

2019-2020 PLAN OF WORK

BIG SPRING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Big Spring Economic Development has dedicated the last 29 years to its mission of increasing job opportunities and improve the lives of citizens of Big Spring and Howard County.

Industry diversification and overall economic growth are both critical to our local economy. Moreover, we are also committed to ventures that will improve quality of life for our citizens by creating job opportunities that create a strong economic base and raise the standard of living for our community.

To this end, we offer incentive packages that are custom tailored. All incentive offers are evaluated on their own merits and are subject to approval by the Big Spring EDC Board of Directors and the Big Spring City Council. Approval is contingent upon the feasibility of the project, capital investment, job creation and overall benefit to the community.



We are excited to see what the 2019-2020 year will bring and look forward to the opportunity to continue to share the great success stories of Big Spring.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Wegman".

Executive Director

MISSION

To assist, stimulate, and enhance economic development in Big Spring, Texas, subject to applicable State and Federal laws and the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation. To utilize its Sales Tax Revenues to increase the job opportunities available to the citizens of Big Spring by assisting the expansion of local businesses and attracting new business activities to Big Spring.



Big Spring EDC targets specific industries, activities and opportunities on which to focus recruitment and retention efforts. Matching location strengths to industry requirements and to industry demand patterns is critical in target industry identification, and an essential component of an effective development strategy. These defined industries are a likely match for the relocation or expansion of primary jobs in Big Spring.

TARGET INDUSTRIES

Oil and Gas Energy- West Texas and Howard County in particular have a strong tradition of oil and gas exploration and production. Oil, originally discovered in 1926, has been a primary industry in the area and a major contributor to the local economic base. Today Big Spring is home of one of the largest inland refineries in the United States and is a hub for oil and gas processing and distribution. Drilling, refining, carbon black production, oil well servicing, oil field supply, and oil field equipment manufacturing represent a significant employment base for the area. Big Spring will continue to have a strong oil related base and efforts will continue to develop and retain oil related industry.



Transportation and Distribution- Big Spring is situated at the “Crossroads of West Texas” making it a natural transportation and distribution hub. Interstate Highway 20 is the major east west artery and U.S. Highway 87 the major north south artery. Big Spring is located on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor linking Mexico with Canada, a major transportation route for goods and services manufactured or grown in the mid west and distributed worldwide. Big Spring is the former home of Webb Air Force base and boasts an 8,800 ft. runway capable of landing 737 class aircraft, a new state of the art air terminal, and facilities that lend themselves to national and global shipping and distribution. Big Spring is serviced by Union Pacific Railroad on their

primary east-west track with thousands of railcars passing through Big Spring daily. Big Spring is also proud of the established Big Spring Rail System, a short line, which provides transload services to existing customers on the airpark and potential new businesses. These assets make Big Spring ideal for transportation and distribution operations and a focus for the EDC to develop logistical operations.





Agriculture- Before oil and gas, before wind, farming and ranching were the economic engines of West Texas and Big Spring. Cattle and cotton production continue to have a significant impact of the local economy. Big Spring is home to a major cotton storage distribution coop to warehouse and market cotton nationally and internationally. BSEDC understands the importance of agricultural production not only locally, but nationally and place a high priority on developing agriculture related industry, manufacturing and distribution.

Renewable Energy- Big Spring was one of the first sites for wind energy production in the central United States. In 1999, an over 34MW project was completed and in 2008 another 250MW and in 2016 another 120MW of capacity was added with future projects being discussed. Utility scale solar projects are now being planned with possible location in the Big Spring area. These projects are opening new doors for supply chain industries to locate in our region. Training programs for renewable energy related jobs are now offered at the community college and high schools. This new industry diversifies the economic base and offers many new areas for job development and growth.



Health Care- Big Spring long had the reputation as being a center for health care in West Texas. Big Spring is a center for health care ranging from a 150 bed private hospital serving the general public, to a Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center, a State mental health facility and a Texas State Veterans Home. Big Spring is home of one of the premier rehabilitation facilities in West Texas providing physical therapy, occupational therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, audiology, wellness programs, and with a multitude of other services.



MISSION OBJECTIVES

Business Development

Big Spring EDC will work to promote the Big Spring area as a competitive location for new primary businesses and targeted industries with specific focus on companies paying wages that meet or exceed the average primary wage for the Big Spring labor market. Big Spring EDC is an active participant in industry trade shows and professional organizations that connect EDC face to face with site selectors.

Business Retention and Expansion

Business Retention and Expansion efforts are accomplished primarily by establishing close relationships with existing primary businesses. The strategy ensures the community is providing the best atmosphere for business prosperity and growth. Big Spring EDC invests resources to assist and foster growth in local business.

Entrepreneurialism

Big Spring EDC works to create a business environment conducive to entrepreneurialism by providing business support and technical assistance to start up and existing businesses in collaboration with Leading/EDG, a business facilitation group.



Workforce

A well-educated workforce is essential in a competitive environment, and workers must be able to update and expand their knowledge as new technology and ways of working evolve. Post-secondary and higher education resources are readily available in Howard County to serve residents and businesses.



Howard College Workforce Training Program promotes the development of a skilled workforce for existing and new industry. The training facility offers programs for basic skills in welding, heavy equipment operation, hydraulics, wind and electrical technology for new and existing business.

Texas Workforce Commission offers training assistance through the Workforce Investment Act Program, Skills Development Fund, and On the Job Customized Training through the Workforce Solutions of the Permian Basin.



ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2019

TEDC Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX)

High Ground Annual Meeting (San Angelo, TX)

Ports to Plains Annual Conference (Williston, ND)

NOVEMBER 2019

SEMA Show (Las Vegas, NV)

FABTECH (Chicago, IL)

DECEMBER 2019

High Ground Austin Allies (Austin, TX)

JANUARY 2020

ICSC Red River States Deal Making (Fort Worth, TX)

SHOT Show (Las Vegas, NV)

JUNE 2020

TEDC Midyear Conference

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

