

San Juan County
Economic Development Council

February 24, 2010

Dear San Juan County Council,

In our presentation on March 2nd, 2010, we will highlight our 2010 work plan for the San Juan County Economic Development Council (EDC) and our 2009 accomplishments. In advance of that presentation, we would like to provide you the key elements of that work plan.

Mission

Given our challenging economy, the EDC felt it was appropriate to review and refresh our mission to ensure that we are completely relevant to our community. In that spirit we have made some slight modifications to our mission, which now reads:

The San Juan County Economic Development Council (EDC) strives to strengthen and diversify the economy of San Juan County. We believe a strong economy builds a strong community.

The EDC works to build an environment that helps business owners create jobs. We serve business: linking organizations and resources, providing valuable information, rendering assistance and advocating for an improved island business environment.

Key Strategies

We have reviewed the draft Economic Development Element of our County Comprehensive Plan to identify our key strategies to achieve this mission. These key strategies can best be segregated into the following categories:

- Planning for the Future – regulatory environment, comp plan, agency alignment
- Work Force Issues – training, housing, transportation
- Infrastructure – communications, utilities, etc.
- Business Support Policies

2010 Priorities

After careful consideration of the diverse opportunities within each of these strategies we have decided to focus on three top priorities for 2010. We believe that by maintaining a focus on these elements and combining our collective resources we can deliver the most benefit to our business community. Therefore we are asking your support of these priorities for 2010:

- 1. Business Support - Our local small businesses must find new and creative ways to “ride out the storm” that is our current economic environment. The EDC will focus on continuing and expanding our business support using a wide variety of tools and methods.**

2. Communications – Efficient communication is an essential tool for any successful business. In order to retain growing businesses in our county and accommodate new ventures we must provide the basic infrastructure for these businesses to operate. **The EDC will focus on defining the broadband needs of our local businesses and advocating to our local government and service providers to deliver this important resource.**
3. Transportation – Every community relies on basic transportation services to transport its workforce to and from their places of employment, to transport the elderly to medical and other personal appointments, and to provide citizens with alternate means of transport beyond the automobile. Our community has NO agency or organizations looking strategically at our transportation needs, now or in the future. **The EDC will facilitate bringing the key stakeholders together to agree on a means to develop this strategic focus. Our goal is to have a local transportation authority established before year's end.**

We hope that this gives you an overview of our presentation next week and that it encourages working collectively with the EDC to provide quality support for our local business community. We look forward to sharing additional details with you next week.

Sincerely,

Patty Miller – EDC Board President

Victoria Compton – EDC Executive Director