In The Matter Of:

LEDC Board of Directors Meeting v.

Meeting January 13, 2022

Associated Reporters, Inc.
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New Orleans, La.
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Min-U-Script® with Word Index

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3	STATE OF LOUISIANA	
4	LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
5	BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
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9		
10	The above-entitled meeting was held at	
11	the LaSalle Building 617 North 3rd Street, Floor 1 - LaBelle Room, Baton Rouge,	
12	Louisiana, beginning at 9:54 a.m., on January 13, 2022.	
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16		
17	BEFORE: Lori B. Overland	
18	Certified Court Reporter In and For the State of	
Louisiana 19	Louisiana	
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

		2
1	1 APPEARANCES	
2	2 BOARD MEMBERS:	
3		
4		
5	5 Charles Jackson, III Louis Reine	
6	-	
7	STAFF:	
8	Deborah Simmons	
10	Molly Hendricks	
11	Tedra Cheatham	
12	Melody Lockwood	
13	13	
14	* * * *	
15		
16	16	
17		
18		
19		
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21 22		
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4	None		
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15 16			
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4
1
       MR. ROY:
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 3
               Good morning. I call to order the
       Board of Directors of the Louisiana
 4
 5
       Economic Development Corporation. Roll
 6
       call, please.
7
       MS. SIMMONS:
8
               Mr. A.J. Roy?
9
       MR. ROY:
10
               Here.
       MS. SIMMONS:
11
12
               Charles Jackson?
13
       MR. JACKSON:
14
               Here.
15
       MS. SIMMONS:
              Louis Reine?
16
       MR. REINE:
17
18
               Here.
       MS. SIMMONS:
19
20
               John George?
21
       (No response.)
22
       MS. SIMMONS:
               Cal Simpson?
23
       MR. SIMPSON:
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25

Here.

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1
       MS. SIMMONS:
 2
               Andy Adler?
 3
       (No response.)
 4
       MS. SIMMONS:
5
               Norisha Glover?
6
       (No response.)
       MS. SIMMONS:
7
               Stephen David?
8
9
       MR. DAVID:
10
               Here.
       MS. SIMMONS:
11
               Secretary Don Pierson.
12
13
       MR. PIERSON:
14
               Present.
15
       MS. SIMMONS:
               We have a quorum, sir.
16
       MR. ROY:
17
18
               Very good. I'm going to ask
       everyone to please silence their cell and
19
20
       devices.
21
               The first order of business is the
22
       approval of the minutes of the November
       17th meeting. What is the pleasure of
23
24
       the board?
25
       MR. SIMPSON:
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1
               Move to approve.
       MR. ROY:
2
 3
               Motion for approval as presented.
 4
       MR. DAVID:
 5
               Second.
6
       MR. ROY:
7
               Second. Any discussion?
       (No response.)
8
9
       MR. ROY:
               Hearing none -- any comments from
10
11
       the public?
       (No response.)
12
       MR. ROY:
13
               Hearing none, all in favor, aye.
14
15
       (All indicated aye.)
       MR. ROY:
16
17
               All opposed, nay.
18
       (No response.)
       MR. ROY:
19
20
               Without objection.
21
               December 9th minutes. What is the
22
       pleasure of the board?
       MR. JACKSON:
23
24
               Move to approve.
25
       MR. ROY:
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7
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Motion for approval as presented.
1
       MR. SIMPSON:
2
 3
               Second.
 4
       MR. ROY:
               Second. Any discussion?
 5
6
       (No response.)
       MR. ROY:
7
               Any comments from the public?
8
9
       (No response.)
       MR. ROY:
10
               Hearing none, all in favor, aye.
11
       (All indicated aye.)
12
       MR. ROY:
13
14
               All opposed, nay.
15
       (No response.)
       MR. ROY:
16
17
               Without objection.
               All right. Under the EDAP program,
18
       Laura Womack. Superior Group Companies,
19
20
       Incorporated. Good morning.
21
       MR. SHEPPARD:
22
               Good morning.
23
       MR. GILFOIL:
24
               Good morning.
25
       MS. VILLA:
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Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Anne Villa, Undersecretary for Louisiana Economic Development. I will be representing our staff this morning. And I'm presenting Superior Group of Companies, Inc. to you. I have Mr. Charles Sheppard here, representing the company and Mr. Wyly Gilfoil, who's representing the sponsor, Lake Providence Port Commission.

Superior Group of Companies is an existing business that is requesting approval for a \$400,000 sponsored EDAP for the renovations of a building that will be used as a new distribution facility located in East Carroll Parish.

Superior Group of Companies is a 101
year old business that manufacturers and
sells uniforms, accessories and
promotional products for their customers.
In addition, they operate call centers
that provide telemarketing and total
office support solutions for businesses.

Their customer service provides the best in class customer experience to

their uniform customers and are so 1 admired for their capabilities that they 2 3 sell their services to dozens of other companies. They create work day apparel 4 5 that makes employees feel confident, professional and comfortable. 6 7 designed uniform program with all of the 8 components of design, durability, easy 9 care, inventory management, ease of ordering, prompt delivery and total 10 transparency to the supply chain, 11 critically align Superior to their 12 customer's mission. They are able to do 13 all of this because they're the most 14 15 award winning client focused company in the uniform business for nearly 100 16 17 years.

Superior will be opening a new facility in Lake Providence. The new Lake Providence facility will be a receiving warehouse that will support the company's existing distribution centers located in Oak Grove, Louisiana and Eudora, Arkansas. The Lake Providence location will be a centralized receiving

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facility that will replenish the
pick/pack operations in Arkansas and Oak
Grove. They anticipate the Lake
Providence facility will process and
receive an average of 20 containers per
week from their overseas manufacturing
locations.

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The Lake Providence facility is being leased from Lake Providence Port Commission and has been vacant for several years. Currently, the property is in disrepair and the project cost of \$816,400 includes the building renovations and improvements. renovations include installation of four additional loading docks, electrical work, sprinkler system repair and upgrade, a roof repair, skylight repair, and the repair and replacement of columns, doors, and walls. They will also be replacing damaged siding on the outside and upgrading the grounds and the parking lot. The EDAP funds will be used to assist with these renovations.

The company will retain an existing

36 jobs with an approximate annual payroll of \$700,000 to be increased two percent annually. In addition, they will create 50 new jobs with an approximate payroll of \$1.6 million statewide by 2031. All of the jobs and payroll must be maintained through the December 31, 2031. The total capital of investment of \$800,000 is to be expended by June 30th of 2022.

East Carroll Parish's unemployment rate was 7.5 percent as of October '21, compared to the state rate of 5.7 for the same period. The per capita personal income for East Carroll Parish for 2020 was \$41,875, compared to the state per capita of \$50,874. The project is estimated to have state revenues of \$4,530,417 with the company receiving a \$400,000 EDAP and \$62,200 from the Enterprise Zone Program. This will result in a net revenue of \$4,068,217 to the state.

The staff recommends approval of this project as a sponsored EDAP with the

usual contingencies that are normally put 1 into place, to retain the 36 jobs with an 2 approximate annual payroll of \$700,000, 3 to be increased two percent annually, and 4 5 to create 50 new jobs with an appropriate annual payroll of 1.6 million statewide, 6 7 to be maintained through December 31st, 8 2031. A total capital investment by 9 Superior at the facility in Lake Providence, Louisiana of at least 10 \$800,000 to be expended by June 30th, 11 The EDAP board will be reimbursed 12 for one dollar for every two dollars in 13 eligible expenditures paid by the company 14 15 up to a maximum of 400,000. With that, I'd like to introduce 16 again, Mr. Charles Sheppard, and he can 17 18 provide additional project information. MR. SHEPPARD: 19 20 Good morning. 21 MR. ROY: 22 Good morning. 23 MR. SHEPPARD: Superior has had a long history in 24

this -- in this region. We first opened

our facility in Eudora, Arkansas back in the early 1960's. And we -- at one time, this was our -- our manufacturing headquarters. We had sewing factories in Talullah and Delhi, as well as factories in Mississippi and other parts of Arkansas. As things have moved offshore, our businesses have turned to here being more of a distribution facility as opposed to manufacturing.

Our facility in Arkansas, we continue to expand. It's 260,000 square feet very modern distribution center, but we need space outside of that area. We also need some protection to where we don't keep all of our inventory in one location. The location of this building in Lake Providence being only 20 miles from Eudora, is very advantageous. We have a lot of employees already who work in our facility in Arkansas who come from Lake -- Lake Providence. So the 219,000 square foot building was very attractive to us with its closeness to that and it gives us a chance to protect our

investments of inventory by carrying them in two different locations.

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We've -- we've been successful for many years operating in Louisiana and are happy to continue to expand there and are excited about the opportunities of -- of using this building in Lake Providence for -- our -- our business is -- is growing and the -- the -- our fastest growing distribution side is what we're doing in Oak -- Oak Grove and we don't have the room there either. We're -we're operating in a building there that was an -- an old sewing factory that the city has had for a long time. We also are renting two additional facilities from other owners in Oak -- Oak Grove just because of space. So we need this consolidated space to continue to grow that business.

By getting this space where we can store everything and receive everything, we're going to be able to also expand in Oak -- Oak Grove by having more room for picking and packing. The picking and

packing, obviously, are the operations 1 that require more people and is where we 2 end up hiring the people. This, you 3 know, the receiving warehouse by it -- by 4 5 itself, you know, for a 219,000 square foot facility, you know, we're looking at 6 7 putting 50 people total in there over the years. But we believe that there will be 8 9 a lot further expansion within the Oak --Oak Grove facility and, of course, there 10 will also be expansion for the new 11 Arkansas facility, which I know is not as 12 13 important to anyone here, but -- but we do expect an expansion also in the Oak 14 15 Grove facility. MR. ROY: 16 17 Ouestions? Comments? 18 (No response.) MR. REINE: 19

The -- so this is EDAP to Lake

Providence Port Commission. So if the

conditions are met of employment, then

the commission doesn't have to pay it

back, right? Just because I'm curious.

When I look at the ownership, the company

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1 is owned all by out of state people; is that correct? 2 MR. SHEPPARD: 3 Yeah. We're a public company and so 4 5 our -- you know, we are -- our corporate headquarters is in -- is in Florida, so 6 7 our major stockholders would be -- the 8 family owns a larger portion of it, the 9 founding, the original founding family. But there's also lot of other just major 10 stockholders. We're -- we're traded on 11 the NASDAQ, 500 and we're 520, I think 12 13 last year is what our sales were, public company traded on the NASDAQ. 14 15 MR. REINE: 16 Thank you. MR. JACKSON: 17 18 Are you having an supply chain issues? You mentioned your sewing having 19 moved overseas, which everybody's has for 20 21 the most part. Is New Orleans your 22 primary port of entry?

We have moved a lot of things to New
Orleans because of all the supply chain

MR. SHEPPARD:

issues. 1 We're -- we're trying to avoid the West Coast like everyone else. New 2 Orleans is one of the ports. We also do 3 a lot of manufacturing in Central 4 5 America. And for Central America, we do use New Orleans as our primary port of 6 7 entry. We do own factories in Haiti and 8 that's coming in through the Port of 9 Miami, but our west -- but our stuff from Asia, mostly Vietnam, China, yeah, we're 10 -- we're avoiding the West Coast all we 11 12 can and using -- or trying to use the 13 gulf, the gulf ports as much as we can. In the last, really month, we've been 14 15 pushing our suppliers more towards New Orleans because that's -- seems to be one 16 17 of the lesser congested ports from what we're -- from what we're hearing from our 18 freight porters and things like that, 19 20 that New Orleans is -- is not as 21 congested as like Savannah and 22 Charleston, and certainly not as 23 congested as the West -- the West Coast. 24 But yes, we're having supply chain

problems just like everybody else.

MR. JACKSON:

So -- so once you -- once you get your three months of renovation done, you anticipate being able to activate the facility pretty rapidly?

MR. SHEPPARD:

Yes. We're -- it's -- our receiving process --

MR. JACKSON:

Because you're saying, consolidate them, not -- yeah.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Right. The receiving process that we're doing today in Arkansas for this, the -- the exact processes will just be moved down to -- down to the lake -- to the Lake Providence facility. The WMS or warehouse management system that we use is a -- is a cloud based system that can -- that can work in any of the warehouses where we are. It doesn't require physical -- it's not going to be requiring any physical presence. So we can -- we'll have it up and running very quickly.

We're -- we're very tight in space. 1 We're -- we're renting buildings all over 2 Arkansas, Louisiana and -- well, we're 3 not renting in -- in Mississippi, just 4 5 Arkansas and Louisiana. So we're very excited to get everything under one roof 6 7 and not have to worry about inventory located in five or six different 8 9 warehouses, where we're having to run 10 trucks on a regular basis between them. We're -- this facility, we would just be 11 running a truck daily between the 12 13 facility in Oak Grove and the facility in Lake -- Lake Providence and the Eudora 14 15 facility. 16 MR. DAVID: 17 I had a question. I want to make sure I'm reading this right. 18 Retained jobs 36; payroll 700,000, that's about 19 19,444 a year; and 20 new jobs at 20 21 600,000, about 30,000 a year -- 30,000 a year. Tell me a little bit about what 22

Well, the -- the 36 jobs that exist

they're doing for that salary.

MR. SHEPPARD:

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1 today are -- are the ones in Oak Grove, Louisiana. So they -- they support our 2 BAMKO Division which is a promotional 3 products division. They -- they're 4 5 selling a wide variety of products to a lot of Fortune 500 companies. One of 6 7 their biggest customers is InstaCart, for 8 example, where the bags that you -- that 9 you see an InstaCart driver when he drives -- when he's delivering from the 10 grocery store or from a restaurant from 11 12 GrubHub or InstaCart, we -- we 13 manufacture those bags for those drivers. The kits that they do, we manufacture 14 15 those. And that facility distributes all 16 that. We get orders every day for that, 17 or ship thousand of orders a day of those 18 type of bags from that -- from that facility. 19

So the employees there are taking product and really they're either picking orders, depending on what the customer ordered, and a lot of instances, they're simply labeling pre-packaged merchandise and -- and -- but, yeah, so it's -- it's

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all parts of receiving, picking and
packing.

MR. DAVID:

Well, but an hourly wage, just, you know, with a nine, ten dollars an hour, just --

MR. SHEPPARD:

Yeah. We're -- I think we're -right now, we're a little over \$10 an
hour on average in the Oak -- in the Oak
Grove facility. I don't have that exact
number with me. And we would run the
same type of wage structure in Oak Grove.

The Oak -- Oak Grove facility will have more truck lift -- will have more forklift drivers than what Oak Grove has. And a forklift driver is -- requires a certain skill. You got to be licensed. You got to be, you know, you have to be tested and approved, you know, we follow OSHA regulations around that. So we pay forklift drivers more than we would for a regular pick/pack operations. So some of the jobs that -- that we're adding in Lake Providence will be at a higher rate

than what we're currently paying in Oak
Grove.

MR. REINE:

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Do you expect the new employees to be Louisiana residents, or are you going to recruit from Arkansas and Mississippi, as well, or do you have any idea about that?

MR. SHEPPARD:

It will be a combination of all of We -- currently, in Eudora, we -that. we do employee quite a few people from Lake -- from Lake Providence. We -- we draw really in the Eudora area, really about a 40 mile radius of people who come to work in our Eudora facility. You know, there's not a lot of jobs in south -- in southeast Arkansas or in northeast Louisiana. You know, so having a facility like ours, where we in Eudora employ 350 people between all the operations that we do there. So we are tracking from a long period away. We believe that most of the new jobs created -- we will see the building in Lake

- Providence by moving jobs from Arkansas
 from -- from jobs that are in Arkansas

 today. Some of those people are

 Louisiana residents who will be -- now be

 working in Louisiana. There will be some

 Arkansas residents who will come now and
- work in Louisiana. But I believe most of the people that we hire, going forward,
- 9 will be Louisiana residents.

10 MR. REINE:

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And I -- I suspect, and I don't know what the average wage is in Lake

Providence, but I -- I would suspect this is equal to or above the average wage for that part of the state?

MS. VILLA:

It says the average for East Carroll Parish. So I don't have specifically Lake Providence, but I do have for the parish the average payroll -- personal income, I should say, was 41,875 per capita personal income, which was about 10,000 less than the state.

24 MR. REINE

25 And -- and this is exclusive of --

of benefits? Are there any benefits with 1 2 MR. SHEPPARD: 3 4 Yeah. The company provides 5 insurance. 6 MR. REINE: 7 Health insurance? MR. SHEPPARD: 8 9 We provide 401(k). Yes. We -- we have a full slate of benefits. 10 11 Typically, our benefits equate to about 30 percent of what the salary is. 12 MR. REINE: 13 14 Thank you. 15 MR. SHEPPARD: But that's the most important. 16 17 That's one reason we attract the people 18 that we do, because we do -- we do offer 19 insurance, which is -- a lot of firms do 20 not do that in this area, so -- you know, 21 especially smaller firms who can't -- who are not able to afford it. So we -- the 22 23 benefits is a lot of what attracts people 24 to us. 25 MR. REINE:

1 And the benefits are on top of the \$30,000? 2 MR. SHEPPARD: 3 Correct. 4 MR. REINE: 5 6 As a package, they are substantially 7 higher than the --- 30,000, isn't that 15 bucks an hour? 8 9 MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah. 30,000 would be 15 bucks an 10 Well, we have some -- we have some 11 manager level positions and things like 12 13 that, that would pay higher than that. That's -- that's why that average gets to 14 15 be almost 30 is because you have several 16 managers. And again, your forklift drivers are going to make a little bit 17 18 more than your pick -- your pick and pack operations. The guy who is simply 19 20 unloading a truck is not going to make 21 the same salary as the guy who's driving a fork truck and has the skill -- the 22 23 skill set for that. MR. JACKSON: 24

Mr. Chairman, I'm always glad to see

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economic development investment in
1
 2
       northeast Louisiana. At the appropriate
 3
       time, I'd move to approve.
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       MR. ROY:
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               I think now is that time, so -- so
6
       moved.
7
       MR. DAVID:
               Second, please.
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9
       MR. ROY:
               Second. Any other discussion?
10
11
        (No response.)
       MR. ROY:
12
               Hearing none, all in favor, aye.
13
       (All indicated aye.)
14
15
       MR. ROY:
16
               All opposed, nay.
17
       (No response.)
18
       MR. ROY:
19
               Any comments from the public?
20
        (No response.)
21
       MR. ROY:
22
               Hearing none, it's approved.
23
               One little question as you -- before
       you go, do you -- do you aspire to
24
25
       produce any garments ever in -- in the --
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close to these distribution areas? 1 know there are a number of vacant Garon 2 buildings, et cetera, that used to 3 produce garments in -- in North Louisiana 4 5 once upon a time. We could probably put you in touch with some of those people, 6 7 if you ever aspire to do that. MR. SHEPPARD: 8

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We do manufacture a few products in the U.S. It's -- you know, with our -you know, we employed at one time in the Arkansas/Louisiana/Mississippi area really 150 mile radius of Eudora, we employed close to 2,000 in -- in the United States at one point, when we were manufacturing here. Today, it's -- it's very hard to attract people to come back to that industry, even in Eudora where we have a lot of sewing jobs where we do alterations, we do embroidery, we do hemming of pants and we do other, you know, alterations, it's -- that's -those are the most difficult jobs to attract new people to.

Our -- our population right now in

those jobs in those facilities are older 1 employees who have been with us 25, 30 2 3 years who may have come out of the sewing side of our business and they moved into 4 It's -- we would love to find a 5 facility that we could manufacture some 6 7 things, because we do have multiple 8 customers who are always looking for some 9 U.S. manufacturing, but it's -- it's 10 extremely tough to attract the people to come back to that industry. It's not 11 12 easy work. MR. ROY: 13 14 No. 15 MR. REINE: 16 And out of curiosity, are ya'll seeing spikes, and how high, in 17 18 transportation costs from overseas? MR. SHEPPARD: 19 20 Yeah. For sure. Yes. Our -- a 21 China container for us two years ago

would have cost us, door to door, 5,500

to \$6,000, would have been a door to door

cost from China to our door in New York.

We have

That cost now is close to 20.

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1 paid 25,000 up -- up to that much to get containers. So yes, it's -- it's insane 2 3 what transportation cost you today. MR. DAVID: 4 5 A.J. to backup his comment, they had a survey on the millennials. And it was 6 7 a survey on millennial men and women, and 8 it was a simple question, could you sew a 9 button back on your shirt if it fell off, and for the men, it was like, one or two 10 percent said yes, and for women, it was 11 12 like, ten or fifteen percent. So the 13 generational gap right now is kind of textbook is hard to find. 14 15 MR. SHEPPARD: I will tell you, I can't sew 16 Yeah. 17 a button. 18 MR. REINE: Ma'am, for the record, I can. 19 20 MR. ROY: 21 Well, my mom was a Home Ec Major and 22 should you aspire to do those things, we 23 have a number of buildings -- again, I

know in North Louisiana, Garon comes to

mind -- that were closed down and perhaps

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2
       MR. SHEPPARD:
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              Yeah. I believe Garon was --
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       MR. ROY:
5
              Yeah. Perhaps we could put you in
6
       touch with those so we can reinvigorate
7
       this dying -- dying art --
       MR. SHEPPARD:
8
9
              Yeah.
       MR. ROY:
10
11
               -- throughout the United States. So
       thank you.
12
13
       MR. SHEPPARD:
14
              Thank you.
15
       MR. ROY:
              Best wishes too. Please keep us
16
17
       posted.
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       MR. SHEPPARD:
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               Thank you very, very much. Thank
20
       you.
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       MR. GILFOIL:
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              Thank ya'll.
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       MR. ROY:
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              All right. Mr. Cal Simpson, the
25
       policy committee chairman, I think has a
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report for us. Mr. Simpson.
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       MR. SIMPSON:
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               The policy committee had -- bring
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       before the board changes -- changes given
       to us -- would you like to make a --I
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 6
       make a motion for the board to approve
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       these changes.
       MR. ROY:
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               That was a recommendation, I
       believe, of the policy committee?
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       MR. SIMPSON:
11
               Recommendation of the policy
12
       committee members.
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       MR. ROY:
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15
               So we have a motion to approve the
       policies that were submitted to the
16
17
       policy committee and -- and approved by
18
       them. Do we have a second?
19
       MR. REINE:
20
               I second.
21
       MR. ROY:
22
               Second. Any discussion on those
23
       proposed policies?
24
       (No response.)
       MR. ROY:
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Any comments from the public?
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2
        (No response.)
 3
       MR. ROY:
 4
               Hearing none, all those in favor,
 5
       aye.
6
       (All indicated aye.)
7
       MR. ROY:
8
              All opposed, nay.
9
        (No response.)
       MR. ROY:
10
11
              Without objection. Thank you, Mr.
12
       Simpson.
               All right. Ms. Villa who is -- you
13
       know, don't tell staff --
14
15
       MS. VILLA:
               A great soldier. You know, I just
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17
       fill in the gaps.
18
       MR. ROY:
19
              With the good job you're doing, we
20
       may not see any of them again.
21
       MR. PIERSON:
22
               Well, we presented Lake Providence
23
       and they can --
24
       MR. REINE:
25
               She can probably sew and do the
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whole nine yards. 1 2 MS. VILLA: 3 You know, I have to be honest, I can sew a button, but any -- any major sewing 4 5 goes to my mom. It was just -- I didn't take Home Ec in school. I took other 6 7 business like stuff. MR. ROY: 8 9 My mom made me learn. Along those lines, do you have a report for us? 10 MS. VILLA: 11 I do. I have the --12 MR. ROY: 13 14 The Secretary Treasurer report. 15 MS. VILLA: 16 Undersecretary Anne Villa, Secretary Treasurer's report as of 17 18 January 13th, 2022. 19 The summary report shows our budget 20 for FY '22 of \$18,921,985. We have 21 approved projected expenditures of \$4,030,200. And we have a pending the 22 23 board approval, which you guys just 24 approved, for \$400,000 EDAP, which gives 25 us a projected balance of \$14,491,785.

We have projects that are under review by staff of 875,000, which were EDAP projects, with an expected year end balance of 13,616,785.

If you go to the next page, it's our loan assistance program, Small Business
Credit Initiative. There's zero dollars there, but we do have \$190,000 for financial assistance program.

If you go to the next page -- MR. REINE:

You -- you lost me.

MS. VILLA:

Oh, sorry. I was just -- I went from the summary page just to the detail pages now, the Secretary Treasurer's report. And I'm on the Capital Outlay Appropriation for EDAP and for EDRED. So that's the next page, which has a project -- a budget of \$16,296,023 for our EDAP program and the balance expected at the end of the year, based on our approved projects so far this year, and the one that was just approved, is 11,865,823.

We have three projects that are

the total is 875,000, so at the end of the year, we're projected to have a balance of \$10,990,823.

In our EDRED program, we have a budget of 2,435,962. We currently have not expended any dollars in that program this year, and we have an ending balance expected of 2,435,962.

If you go to the next page, which is our LED Fund balance. Sorry, I just lost my -- there we go. The LED Fund balance projected for FY '22 is \$31,469,092, and we have project commitments of 16,234,181, which leaves a projected balance availability of 15,234,911.

Does the board have any questions related to the Secretary Treasurer's report?

MR. REINE:

Yeah. Go back and tell me what the State Small Business Credit Initiative Program or Loan Assistance Program -- MS. VILLA:

That's the original program. So

we've exhausted all of the money from 1 that first program and there's no more 2 3 dollars that are tied to the federal allocation, and it's basically all now 4 being monitored and serviced or we're 5 6 using it in recycled funds, which will 7 come up in the accountant's report. MR. REINE: 8 9 Okay. So this is not the Loan 10 Guarantee Program? MS. VILLA: 11 12 The loan guarantee portion -- the Loan Guarantee Program is a portion of 13 the State Small Business Credit 14 15 Initiative. Yes. But there's zero dollars of the old allocation that's 16 17 listed. We don't show anything on the 18 Secretary Treasurer's report, but that comes up in the accountant's report now. 19 20 MR. REINE: 21 I guess the question is, is there 22 any money to --23 MS. VILLA: 24 Yes. 25 MR. REINE:

1 Okay. 2 MR. PIERSON: 3 The other part of this --4 MS. VILLA: Crystal will come up and --5 6 MR. PIERSON: 7 -- the whole identity of the federal 8 reporting requirements are gone so we 9 zero it, and it's all migrated through the recycling of funds over to these 10 other accounts that she'll tell you 11 12 about. MR. REINE: 13 14 I'm trying to understand it in 15 English. MS. VILLA: 16 17 Yes, we have dollars available for 18 the Loan Guarantee Program. MR. JACKSON: 19 20 Is -- is that reflected in our 21 overall fund balance? MS. VILLA: 22 23 It's in the accountant's report. 24 wouldn't be in the Secretary Treasurer's report. But it's in our -- in our 25

1 accounting report that we give. 2

MR. JACKSON:

The \$18 million fund balance includes those funds?

MS. VILLA:

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The -- so the \$18 million fund balance, no, does not include that. That's -- the \$18 million fund balance, that's the money that we get from the LED Fund, so -- so the LED Fund is funded off of the sales tax vendors comp. So based upon our projections that we have for this current fiscal year and what we had in the balance at the end of FY '21, gives us a projected fund balance available to use of 31,469,000.

Our -- if you recall, a few years ago, the LED Fund was changed from the Legislature to go towards project commitments that LED has, and so those project commitments are expected to utilize 16,234,000 of that fund balance. So we have an expected fund balance at the end of this year of 15,234,000, unless the Secretary and his wonderful

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business development team announces a
1
2
       really nice project that we have to
 3
       utilize some of those funding for.
 4
               So with that, Ms. Crystal, if no
       questions, other questions --
 5
6
       MR. ROY:
7
               Let's see we have a -- I'll
8
       entertain a motion to accept the
9
       Treasurer's report.
       MR. REINE:
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11
               So moved.
12
       MR. ROY:
               Motion.
13
       MR. JACKSON:
14
15
               Second it.
       MR. ROY:
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17
               Second. Any discussion?
18
        (No response.)
       MR. ROY:
19
20
               And any comments from the public?
21
        (No response.)
22
       MR. ROY:
23
               Hearing none, all in favor, aye.
24
        (All indicated aye.)
       MR. ROY:
25
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1
              All opposed, nay.
 2
       (No response.)
 3
       MR. ROY:
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              Thank you, Ms. Villa.
       MS. VILLA:
 5
 6
              Thank you.
7
       MR. ROY:
8
              All right. Ms. Dalgo. Good
9
       morning.
       MS. DALGO:
10
11
              Good morning. I'm Crystal Dalgo and
       I'll be presenting to you the LEDC
12
       Accountant Status report.
13
              Okay. For the SSBCI 1.0 Guarantee
14
15
       Loan Portfolio as of November 30th, 2021,
       it totaled $30,142,047. It consisted of
16
17
       19 loans. And the allowance for the
18
       SSBCI 1.0 Guarantee Loan loss is
19
       $566,185,000. It's reflected at a
20
       blended rate of 18.02 percent, and that's
21
       18 percent for the current loans and the
       25 percent is being held allowance for
22
23
       the TDS Trucking.
24
              Next is the EDAP loan portfolio as
       it of --
25
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1 MR. REINE: So what -- what's the deal with TDS 2 3 Trucking? 4 MS. DALGO: TDS Trucking as of the November 30th 5 6 report, was at 45 days late, so we threw 7 them into the 25 percent allowance to 8 hold. Recently, I've been updated this 9 morning from Kelly that she did talk to the banker and that they are only 32 days 10 past due now. They made a payment 11 recently. And she said the borrower 12 payment, is now 32 days past due and the 13 14 borrower mentioned that she's starting to 15 get work with her trucking business from Amazon delivery. 16 17 So I believe that loan is, you know, 18 still looking on the up and up rather 19 than --20 MS. VILLA: 21 On the downside. MS. DALGO: 22 -- on the downside. 23 MR. ROY: 24

How does that work if we -- the 45

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1
       days kick them over to the 25 percent
       reserve requirement? I wouldn't imagine
 2
 3
       you'd move them right back next month.
       How long do you wait before you --
 4
 5
       they're seasoned enough to take them off?
6
       MS. DALGO:
 7
               Typically, we report it and move on
8
       it month to month, as it is reported.
9
       MS. VILLA:
               So we'll move it off if they
10
11
       continue to be within the terms --
12
       MS. DALGO:
                     Like -- like for the next
13
               Yes.
       report, it would be as of December 31st
14
15
       so it'll probably still -- still be here.
       But if they catch it up the next time,
16
       then it will be off, and they'd be
17
18
       current.
       MR. ROY:
19
20
               Kind of internally month to month,
21
       even though we may not have a board
       meeting, it's --
22
23
       MS. DALGO:
24
               It is -- yes.
25
       MS. VILLA:
```

1 It's the reporting. Yeah. 2 MS. DALGO: 3 Yes. Okay. The EDAP loan portfolio, 4 there's three loans, which is Town of 5 6 Colfax, City of Bastrop and the Town of 7 Vivian. 8 As of December 31st, 2021, it 9 totaled \$367,000 -- I'm sorry, \$367,841. The allowance is held at 15 percent and 10 11 it is reflected at \$55,176. And then finally, we have the LEDC 12 Funds Guarantee Loan Portfolio. As of 13 November 30th, 2021, it has one loan, 14 15 which is NOLA Detox, totaling \$772,788. The allowance is held at 18 percent for 16 17 \$139,102. 18 And that concludes my report. Are there any questions? 19 20 MR. REINE: 21 That NOLA Detox, they -- they have 22 two loans? 23 MS. DALGO: 24 It is one loan and the amount of the 25 loan was broken up into the remaining

funds that Anne was talking about 1 earlier, how they do not show anymore. 2 3 There was -- I forget how many dollars it was, but it wasn't enough to cover them, 4 but we used a portion of the remaining 5 6 dollars in the budget to cover that loan 7 into the 1.0, and then the rest of it, we used recycled funds in this LEDC 8 9 Guarantee Loan Portfolio program to cover the rest. So it is one loan, we just 10 11 have it broke into two different portions of money that covers it. Does that make 12 13 sense? MR. REINE: 14 15 Yes. MR. ROY: 16 17 Any other questions or comments for 18 Ms. Dalgo? 19 MR. REINE: 20 Move to accept the report. 21 MR. ROY: 22 A motion to accept it. 23 MR. DAVID: 24 Second. 25 MR. ROY:

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Second. Any other discussion?
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 2
       (No response.)
 3
       MR. ROY:
 4
               Comments from the public?
 5
       (No response.)
6
       MR. ROY:
 7
               All in favor, aye.
       (All indicated aye.)
8
9
       MR. ROY:
10
               All opposed, nay.
11
       (No response.)
       MR. ROY:
12
               Thank you, Ms. Dalgo.
13
               All right. It's great to have the
14
15
       Secretary here and look forward to
       hearing the President's Report.
16
17
       MR. PIERSON:
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               I'll be brief. I know we've kept
       you at length today with this very
19
20
       important topic of our policy committee
21
       meeting. But we just completed for the
       calendar year -- and the state runs on
22
23
       fiscal years, so we sort of have two
24
       happy New Year days. But when we do
25
       benchmark, we like to look at the
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calendar year. And when I say we've had a remarkable year, we've had one of the strongest performances in the last five years, and we've done that against the backdrop of a continued COVID pandemic, and certainly, Laura, Delta, Ida, just totally disrupting many elements of the economy in our state. But we were able to announce projects in 31 of 64 parishes. 6,700 new direct jobs, which power 11,400 new indirect jobs and working diligently with our existing industry base here and supporting their projects. We've also played a role in retaining 9,700 jobs that we can account for. New investment in the state committed is \$20.6 billion. It's just an amazing time in the state's history.

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Thank you for your attention to SSBCI. I think it's one of the more important features of our projections for 2022 and what it will allow you to do, the way that you will be able to impact disadvantaged businesses across the state and help those that have been struggling

through this pandemic period now across 2020, 2021 and into 2022.

We arrived at the point of having a high degree of confidence in this organization from the U. S. Treasury because of your great performance around SSBCI 1.0 that you saw the report on.

And again, I think that's moved us to the front of the line on being able to secure this next tranche of funding, and I -- I look forward to great things happening with that.

Noteworthy is also working with the Economic Development Administration, that is a subset of the U.S. Department of Commerce. 529 communities across America submitted applications for a portion of the allocation of funding that's in the American Rescue Plan. Of those 529, 60 were awarded a Phase 1. Phase 1 gives you \$500,000 and the ability to stand up and compete for Phase 2 awards. Phase 2 awards will be allocated to 30 of those 60 communities and they will represent up to 100,000,000 in federal funds to each

of those Phase 2 award winners. 1 So we have two horses in the gate on that. 2 3 of them headquartered with the Greater New Orleans, Inc. who submitted this 4 5 application and it's around the energy pivot in our state, ways that we can 6 7 integrate more renewables, wind power, 8 solar power, hydrogen power, elements of 9 that nature that can be found at the U.S. Department of Commerce EDA website. 10 to the Newsroom and go to 13 December 11 12 when they announced these 60 finalists, 13 you'll see GNO indicated there as the lead on an energy pivot project. 14 15 then also, submitted by the New Orleans BioInnovation Council, the Life Sciences 16 oriented Phase 1 award for a health 17 18 corridor linking the Baton Rouge health community, the Pennington BioMedical 19 Research Foundation that established 20 21 health district here with the New Orleans BioInnovation Center, Tulane Medical 22 23 School, LSU Health Sciences Center, and a lot of affiliated university systems. 24 25 And not to overlook the under served Baton Rouge and New Orleans, these programs that would receive federal funds, if they're successful in their Phase 2 award, are designed to be pilot programs that can be replicated in other areas but can improve health outcomes for underserved populations and do a lot of great things going forward.

So on a national basis, Louisiana has stood tall, receiving two of those awards out of that 529. So we're proud of that.

Thank you for your support of Lake Providence Port today. This EDAP allocation is interesting to note in that it checks several important boxes for us. The Governor's direction is around making sure that we're serving to the best of our ability, our rural communities and those jobs are hard to come by up there. Secondly, the investment represents an opportunity to refurbish and improve the condition of a publicly owned asset. The Port owns that facility. So we've kept

the money in the family, so to speak, and so it's a win-win-win. And thank you for your support of that program today.

I can pass the button test.

Soldiers have to be resilient and resourceful. And that's the balance of my report, Mr. Chairman, and I yield to any questions you may have.

MR. REINE:

Mr. Chairman, note, there's two people who can sew a button on, so our -- our percentage is going up.

MR. JACKSON:

I not only I can, I have.

MR. REINE:

That's three. You know, but we're getting close to 50 percent here.

First of all, I want to commend you on -- you and your staff on the Lake Providence. That's been a very difficult place in the state to provide jobs. As much as I want to see people get -- get the best economic package for that area of the state, that's not a bad deal. I -- I don't know that I've seen those kind

of opportunities around that area of the state.

The other deal is, and -- and I know that attracting these billion dollar projects is a tedious negotiation, but if -- if ya'll could look into some way to encourage greater participation, especially in construction for our local contractors or contractors who will work our local people, that -- it would be great to see more participation of our local construction people who participate in these projects, so -- and just as -as a heads up, I know we've had that conversation before, but to have people in -- in certain areas who are unemployed and we watch a lot of workers come in from other places, if -- if there's some place in the process you can encourage them to -- to use more of our local businesses and -- and our local people in the construction of those projects. Thank you.

MR. PIERSON:

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Noted and appreciated, sir. That's

something that we do include in our 1 contracts. And -- but there are other 2 efforts and we should redouble those, not 3 only at the department, but that voice 4 5 should resonate also through our regional economic development organizations and 6 7 all of those involved in this to keep as 8 many of these dollars in our own economy 9 as possible. And for those in construction, the future should look 10 very, very bright with a lot of the 11 projections of projects that we're 12 13 seeing. And we do want to capture that for Louisiana workers and citizens. 14 15 Thank you.

MR. ROY:

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Ms. Villa, you've done a great job today and I think as part of one of your last duties, you should stand at the door in the back and give a sewing test to make sure that some of the air that's been vented today about everybody's ability to sew is --

24 MS. VILLA:

25 Proven.

MR. ROY:

2 -- correct.

MR. REINE:

Mr. Chairman, would you entertain a motion we recommend her for a raise? I think she's more interested in that than the button test.

MR. ROY:

everyone else a test, because we've all said we can sew, so I want to see if that's -- she can check us out on the way out, but with that said, enough said.

I'll entertain a motion to adjourn. Do we have anything else?

MS. VILLA:

Just to keep you appraised as the policy committee, I just wanted to say as we move forward on the -- on the debt side, we're working through those. And I'm hopeful that we have it prior to our March -- I mean, I'm sorry, our February LEDC board meeting. Hopefully, we can convene one, if not, than we expect it to be beforehand, as well, especially since

1	there's a new program, I think it's going
2	to be a little bit longer because
3	collateral support is a new program. So
4	I just kind of wanted to make sure that
5	was on ya'll's radar for the next 30
6	days.
7	MR. ROY:
8	Very good. Thank you. We're
9	adjourned.
10	THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:40 A.M.
11	* * * *
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1	REPORTER'S PAGE
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2 CERTIFICATION

I, Lori B. Overland, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify that the above referenced individual to whom oath was administered, after having been duly sworn by me upon authority of R.S. 37:2554, did testify as hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing pages, that this testimony was reported by me in the stenomask reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board, that I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions of the board; that I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

22

23

Lori Overland C.C.R.

24

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