



Honoring
Councilmember Dee Dee Cavanaugh
Ventura County Economic Development Collaborative

Whereas, Simi Valley Councilmember Dee Dee Cavanaugh served as the Chair for the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC) in 2023; and

Whereas, Cavanaugh, with her passion for business and community development and for a broadly shared and sustainable recovery from pandemic, has been instrumental in the growth and development of the EDC as a valuable resource for regional economic vitality; and

Whereas, under Cavanaugh's leadership, EDC exercised an expanding role in regional leadership, serving as fiscal agent and co-convenor for Uplift Central Coast, a \$5 million, multi-year initiative in Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties to plan and implement an equitable and sustainable regional economic strategy; and

Whereas, under Cavanaugh's leadership, EDC secured a four-year \$1 million grant from the California Office of Small Business Advocate to serve as an Accelerate California: Inclusive Innovation Hub grantee for Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, for the purpose of stimulating entrepreneurship and innovation for high wage jobs and to help women and minority technology entrepreneurs overcome long-persistent barriers to access capital and technical assistance; and

Whereas, under Cavanaugh's leadership, EDC fully launched its Digital Upskilling initiative, turning \$5 million in state funding secured by Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin into skills and income-building training programs in partnership with the Ventura County Adult Schools Consortium, Women's Economic Ventures, CompTIA, and GBL Systems Corporation; and

Whereas, under Cavanaugh's leadership, EDC's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) continued its statewide leadership in overall performance providing technical assistance to over 2,500 firms, though especially as measured by outcomes among the state's forty-nine SBDC's in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: first for facilitating capital access for women-owned firms, second in capital access for Hispanic and African American owned firms; and

Whereas, under Cavanaugh's leadership, EDC continued its leadership as an alternative lender in challenging times, launching new \$1 million loan programs in collaboration with each of the Cities of Simi Valley and Atascadero, continued existing and successful loan programs in partnership with the Cities of Camarillo, Oxnard and Ventura, the Banc of California, Mechanics Bank, First 5 Ventura County and the U.S. Department of Commerce; and

Whereas, under Cavanaugh's leadership, EDC served as a co-presenting partner of the Ventura County 150 Year Celebration, joining with the Museum of Ventura County, Pacific Coast Business Times and the Ventura County Community Foundation, EDC contributing insight to County leadership on the region's ever-evolving business landscape and economy; and

Whereas, under Cavanaugh's leadership, EDC partnered with the County of Ventura to implement COVID-19 recovery funding fueling economic outcomes through our Small Business Development Center and lending services, our FATHOMWERX Partnership with commands at Navy Base Ventura County, MatterLabs and the Port of Hueneme, and our partnership with First 5 Ventura County, Child Development Resources and the County Office of Education for providing technical assistance to Early Child Education providers; and


Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors commends Dee Dee Cavanaugh for her commitment to EDC's Board of Directors, her leadership and passion for helping the region's businesses and communities thrive and thanks her for her assistance in 2023 to the Economic Development Collaborative and to the greater Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties region.

Presented on this 18th day of January 2024


Matthew La Vere, Supervisor 1st District


Jeff Gorell, Supervisor 2nd District


Janice S. Parvin, Supervisor 4th District


Chair, Board of Supervisors
Kelly Long, Supervisor 3rd District


Vianey Lopez, Supervisor 5th District