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In the Loop

To: CEDC Board of Directors, CEDC Members and Interested Parties

From: Ted Sprague, CEDC President

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TIP STRATEGIES MAKES INITIAL PRESENTATION TO CEDC BOARD

The team of consultants from TIP Strategies made its initial presentation to the CEDC Board of Directors on Friday, May 21st. Some of the news was difficult to take as we asked for an honest look at how we stack up versus our competition not only in the northwest and United States, but globally. As we listened to the report, board members actively questioned and challenged various aspects of what they were hearing. By the end, we all agreed that we are facing a number of challenges, but none so large that we cannot overcome them.

We are at a crossroads in the development of our community. The nature of manufacturing is changing. How companies do business across the world is changing. How governments are able to participate in economic development is changing. The timing is right for the EDC to take a good, hard look at itself and discover ways in which we can change with the times we live in.

The TIP Strategies plan is still being written and solutions to our challenges are continuing to be pursued. I am optimistic that we have the vision and leadership here locally to affect the positive changes we need to make to improve our “Quality of Place”. Our consultants made an interesting distinction about the difference between “Quality of Life” and “Quality of Place”. The former is how we view ourselves and we must believe we have a high quality of life otherwise, why would we live here? What we need to improve is our quality of place or how we are viewed and measured by people who do not live here. That is our challenge. Please anticipate an announcement regarding the presentation of the full plan later next month.

COLUMBIA ANALYTICAL ANNOUNCES NEW SENIOR EXECUTIVES

Columbia Analytical Services, Inc., an environmental laboratory network headquartered in Kelso, Washington, recently announced the appointing of four senior executive positions.

Jim Carlson was named the new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Columbia Analytical. He has 24 years of experience in management and financial operations and formerly served as the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer for the company since 1999. One of Carlson's initial business objectives was to name members of his senior management team.

Jeff Christian was appointed as the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Christian will oversee the operations of their national laboratory network, with locations in Kelso, Wash., Simi Valley, Calif., Tucson, Ariz., Houston, Texas, Jacksonville, Fla., and Rochester, N.Y. He was formerly the Lab Director of their Kelso, Wash.-based laboratory, which employs 120 people. Christian has been with CAS since 1989. A new Kelso Lab Director has yet to be named.

Former Controller, Elisabeth DeWhitt, who has been with the company since 1992, was also promoted to Chief Financial Officer (CFO). She will manage the accounting, finance, purchasing, and risk management departments.

Steve Vincent, longtime CEDC Board Member, co-founder of Columbia Analytical and a R.A. Long High School and Lower Columbia College graduate, has been appointed to Chairman of the Board of Directors of CAS Holdings, Inc., the parent company of Columbia Analytical Services. "Steve will continue to serve the company with his vision," said Carlson. "He is well respected in the community as well as in the analytical laboratory industry and we are pleased to have his continued support and leadership." Vincent has served as President and CEO for Columbia Analytical, since its founding in Longview, Wash. in 1986. It currently employs 350 people nationally.

Columbia Analytical Services, Inc., headquartered in Kelso, Wash., provides a wide variety of analytical laboratory services including those in aerospace, automotive, engineering, government, mining, petrochemical, pharmaceutical, pulp and paper, transportation, utilities, and waste management industries.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

It is always interesting to me to watch the revolving door of coaching in the professional and especially the collegiate ranks. When one coach moves on to a better situation it has a domino effect on the other teams and programs. We have seen some recent changes in our local ranks that have shaken some things up.

With the resignation of Erica Rainford from the Port of Woodland, the port commission was fortunate to have a man of Nelson Holmberg's abilities apply to become the new Executive Director. Nelson's departure from the Port of Vancouver left a spot open that Theresa Wagner of Senator Murray's Southwest Washington Office will fill. With Theresa's position open, Senator Murray's team wisely hired Page Phillips from Congressman Baird's staff to run the SW Washington office. This is a win, win, win situation.

Nelson is working already to improve the Port of Woodland and has accepted a position on the CEDC Board of Directors. Page will begin her work with Senator Murray's office on June 1st and I look forward to working with Page in her new capacity. I feel fortunate to continue to be able to work with such high quality people.

RESOURCE CENTER TO HELP BUSINESSES COMPLY WITH STORMWATER REQUIREMENTS

In an effort to assist businesses in complying with stormwater permits, the Association of Washington Business (AWB) led an effort to pass HB 2222 during the 2009 session. The legislation, co-sponsored by Representatives Blake, Takko and Herrera, requires the Department of Ecology to create a stormwater technical resource center, which will serve as a statewide information clearinghouse to provide research, technical assistance and training to businesses. AWB and member organizations are participating on an advisory committee to help direct the efforts of the resource center. For more information, please follow this link - - <http://www.cityofpuyallup.org/services/development-services/puyallups-stormwater-management-program/washington-stormwater-center/>

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE LOOKS TO REVISE THE STATE ENERGY STRATEGY

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) is launching an effort to revise the State Energy Strategy (SES), Washington's comprehensive plan for meeting our future energy needs. The update was approved on December 1, 2010, with a full revision to be delivered by December 1, 2011. This project is the result of action taken during the 2010 legislative session. An update to the state's energy strategy is due to the Governor and the Legislature on legislation directed the revision of the state energy strategy and declared that a successful strategy must balance three goals to:

- 1) Maintain competitive energy prices;
- 2) Foster a clean energy economy and jobs; and
- 3) Meet obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Commerce has refocused its mission on growing and improving jobs in Washington State. Energy is a key sector of the state's economy and a high priority for Commerce. The SES, last revised in 2003, does not reflect the needs and opportunities presented by our growing demand for energy, clean energy technologies and resources, and the state's obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An up-to-date energy roadmap is needed to help maintain competitive energy prices and to establish our state as a global clean energy economy leader.

Commerce is committed to an open, collaborative process and will regularly solicit input and feedback as both the update and complete revision of the SES are developed. Information will be available on the project web site regarding past energy strategies, guiding legislation, advisory and technical committee activities, and schedule of events. Click [here](#) to visit Commerce's State Energy Strategy Website.

THE LENDING NETWORK WINS IRP AWARD

The Lending Network, a local revolving loan fund, recently received word from USDA that their application for a \$750,000 Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) loan has



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been awarded. Locally, this means new resources are available for Cowlitz County businesses in need of gap financing. Due to restrictions on where the loans may be disbursed, firms in Longview may access a separate revolving loan fund through the City of Longview. If you have questions on either loan program, please call me.

CEDC BOARD AND COMMUNITY LOSES A COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND

As many of you know by now, longtime Port of Kalama Commissioner and CEDC Board Member, Fred Swanstrom, passed away at his home on May 13th.

Fred was a tireless advocate for his community and for job creation. His recently held memorial service was overflowing with loved ones and well-wishers and served as a testimony to the far reach and influence he had with so many people. Fred's tireless commitment to economic development, guidance and sense of humor will be missed.

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