



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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EDCs Receive \$225,000 Grant for Mega-Region Initiative

San Diego, CA – April 10, 2008 – The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration has today awarded San Diego Regional EDC and Imperial Valley EDC a \$225,000 grant to develop a mega-region strategy for global competition. The grant is the first of its kind awarded by the Federal Government.

An additional \$90,000 in matching or in-kind contributions is being provided by AT&T, Bank of America, SDG&E, San Diego Workforce Partnership, Imperial Irrigation District, Imperial Valley Joint Chambers of Commerce, Brawley Inn, County of Imperial, and the San Diego County Water Authority.

Under the Mega-Region Initiative, over the next 12 months the economies of San Diego County, Imperial County and Northern Baja California, Mexico, will be studied to develop economic strategies to enhance the global competitiveness of the bi-national mega-region, with a focus on workforce and infrastructure. The intent is to ensure that high-wage industries flourish within the larger mega-region by creating an economic environment attractive to outside investment, especially in Imperial County.

“This grant will provide a sound research base for developing strategies in five industry clusters that we believe are critical to the future of San Diego and Imperial Counties’ economies – cleantech, distribution/warehousing/transportation, specialized manufacturing, construction materials, and applied biotechnology,” said Julie Meier Wright, President and CEO of San Diego Regional EDC.

Tim Kelley, President and CEO of Imperial Valley EDC, said, “The outcome of this study will create a roadmap for Imperial County to more effectively partner with San Diego County in ways that will help grow and stabilize our economy.”

Dr. Christina Anne Luhn of the San Diego Regional EDC has been named Senior Project Manager for the study. Previously she managed large-scale projects at the International Energy Agency in Paris, France, and at the National Security Council at the White House. Dr. Luhn played an instrumental role in winning the grant.

For additional information contact Megan Carleton or visit www.sandiegobusiness.org.

San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation is the region's primary catalyst for a competitive economy, provides comprehensive client services to companies looking to expand or locate in the San Diego region, and tracks numerous data regarding the high-technology industries clustered here.

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