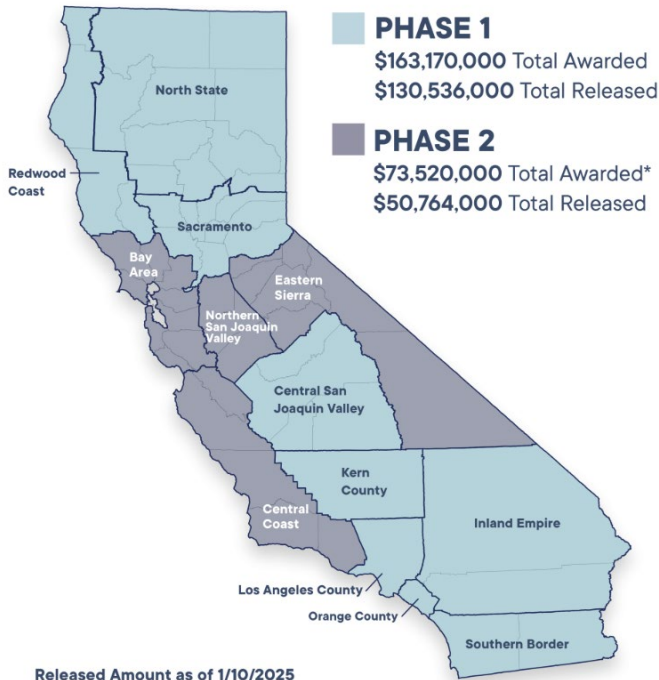
The creation of California's thirteen economic regions marks a strategic, data-driven approach to advancing resilient economic growth across the state.

1 North State  
2 Redwood  
3 Capital  
4 Sierra  
5 Bay Area  
6 North San Joaquin  
7 Central San Joaquin  
8 Central Coast  
9 Kern County  
10 Los Angeles County  
11 Inland SoCal  
12 Orange County  
13 Southern Border

**State Economic Blueprint**

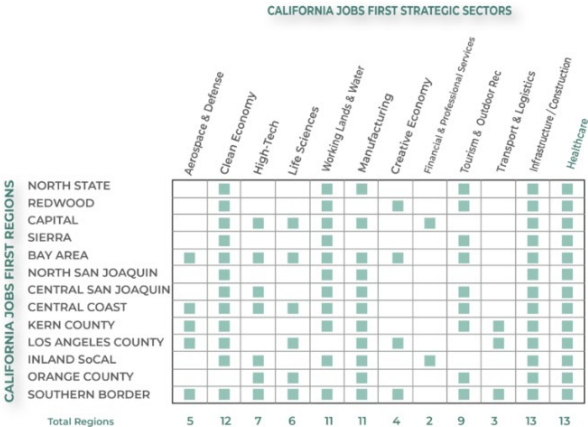
February 2025

## REGIONAL K-16 EDUCATION COLLABORATIVES GRANT PROGRAM



### California Jobs First Priority

The CWDB seeks to fund partnerships in high-demand industry sectors throughout the state. To ensure HRTIP investments align with demand for good jobs, the CWDB has aligned its industry priorities for the HRTIP 2025 grant with California Jobs First strategic sectors. Eligibility for HRTIP 2025 is limited to projects focusing on one or more of the strategic industry sectors identified in [California's State Economic Blueprint](#) and the thirteen [California Jobs First Regional plans](#).



[California's State Economic Blueprint](#) identifies key strategic sectors that are vital for driving the state's future growth and innovation.

# MLJT & CSEDD's Roles

- Providing Technical Assistance – Build Capacity, Expand Access
  - Aligning projects with regional and state criteria for funding (CA Economic Blueprint)
  - Moving projects towards execution – Contracting & Collaboration
  - Funding and logistical challenges, act as a solution architect
- Sector Navigation – Driving Regional Coordination and Workforce Alignment
  - Serve as a credible, consistent, and culturally competent source of information for stakeholders
  - Serve as a bridge for relationship management between Eastside and Westside stakeholders, translating projects for meaningful impact across the region



# MLJT & CSEDD's Roles

- Facilitation of Working Groups – Focus on Collaboration
  - Convene cross-sector stakeholders using the “Next-Gen” Model
    - Industry, Workforce Boards, Government, Education, CBOs
  - Focus on regional needs, promotion of local voice – Lived experience of stakeholders
  - Sector Partnership Initiatives
    - Healthcare 8/1/25, 9/11/25
    - Natural and Working Lands/Agriculture 11/13/25
- Sector Activation Plans – Advancing Regional ‘Readiness’
  - Develop sector specific plans to guide workforce and economic development efforts
  - Establish clear goals, strategies, and actionable steps tailored to our communities
  - Built alignment with state priorities, ensuring equity amongst disinvested populations



# CSEDD's Project

- CSEDD's Project Submission 'Sierra Founder's Academy'
  - Approved for partial funding - \$176,000 for entrepreneurship training
  - Working to align with existing programming and educational pathways
    - Will be implemented in partnership Sierra Commons
    - Work to complement entrepreneurship programs in regional HS & Community Colleges
    - Creation of a 'Youth Chamber of Commerce' to foster sustainability and community



# CASF Grant Update Procedural and Work Plan Based Activities

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- Marketing and Outreach efforts in collaboration w/ CSUF
- Working in collaboration w/ RCRC
- 4<sup>th</sup> Iteration of subject matter panel 8/29/25, 5<sup>th</sup> 12/5/25
- FFA awards coming to the region
- GSCA bringing open access model to benefit constituents and ISPs



# FFA Grant Activity



| County                         | Award ID | Requestor                    | Proj Title                           | FFA grant Funding |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Alpine                         | T-17833  | GSCA                         | GSCA Alpine County Broadband Network | \$6,985,978.00    |
| Amador                         | T-17853  | GSCA                         | GSCA Amador County Broadband Network | \$57,180,300.00   |
| Loan Loss Reserve, All         | T-17858  | GSCA                         | Loan Loss Reserve                    | \$50,000,000.00   |
| Tuolumne                       | T-17874  | Sierra Nevada Communications | Fiber 108 Lower Phase                | \$1,889,117.00    |
| Tuolumne                       | T-17874  | Sierra Nevada Communications | Fiber 108 - Upper Phase              | \$1,916,752.00    |
| Tuolumne                       | T-17874  | Sierra Nevada Communications | Fiber 120                            | \$374,469.00      |
| Tuolumne                       | T-17874  | Sierra Nevada Communications | Fiber 108 -Strawberry Summer Hill    | \$2,105,330.00    |
| Tuolumne                       | T-17874  | AT&T                         | Tuolumne-1C                          | \$3,015,032.00    |
| Mariposa, Stanislaus, Tuolumne | T-17869  | AT&T                         | Mariposa-1                           | \$9,443,101.00    |

# CSEDD Awareness Campaign

24 Hours 7 Days 30 Days

30 MARCH — 29 APRIL

Unique Visitors

929



Total Requests

9.55k



Percent Cached

2.64%



# Funding Sources and Sustainability

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- CASF - \$595,600
- SJF Planning - \$350,000
- SJF Convenor Partner - \$175,000
- Sierra Founders - \$176,00
- CLERE / LCI - \$100,000
- DOL Healthcare – \$240,000
- Rural EV Chargers – Pending
- Prop 4 Funding - \$4M - \$6M (SNC)
- Implementation – Pending Submission



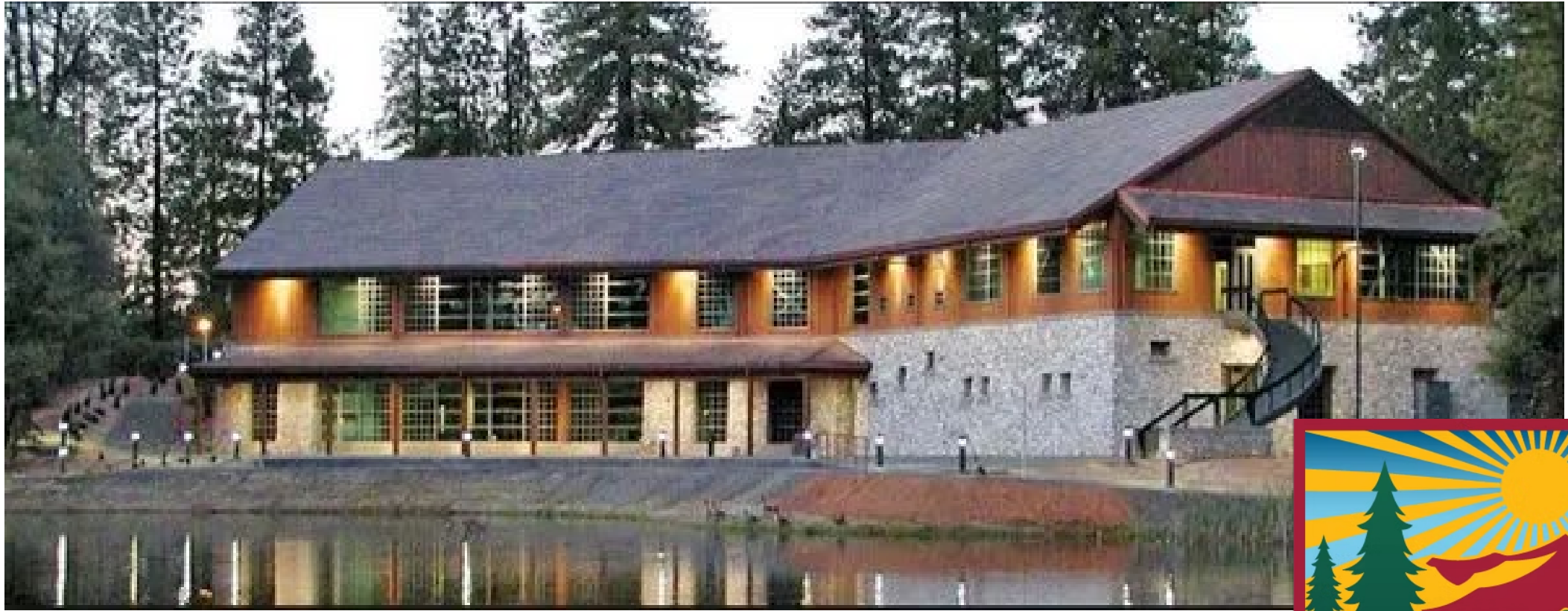


SierraIndustry

Connecting Resources. Strengthening Industry. Building the Future.

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CSEDD & MLJT – Trusted Messengers, Impactful Partners



**Pathways. Partnerships.  
Regional Prosperity**



**COLUMBIA  
COLLEGE**

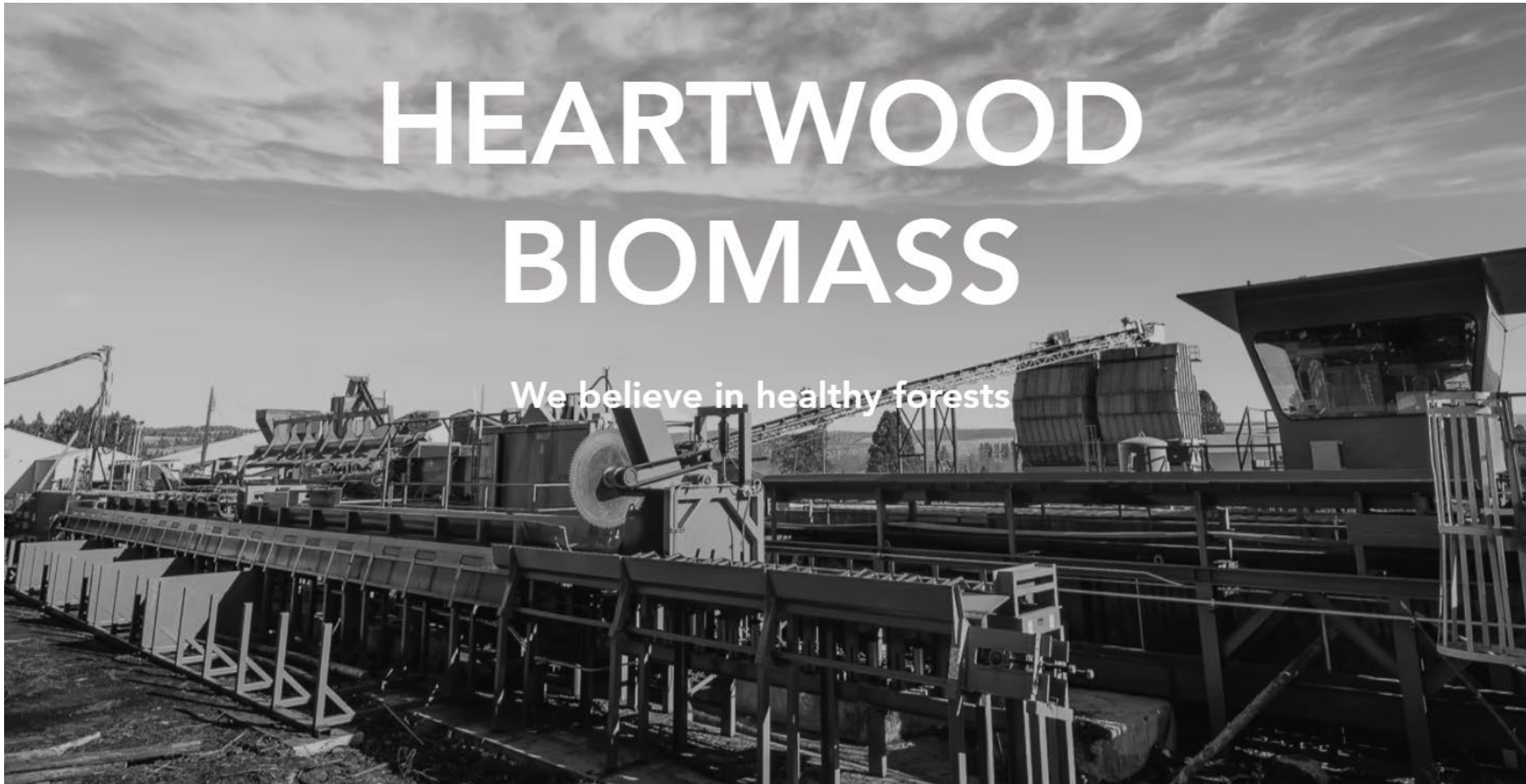


## **Greater Sierra Forestry Corps**

- Hands-on Training for Fuels Reduction, Chainsaw Operation, and Heavy Equipment Use
- Graduates Transition into Forestry, Conservation, and Fire Protection Careers
- High Demand, Industry Driven Career Paths Supporting Regional Partners
- Developed in Partnership w/ MLJT and Regional Employers

# HEARTWOOD BIOMASS

We believe in healthy forests





- Converts Underutilized Biomass into Value-Added Products
- Hires Graduates from the Greater Sierra Forestry Corps
- General Manager Sits on Workforce Development Board
- Engages MLJT for Business Services (Upskilling)

# Adventist Hospital – Community Partners and Industry Leaders



# Adventist Health

## Sonora



### Workforce Partnerships:

- Partners with Columbia College and Sonora High School to provide internship sites for healthcare students.
- Actively hires program graduates, strengthening local healthcare career ladders
- Operates a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), expanding workforce demand.

### Leadership Role:

- Operations Manager serves as Board Chair for the Mother Lode WDB



# BLUE HERON FARM

GOOD FOOD GROWS *Here*

BISHOP, CALIFORNIA



## Primary Operations:

- 10 Acre Regenerative Farm and Orchard in Bishop, CA
- Blue Heron Farm is the **Largest** Production Farm in Inyo County
- Produced over **200,00 lbs.** of Produce in 2025

## Regional Impact:

- Project Goal is to Drive Year-Round Agricultural Production
- Produce a Feasibility Study Identifying Residents Served
- Community-Driven, Sustainable Agriculture in the High Desert



# **Bishop Paiute Food Sovereignty Program**



- Working to Restore Traditional Food Systems, Improve Community Health and Food Access
- Addresses Health Disparities of Indigenous Populations
- Community Gardens and Farmers Markets
- Engenders Cultural Revitalization through Traditional Plants and Farming Practices



**DEVELOPER PITCH DECK**

**INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF  
THE CENTRAL SIERRAS**

# TOURISM AND RECREATION

## Where Natural Beauty Meets Economic Opportunity

The Central Sierras are home to world-class recreation destinations that attract millions of visitors each year.

Destinations Include:

- Yosemite National Park (4M+ Visitors/yr)
- Stanislaus National Forest
- Dodge Ridge and Bear Valley Ski Resorts
- Calaveras Big Trees State Park
- Lake Don Pedro and New Melones Lake



# WORKFORCE HOUSING

A Critical Regional Barrier and Opportunity

- Housing is consistently cited as a top barrier to recruitment and retention across industry
- Production lags far behind demand, exacerbating the shortage of affordable housing
- Average home costs rising faster than regional wage growth
- Outmigration of working-age residents and inbound retirees/second home buyers creates a structural imbalance

# FROM POLICY TO POSSIBILITY

## A Region Ready for Development

Zoning reforms, supportive governance, streamlined policies, and regional coordination

- Prioritization of housing as a workforce and economic development strategy
- Streamlined zoning updates act as incentives to support workforce housing and mixed-use projects
- Reduced permit burdens for commercial projects alleviate delays and uncertainty for developers
- Priority access to utilities ensures affordable housing projects can expedite timelines



# LAND IS READY: OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

With abundant acreage, identified growth parcels, and proactive planning the Central Sierras offer an abundance of opportunities for workforce and mixed-use development.

- **Ready to build infill sites are mapped**, pinpointing parcels suitable for immediate development
- Policies align zoning for MDR, HDR, and MU **expand developable land for workforce housing**
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) **highlights available land as a regional strength**
- **Available parcels are strategically located** near employment centers, schools, and high-traffic visitor areas
- Several sites in the Central Sierras fall within **Opportunity Zones, offering federal tax incentives**

# Thank you!

## Questions?



Central Sierra  
Economic Development District



Sierra Region

