



SAN LUIS VALLEY
DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES GROUP

**2015 Annual Comprehensive Economic Development
Strategy (CEDS) and Progress Report**

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Annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) And Progress Report

Section I: Adjustments

The San Luis Valley Development Resources Group's primary service area is comprised of six counties: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande/Mineral, and Saguache. These counties, commonly known as the San Luis Valley, are located in the south central part of Colorado in the 3rd Congressional District.

The region continues to recover from the West Fork Fire that virtually closed the upper Rio Grande areas of Creede and South Fork to tourism during late June and most of July 2013. Local businesses, local government, and federal and state agencies are cooperating on plans to promote tourism in the area and utilize the timber resource affected by the burn. The critical summer tourist season for the area appeared to be busier than last year, indicating a return to a healthier seasonal economy.

Residential home values in the South Fork area of Rio Grande County have yet to fully recover from the Great Recession. These depressed prices have adversely affected local government revenues putting significant pressure on dwindling budget reserves.

Slumping silver prices have stalled exploration of silver and other minerals in the historic Creede mining district. However, the Rio Grande Silver project, owned by Hecla Mining Company, is still considered a viable project and the company to pursue further exploration in anticipation of a recovery in silver prices.

Unemployment in the San Luis Valley continues to trend above the state rate of 3.3%, with rates ranging at 4.2% in Mineral County to 5.5% in Costilla County. The entire region saw a drop in unemployment between October 2014 and November 2015.

Renewable energy continues to be a bright spot in the region's economy with the construction this year of a 49.5 mega-watt solar electric generation plant by SunPower. This facility, in Alamosa County, is the fifth utility-scale solar plant in the San Luis Valley, bringing solar electric production in the region to around 135 mega-watts. Two additional solar plants have been permitted by Alamosa County but construction has yet to begin. More plants are said to be planned and wait permitting.

The Colorado Division of Water Resources promulgated a new Rule Governing the Withdrawal of Ground Water in Water Division No. 3 (Colorado's Rio Grande Basin, which lies in the San Luis Valley). The new rules are likely to affect crop production in the region and could mean the following of over 40,000 acres of irrigated cropland. The Rule is under review by the Water Court and objections are being heard.

The shuttered Rakhra mushroom farm, reopened in September 2014 as the Colorado Mushroom Farm, provides over 135 jobs in the region. The new company continues to grow and recently

secured new contracts with major grocery chains and plans to double production within the next year, which will mean an additional 120 jobs.

This fall, Proximity Malt, LLC announced the construction of a new regional craft malting plant in Rio Grande County intended to serve craft brewers and specialty malt users. Construction on the new plant is underway at the site of a former starch plant and malt production will begin in early 2017. The malting plant will employ 27 people. The San Luis Valley is a major producer of malt barley for Molson-Coors.

Agricultural commodities are lower this fall with alfalfa falling below \$200/T – around \$180/T – and cattle declining after peaking at records highs in previous years. Potatoes, the region's number one crop in value, are barely higher than in 2014.

Population density is sparse, 5.61 persons per square mile (as of 2010), with 46,027 people calling the San Luis Valley home. This represents a decline of 0.35% since the 2000 census. Only two counties have shown any growth, Alamosa and Saguache, while Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, and Mineral counties have declined. Mineral County recorded the largest loss in population over the past decade of 14.32%.

The San Luis Valley's economy is based primarily on agriculture with 28 percent (\$165.5M) of the region's base income (\$585.8M) derived from agricultural enterprises in 2010. Per Capita Personal Income for 2010 in the Valley was \$29,267, about 70% of the state's PCPI of \$42,107. Over 15% of families in the county live under the poverty level. Around 47% of the San Luis Valley population is Hispanic and nearly 30% speak Spanish at home. Over half of the land mass is owned by the federal government and the State of Colorado.

Section II: Governing Board Membership

1. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES (51-65%)

Elected officials and/or employees of a general purpose unit of state, local or Indian tribal government who have been appointed to represent the government.

	Name	Government	Position
1	Michael Yohn	Alamosa County	Commissioner
2	John Sandoval	Conejos County	Commissioner
3	Lawrence Pacheco (SLVDRG Secretary/Treasurer)	Costilla County	Commissioner
4	Ramona Weber	Mineral County	Commissioner
5	Karla Shriver	Rio Grande County	Commissioner
6	Ken Anderson	Saguache County	Commissioner
7	Josef Lucero	City of Alamosa	Mayor
8	Aaron Abeyta	Town of Antonito	Mayor
9	Myrrl Smith	Town of Blanca	Mayor
10	Herman Sisneros	Town of Center	Mayor
11	Eric Grossman	Town of Creede	Mayor
12	Kairina Danforth	Town of Crestone	Mayor
13	Chris Trujillo	Town of Del Norte	Mayor
14	Amber Najera	Town of Hooper	Mayor
15	Larry Zaragoza	Town of La Jara	Mayor
16	Brian Morgan	Town of Moffat	Mayor
17	Dan Bond	Town of Manassa	Mayor
18	Debbie Garcia	City of Monte Vista	Mayor
19	Diane Cantu	Town of Romeo	Mayor
20	Greg Terrell	Town of Saguache	Mayor
21	Gary Bailey	Town of Sanford	Mayor
22	Theresa Medina	Town of San Luis	Mayor
23	Jerry Hixson	Town of South Fork	Mayor

2. NON-GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES (35-49%)

A. Private Sector Representatives: *Any senior management official or executive holding a key decision-making position, with respect to any for-profit enterprise. (At least one required)*

	Name	Company / Enterprise	Position
1	Marty Asplin	Asplin & Associates	President
2	Jeff Woodward	Woody's Q Shack	President
3	Ty Coleman (SLVDRG Chairman)	Colorado Rural Housing and Development Corp.	Director
4	T.J. Brown (SLVDRG Vice Chairman)	Del Norte Federal Bank	Vice President (Designated rep)
5	Duane Bussey	San Luis Valley Federal Bank	President
6	Ed Ellis	Permian Basin Railways	President
7	Preston Porter	Porter Realty	Vice President
8	Mike Goodart	Town & Country Car & Truck Center	President
9	Terry Smith	Century 21 Real Estate	President
10	Loren Howard	San Luis Valley Rural Electric	Director

B. Stakeholder Organization Representatives: *Executive directors of chambers of commerce, or representatives of institutions of post-secondary education, workforce development groups or labor groups. (At least one required)*

	Name	Organization	Position
1	Betty Velasquez	Colorado Workforce Center	Director
2	Randy Wright**	Alamosa County Economic Development	Director
3	Carmen Simone	Trinidad State Jr. College	President

**ACED performs a dual role as economic development organization and Chamber of Commerce for Alamosa County.

3. AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVES (0-14%)

Other individuals who represent the principal economic interests of the region. (No minimum required)

	Name	Area of Interest	Background
1	Jim Ehrlich	Potato Administrative Committee	Executive Director
2	George Garcia	SLV Transit Advisory Committee/Blue Peaks Development Center	Fleet Director
3	Ashley Valdez	Xcel Energy	Community Service Manager
4	Pat Fluck	Seniors	Real Estate

CALCULATIONS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Government Representatives (51-65%)	23	57.5%
1. Non-Government Representatives (35-49%)	13	32.5%
A. Private Sector Representatives (at least 1)	10	
B. Stakeholder Organization Representatives (at least 1)	3	
3. At-Large Representatives (0-14%)	<u>4</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total Board Membership	40	100.0%

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS:

13 CFR Part 304.2(c):

The District Organization must demonstrate that its governing body is broadly representative of the principal economic interest on the Region. And, unless otherwise prohibited by applicable State or local law, must include at least one (1) Private Sector Representative and one (1) or more of the following: Executive Directors of Chambers of Commerce, or representatives of institutions of post – secondary education, workforce development groups of labor groups, all of which must comprise in the aggregate a minimum of thirty-five (35) percent of the District Organization’s governing body. The governing body shall also have at least a simple majority of its membership who are elected officials and/or employees of a general purpose unit of State, local or Indian tribal government who have been appointed to represent the government. Upon the District Organization’s showing of its inability to locate a Private Sector Representative to service on its governing body following extensive due diligence, the Assistant Secretary may waive the Private Sector Representative requirement. The Assistant Secretary shall not delegate the authority to grant a waiver under this paragraph.

Section III: Current Strategy Committee Membership

1. PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES (At least 51%)

Any senior management official or executive holding a key decision-making position, with respect to any for-profit enterprise.

	Name	Government	Position
1	Marty Asplin	Asplin & Associates	President
2	Josef Lucero	Lucero Dental Arts, LTD	President
3	Ty Coleman <i>(SLVDRG Chairman)</i>	Colorado Rural Housing and Development Corp.	Director
4	T.J. Brown <i>(SLVDRG Vice Chairman)</i>	Del Norte Federal Bank	Vice President (Designated rep)
5	Duane Bussey	San Luis Valley Federal Bank	President
6	Ed Ellis	Permian Basin Railways	President
7	Preston Porter	Porter Realty	Vice President
8	Mike Goodart	Town & Country Car & Truck Center	President
9	Terry Smith	Century 21 Real Estate	President
10	Loren Howard	San Luis Valley Rural Electric	Director
11	Jeff Woodward	Woody's Q Shack	President

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER ECONOMIC INTERESTS (No more than 49%)

Persons who provide additional representation of the main economic interest of the region. These may include, but are not limited to: public officials, community leaders, and representatives of workforce development boards, institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups, and private individuals.

	Name	Government	Position
1	Betty Velasquez Colorado Workforce Ctr.	Workforce Development	Director
2	Ramona Weber Mineral County	Public Official	County Commissioner
3	Debbie Garcia City of Monte Vista	Public Official	Mayor
4	Karla Shriver Rio Grande County	Public Official	County Commissioner
5	Dr. Carmen Simone Trinidad State Jr. College	Higher Education	President

6	Randy Wright Alamosa County Economic Development (ACED)*	Community Leader	Executive Director
7	John Sandoval Conejos County	Public Official	County Commissioner
8	Ken Anderson	Public Official	County Commissioner
9	Lawrence Pacheco Costilla County (SLVDRG Secretary/Treasurer)	Public Official	County Commissioner
10	Michael Yohn Alamosa County	Public Official	County Commissioner

*ACED performs a dual role as economic development organization and Chamber of Commerce for Alamosa County

CALCULATIONS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Private Sector Representatives (at least 51%)	11	52.4%
Representatives of Other Economic Interests (no more than 49%)	<u>10</u>	<u>47.6%</u>
Total Committee Membership	21	100.0%

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS:

13 CFR Part 303.6(a):

The Planning Organization must appoint a Strategy Committee. The Strategy Committee must represent the main economic interest of the Region and must include Private Sector Representatives [as defined above] as a majority of its membership. In addition, the Planning Organization should ensure that the Strategy Committee includes public officials, community leaders, and representatives of workforce development boards, institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups, and private individuals.

Section IV: Staff

Staff	Title	Email Address
Michael Wisdom	Executive Director	wisdom@slvdr.org
Roni K Wisdom	Chief Financial Officer	rwisdom@slvdr.org
Hew Hallock	Director of Research	hhallock@slvdr.org
Tonya Owsley	Business Development Director	towsley@slvdr.org
Sarah Stoeber	Business Development Director	sstoeber@slvdr.org

Office address and Phone numbers
P.O. Box 300
610 State Avenue, Suite 200
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-6099
719-589-6299 (f)

Section V: 2015 Scope of Work

A. Create a broader economic base through retention, expansion, creation and attraction of businesses.

1. Provide gap funding for businesses in the San Luis Valley seeking to start up, expand, or retain present business status.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: Provided loan counseling assistance to 14 businesses in the San Luis Valley.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: Made loans to 9 businesses totaling \$1,719,920 leveraged \$25,587,532 in private funding and creating or retaining 52 FTE jobs.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: None encountered.

2. Administer Colorado tax programs that assist local businesses and not-for profit organizations.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: Changes to the state's Enterprise Zone tax credit program, advocated by San Luis Valley Development Resources Group, enable the entire region, all six counties, to be eligible for the program. Previously, certain residential areas were ineligible. Additionally, residents and businesses in five of the six counties are now eligible for additional tax credits under the Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zone.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: The enterprise zone tax program remains intact and continues to be favored and used by local businesses and individuals as an incentive to invest in businesses and organizations in the region. In 2015, approximately \$1.15M in state tax credits were offered to local businesses and individuals. Non-profit organizations and community projects in the San Luis Valley received \$1.6M in contributions through the enterprise program, which is an increase of about \$400,000 over 2014.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: None encountered.

3. Provide on-going specialized counseling to local businesses.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: None at this time.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: None at this time.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: Unfortunately, the program has been disbanded as the partners were not able to provide the time and financial commitment to the process. The program needs to have a dedicated full time associate to carry the process. We are seeking funding that would help alleviate the cost involved. The clients we helped continue to stay in business and grow so we believe the program is valuable.

B. Promote and expand tourism, including natural resources, arts/cultural, recreational, historical, heritage, agricultural, eco-tourism.

1. Coordinate with SLV Tourism to conduct a self-assessment/inventory of tourism opportunities and infrastructure to meet infrastructure in all six counties.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: None at this time.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: None at this time.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: The SLV Tourism board was involved in other tourism related activities and did not feel the need to conduct a self-assessment of opportunities. Each tourism board seems to be seeking ways to maximize their community. We believe the timing was not appropriate as our partners were not willing to come to the table to complete the study.

C. Strengthen, sustain and expand agricultural businesses and elevate agriculture on state, national and global level as an economic driver.

1. Promote locally grown food throughout the Valley to stop leakage.
 - a. Accomplishment Achieved: The SLV Local Food Coalition received Enterprise Zone project status which allows it to receive enterprise zone credits to further their mission of promoting locally grown food. They also applied for and received an SBA Accelerator Grant to advance their distribution enterprise and commercial kitchen.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: SLV Food Coalition has received \$10,000 in EZ donations, \$50,000 in an SBA Grant, and has hired five full time and four part time employees.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: None
2. Facilitate discussion of the economic impact analysis of the loss of up to 60,000 acres of crop production due to state-mandated reduction in pumped irrigation to mitigate aquifer depletions.
 - a. Accomplishment Achieved: Economic input/output analysis for the region has been initiated and a draft economic model has been formulated by a team from Colorado State University. Funding for the project was secured from grants, local government and area lending institutions.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: A first draft of the analysis' report is expected in late January 2016 with public presentations following. Funding for the project came from a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for \$38,250 and El Pomar for \$7,500; \$18,500 from local banks; and \$7,250 for local governments.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: Securing funding for the project.

D. Ensure adequate workforce preparation and availability for the education, training, skills, and technical abilities required for job opportunities in the renewable energy sector and other industry sectors.

1. Coordinate with Colorado Workforce to ensure that the workforce needs of the agricultural sector are being met.

- a. Accomplishments Achieved: Workforce Centers are developing a pilot program with Rio Grande County Department of Human Services to create a program that ensures TANF clients are receiving case management to help them develop appropriate workforce skills needed to find and keep a job.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: Ten clients have begun the program. It is too early to determine results but the initial response with employers is positive.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: Transportation has proven to be a challenge. To counter, the DHS is setting up shop once per week in the Workforce Center to meet clients that cannot travel to them.

2. Provide conduit for discussions and implementation strategies to address identified business training needs between Colorado Workforce Centers, Trinidad State Jr. College (TSJC) and Adams State University (ASU).
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: Due to the passage of WIOA, local partners who work with the unemployed have realized the need to work closer together, developing the partnership needed to provide appropriate and timely assistance to clients. The initial meeting included TSJC – Adult Education, Veteran’s programs, Dept. of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Centers, non-profits, and economic development representing all six counties.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: Initial meeting with partners was well attended and the partners agreed to the concept of working closer together to stop overlap and use of limited resources. The next meeting is set for January, 2016 and the partners are looking to have quarterly meetings.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: Business and Adams State University was not at the table. Partners have said they will work toward getting these partners to join us.

3. Develop an internship and apprenticeship program with local businesses.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: We have been attending meetings with Adams State University, area local governments, economic development, and state partners. The purpose was to develop programs that will help the local economy and business that ASU could facilitate as an institution of higher learning. The discussion of internships and apprenticeships was discussed and added to the agenda of possible programs ASU would be interested in. Unfortunately, the discussion has been set aside for other opportunities. However, local manufacturing businesses have expressed an interest these programs so we are still working on the particulars.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: None at this time.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: Funding continues to be a concern with any new program through the University; however, given the changes in the workforce act, we are hopeful that there will be some grant funding for pilot programs.

E. Capacity building, communications, community services and facilities.

1. Facilitate and/or attend meetings of local government, economic development and non-profit organizations to foster open lines of communication, provide technical assistance, and develop regional projects.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: By participating in stakeholder meetings throughout the region, SLVDRG provided information regarding economic development activities in the San Luis Valley including changes to Enterprise Zone regulations, updates to Workforce needs and trainings, new Revolving Loan Fund programs, show assistance provided through Community Service Block Grants to the elderly, and homeless, and tourism efforts on behalf of the SLV. Attending organization meetings provides a consistent venue and conduit to share and present information regarding economic development news and issues.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: SLVDRG held monthly meetings with representatives from towns and counties throughout the San Luis Valley. Staff attended monthly meetings with Upper Rio Grande EDC, Alamosa County EDC, and ScEED. Staff also met with Town of Saguache, Town of Crestone, Town of Del Norte, Town of La Jara, Town of Moffat, City of Alamosa, City of Monte Vista, and Town of Center and the six sets of county commissioners.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: None encountered

2. Provide assistance to the SLV Broadband as they work toward improving communication and accountability of broadband service providers, and map telecom infrastructure.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: SLV Broadband, a region-wide organization supporting the expansion of broadband in the San Luis Valley, continues to meet regularly to discuss and recommend broadband development. Work continues with Colorado Department of Local Affairs and USDA on funding for broadband development and deployment.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: SLVDRG continues to host monthly meetings of SLV Broadband. Received funding from Colorado Department of Local Affairs and USDA to conduct an inventory of broadband infrastructure and services that exist, and do not exist, as well as potential demand for services. A firm has been selected to conduct the inventory and began work in December of 2015.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: Securing funding for inventory.

3. Work with local governments and Colorado Department of Transportation to maintain and improve the San Luis Valley regional highway network.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: Regularly attended local, regional and state meetings on transportation issues particularly dealing with a regional transportation plan and a regional transit plan. Meetings also dealt with transportation needs and projects. Established a regional transit planning council with funding from Colorado Department of Transportation.

- b. Quantifiable Deliverables: SLVDRG staff sponsored, attended and took minutes meetings of the San Luis Valley Transportation Planning Region planning council. SLVDRG also kept planning council informed of transportation project status, planning and funding opportunities. Organizational meeting of San Luis Valley Transit Council was held with substantial buy-in and interest from stakeholder organizations.
- c. Difficulties Encountered: None encountered.

F. Develop and enhance renewable energy resources

- 1. Explore opportunities for renewable energy and energy efficiency education, research and training programs at Adams State University, Trinidad State Junior College, and CSU Extension.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: Hew Hallock, Director of Research, continues to develop his extensive data base of information and resources for renewable energy resources. He represents SLVDRG at local, regional and state conferences, bringing back information for regional dissemination.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: A library of information has been established along with state, local, regional, and federal contacts and resources.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: None encountered

G. Data Services and Research

- 1. Provide data services as an ongoing economic and community development tool.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: We continue to market and provide data and other information as requested by local community members, governments, and non-profits.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables:
 - Produced annual Statistical Profile of the San Luis Valley.
 - Provided SLV Demographic information for inclusion in the State Demographers annual meeting in November.
 - Attended the annual demographers meeting and continue to be a liaison with the State of Colorado
 - Responded to requests for demographic and economic data on the San Luis Valley from businesses, individuals, local governments, and non-profit organization.
 - Continue to distributed CEDS in compact disc format to local governments and business, as well as online at www.slvdr.org and promote CEDS as an essential data tool for local government, business, and non-profits.
 - Created community profiles for each municipality (18) and county (6) in the region, which include population, income, commuter, and economic data for each entity.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: None encountered

I. Board and Citizen Involvement

1. Maintain and acquire new membership on the board to meet EDA's requirements.
 - a. Accomplishments Achieved: We have had slight turnover as elected officials change and members retired. We provide a new board member packet and orientation session in order help them come up to speed and become comfortable with our programs.
 - b. Quantifiable Deliverables: Board membership is complete.
 - c. Difficulties Encountered: None encountered.

Section VI: Evaluate

We have chosen seven performance measures against which to review our accomplishments and judge the effectiveness in meeting our goals:

1. Total jobs created as a result of SLVDRG activities, regardless of goal category, objective, strategy, tool, source, or partnership arrangement.
 - A total of 52 jobs were or are being created as a result of SLVDRG activities.
2. Total jobs retained as a result of SLVDRG activities.
 - A total of 22 jobs were retained as a result of SLVDRG activities. This shows the need for assisting existing businesses.
3. Quality of jobs created or retained in terms of wages, occupation, skills, benefits, and other factors.
 - One of the businesses is a new value added agricultural manufacturing enterprise, which requires advanced skills and offers higher wages estimated to be \$67,000. The number of full-time jobs will be 27.
4. Amount of private sector investment in the region as a result of CEDS implementation.
 - Private sector investment totaled approximately \$25,587,532 as a result of SLVDRG assistance and activities based on the CEDS strategies. \$25,000,000 was for construction and opening of a value added malting facility.
5. Any notable changes in economic environment of the region attributed to the programs, projects, and activities being carried out.
 - Our activities preserve the economic vitality of the San Luis Valley, which has continued to experience the economic decline seen in other parts of Colorado and the United States. Compared to the state unemployment rate of 3.3 percent for November 2015, unemployment rates for counties in the San Luis Valley range from 4.2 percent in Mineral County to 5.5 percent in Costilla County for the same period. The trend in unemployment over the last year shows decreases in all counties, which are an improvement; however, the region's unemployment continues to be 1 to 2 percent higher than the state rate. While there has been no loss of a single, major employer in the region, job numbers indicate the recession has affected this rural region. Unfortunately, the numbers do not tell if the unemployed have become employed or just quit looking.
 - Agriculture continues to be the driving economic force in the San Luis Valley with the primary crops being potatoes, alfalfa, barley and cattle.
 - The region's construction industry continues to be slow although there have been some increase in the new home construction and multi-family apartment buildings. Commercial construction is very slow. Nearly all construction work for local contractors in the last 12 months has come from major public sector projects such as schools and remodeling existing facilities at Adams State University.

6. Number and types of investment undertaken in the region.

- There were 7 investments undertaken in the region including ongoing assistance provided to businesses. The businesses ranged from agricultural processing to restaurants and retail businesses.

7. Accomplishments or advancements made in achieving project objectives, and/or successful implementation of strategies and elements listed in the plan of action.

- Financial Assistance continues to be a very important component of our strategies for economic development in the SLV. The Revolving Loan Fund is a critical component for funding small businesses as local lending institutions continue to tighten their policies. We are also working with CHFA to use the Collateral Support program to assist lenders with collateral shortfalls.
- We were please to assist the Proximity Malting, a value added agricultural businesses. This business will bring 27 FTE jobs with approximately \$1.8M in wages annually. We continue to see more movement in the agriculture industry as it looks at value added processes.
- Tourism has continued to increase and local tourism venues are taking full advantage of those increases. The local Welcome Center saw approximately 35,500 visitors in 2015, which is a 4.5% increase for the area. Local restaurateurs, motel owners, and train riders are pleased with their overall revenues. Our assistance to the Welcome Center and tourism agencies has helped them provide additional marketing.
- We are an affiliate of the Colorado State Demographers Office. As an affiliate, we attend trainings and annual meetings held by them so we can keep our demographic information up to date for our constituents. We update on a semiannual basis, basic demographic information for dissemination to the counties, towns, cities, and non-profit organizations.
- SLVDRG continues to serve as the facilitator for the San Luis Valley Transportation Planning Region, which includes all of the six counties in the region. We provide local governments and other interests with information from the Colorado Department of Transportation regarding transportation issues. Other responsibilities include holding regular meetings of the TPR and providing regional input into state transportation meetings. This year, we established a regional transit planning council in the region.

Section VII: Schedule

2016 Implementation/Action Plan

CEDS Strategy	2016 Scope of Work	Objective	Priority	Lead Organization	Resources	Timeline	Jobs	Evaluation
<i>Business and Industry, Financial Assistance</i>	Build a Business-Friendly Environment	Market federal, state and local programs that assist local businesses	High	SLVDRG	OEDIT, DOLA, CARO	On-going, 2016	0	Amount of credits, jobs created/retained & amount contributed
<i>Capacity Building, Communications, Community Services and Facilities</i>	Build a Business-Friendly Environment	Provide conduit for Colorado Dept. of Trans. to meet regularly with local officials and citizens to discuss and improve the SLV regional highway system	High	CDOT	SLVDRG, local governments	On-going, 2016	0	Meetings attended and hosted, creation of transit council
<i>Business and Industry, Financial Assistance</i>	Build a Business-Friendly Environment	Assist in the development of sector (cluster) strategies for agricultural and health industries	Low	SLVDRG	OEDIT, EDA, Local lenders, SBA, USDA	On-going, 2016	15	# of loans & jobs created/retained
<i>Business and Industry, Financial Assistance</i>	Retain, Grow and Recruit Companies	Assist businesses in developing a relationship with regional markets	Medium	SLVDRG	OEDIT, SBA	On-going, 2016	0	Relationships developed with regional markets
<i>Business and Industry, Financial Assistance</i>	Retain, Grow and Recruit Companies	Focus on businesses which diversify the economy and provide lasting community benefits	Medium	SLVDRG	OEDIT, EDA, Local lenders, SBA, USDA	On-going, 2016	TBD	# of jobs created
<i>Business and Industry, Financial Assistance</i>	Retain, Grow and Recruit Companies	Assist businesses facing prolonged road construction	Low	SLVDRG	CDOT, Local Gov't	On-going, 2016	0	Sessions held
<i>Agricultural and related</i>	Retain, Grow and Retain Companies	Complete Economic Impact Analysis of the effects of reduced groundwater irrigation in the Rio Grande Basin	High	SLVCOG	DOLA, CSU Extension, CSU	June, 2016	0	Complete study and present to public
<i>Business and Industry, Financial Assistance</i>	Increase Access to Capital	Bridge the gap for businesses to eventually qualify for bank financing and prepare them for traditional bank relationships	High	SLVDRG	OEDIT, EDA, Local lenders, SBA, USDA	On-going, 2016	25	# of loans & jobs created/retained
<i>Business and Industry, Financial Assistance</i>	Increase Access to Capital	Provide risk mitigation for local lenders	High	SLVDRG	OEDIT, EDA, Local lenders, SBA, USDA	On-going, 2016	0	# of loans
<i>Tourism</i>	Create and Market a Stronger San Luis Valley/Colorado brand	Promote tourism through SLV Great Outdoors highlighting the uniqueness and authenticity of the region	Low	SLVCOG	SLV Great Outdoors, Rio Grande County, NPS, Rio Grande NF, BLM, Colo. Div. Parks &	On-going, 2016	TBD	# of visitors to area attractions, lodging & sales tax revenues

Wildlife								
<i>Tourism</i>	Create and Market a Stronger San Luis Valley/Colorado brand	Assist in the development of local trails for greater outdoor activities	Medium	SLVDRG/COG	SLV Great Outdoors, Rio Grande County, NPS, Rio Grande NF, BLM, Colo. Div. Parks & Wildlife	On-going, 2016	TBD	New trails built
<i>Workforce Development</i>	Educate and Train the Workforce	Assist Workforce through Sector Strategies to determine workforce needs of San Luis Valley businesses and industry clusters	Medium	Colorado Workforce Center, South Central WIB	SLVDRG, CRCC, CWDC, TSJC, RMS, ASU	On-going, 2016	0	Meetings attended, survey completed, changes made to Workforce to address local needs
<i>Workforce Development</i>	Educate and Train the Workforce	Develop strategies to support stronger communication among partners that provide employment education including Workforce, WIOA, TANF, and Adult Education	Medium	Colorado Workforce Center, South Central WIB	SLVDRG, CRCC, CWDC, TSJC, RMS, ASU	On-going, 2016	TBD	Meetings attended, survey completed, changes made to Workforce to address local needs
<i>Workforce Development</i>	Educate and Train the Workforce	Assist organizations to develop mechanisms to assist businesses to meet their need for quality, trained, and skilled workforce	Low	SLVDRG, Colorado Workforce	SLVDRG, CRCC, CWDC, TSJC, RMS, ASU	On-going, 2016	0	Selection of host businesses and interns.
<i>Data Collection, Management, Research and Community Services and Facilities</i>	Cultivate Innovation and Technology	Promote SLVDRG as the repository for research, demographic information, federal and state economic development programs for the San Luis Valley	High	SLVDRG	DOLA - State Demographers, OEDIT,EDA, Local Governments	On-going, 2016	0	# of inquiries and responses
<i>Capacity Building, Communications, Community Services and Facilities</i>	Cultivate Innovation and Technology	Guide development of broadband strategic planning to address lack of adequate and cost-effective broadband in several outlying communities	High	SLV Broadband	SLVDRG, SLVREC	On-going, 2016	0	Completion of assessment