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City of Blythe Calls for Collaboration in Response to Kosmont Companies Economic Development Overview

Blythe, CA - The City of Blythe is drawing attention to the findings of the [Kosmont Companies' Economic Development Overview for the Blythe Region](#). This pivotal report, aimed at addressing the resiliency and growth prospects for Blythe, underscores the critical economic challenges and opportunities ahead, especially in light of the potential closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP).

Released in February 2024, the report provides a comprehensive analysis of the current economic conditions, regional real estate trends, and potential strategies for economic development. With the Blythe Region's economy deeply intertwined with agriculture, service, retail, recreational tourism, and the state prisons, the potential closure of CVSP poses a significant threat to the community's economic stability.

According to a review of studies, including the [Capitol Matrix Consulting report](#) from June 2023, the closure of CVSP by March 2025 could have devastating effects on Blythe's economy. CVSP's operations contribute approximately \$65 million to the local economy, supporting 719 jobs and \$61 million in labor income, accounting for 13% of the jobs held by Blythe residents. The potential closure is also expected to result in a ~\$2.9 million decline in City revenues and a ~\$4.9 million loss for the school district due to declining enrollment.

The Kosmont Overview highlights a series of action items and strategies designed to propel the Blythe Region towards sustainable economic growth. These recommendations include investing in infrastructure improvements to support business and recreational activities, and actively pursuing grants and private investments to facilitate these developments.

The report stresses the importance of enhancing the built environment, such as updating public spaces and business facades to attract new businesses and tourists. Additionally, it advocates for the strategic use of public properties to catalyze economic activities, suggesting enhancements to local landmarks like Quechan Park and the Golf Course. Collaborating with local groups to foster community engagement and cohesively marketing the Blythe Region's unique offerings are also emphasized as pivotal strategies.

Moreover, the report identifies workforce development as a key area, recommending partnerships with educational institutions to align training programs with the needs of local industries, thus ensuring a skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of a diversified economy.

However, the execution of these strategies becomes significantly more complex without the financial input from CVSP, emphasizing the need for external funding sources to implement the necessary city updates.



"The Kosmont-Riverside County Economic Development Overview is a clear call to action," stated Interim City Manager Mallory Crecelius. "While we face the daunting prospect of losing a major economic driver with the closure of CVSP, we are also presented with a roadmap to revitalize and strengthen our community. This journey, however, requires substantial investment and collaboration at all levels."

The City of Blythe calls on state and federal agencies, private investors, and community stakeholders to join forces in securing the necessary resources to implement the strategies outlined in the report. The future of Blythe hinges on our collective ability to adapt, innovate, and invest in a vision that ensures economic resilience and prosperity for all residents.

To learn more, read the full [Blythe Region Economic Overview Presentation](#).

About the City of Blythe

Blythe is a dynamic community known for its rich history and strategic position as a gateway between California and Arizona. The city is committed to fostering sustainable growth, economic development, and maintaining a high quality of life for its residents.

About Kosmont Companies

Kosmont Companies is a leading economic development and real estate advisory firm specializing in public/private partnerships, economic strategy, and project implementation. With decades of experience in assisting municipalities and businesses across California, Kosmont Companies is dedicated to creating solutions that drive economic growth and community enhancement.

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