



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ OFFICE OF GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

May 24, 2016

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
California Service Center
24000 Avila Road, 2nd Floor
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

To Whom It May Concern:

Section 204.6(i) of Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) governing alien entrepreneur immigrant visa petitions under the USCIS administered EB-5 visa program authorizes the state government of any state of the United States to designate a particular geographic or political subdivision located within a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or within a city or town having a population of 20,000 or more within such state as a high unemployment area if the area experienced an unemployment rate of at least 150 percent of the national average.

The designation and certification of high unemployment areas in the State of California under 8 *CFR* §204.6 paragraphs (i) and (j)(6)(ii) – including certification of high unemployment areas within any MSA or qualified area such as a census designated place (CDP) within an MSA – has been delegated to the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. Such certification is based on official estimated unemployment data provided by the Employment Development Department of this state.

The national average unemployment rate for calendar year 2015, as calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, was 5.3% requiring an unemployment rate of 7.9% or greater for "high unemployment area" eligibility.

A request for a Targeted Employment Area certification of a high unemployment area has been received from **California Investment Regional Center, LLC** with respect to a new business or project named **LA Valley Garden Plaza**, at the address of **9933 Valley Blvd, El Monte, Los Angeles County, California**. The 2015 unemployment data for the State of California, as provided by the Labor Market Information Division of the California Employment Development Department shows a **12.00%** unemployment rate for the **High Unemployment – Census Tract** that contains the location where the new enterprise is principally doing business.

This unemployment rate was calculated based on the Census Share Methodology prescribed by the U.S. Department of Labor for all states in designating high unemployment areas under the Immigration Act of 1990. The Census Share Methodology indicated that the unemployment rate of

the designated area consisting of the listed census tracts was over 150 percent of the national unemployment rate for calendar year 2015.

Therefore, in accordance with the cited federal regulations, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development is hereby certifying that the **County of Los Angeles census tract 4328.02** is having the requisite high unemployment rate to be a Targeted Employment Area, for the purposes of alien entrepreneur visa requests. 8 CFR sections 204.6(h)(i) and (j)(6)(ii).

This certification is valid for one year from the date of approval. Unemployment estimate data will be published for calendar year 2016 on May 1, 2017. The Census Share Methodology will continue to be used in subsequent years and, given the uncertainties about the area's unemployment rate and the national unemployment rate there is no guarantee that this area will continue to remain a high unemployment area ("targeted employment area").

Sincerely,



Brian Peck
Deputy Director