



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

TO:

Yanjun Chen
Golden State Economic Development Fund, LLC
851 Burlway Road, Suite 202
Burlingame, CA 94010

DATE: December 6, 2018

Application: Form I-924

File Number: RCW1317151167

RCID: ID1317151167

NOTICE OF TERMINATION

This letter shall serve as notification that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") has terminated the designation of Golden State Economic Development Fund, LLC (the "Regional Center") as a regional center under the Immigrant Investor Program (the "Program") pursuant to Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("8 C.F.R.") section 204.6(m)(6). The reasons for the termination are explained, below:

(SEE ATTACHED)

If the Regional Center disagrees with this decision, or if the Regional Center has additional evidence that shows this decision is incorrect, the Regional Center may file a motion or an appeal to this decision by filing a completed Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, along with the appropriate filing fee. A copy is enclosed. The Regional Center may also include a brief or other written statement and additional evidence in support of the motion or appeal. The Form I-290B must be filed within 33 days from the date of this notice. If a motion or appeal is not filed within 33 days, this decision is final.

The Regional Center must send the completed Form I-290B and supporting documentation with the appropriate filing fee to the address indicated below.

If using the U.S. Postal Service:

USCIS
P.O. Box 660168
Dallas, TX 75266

If using USPS Express Main/Courier:

USCIS
Attn: I-290B
2501 S. State Highway 121 Business
Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

For an appeal, the Regional Center may request additional time to submit a brief within 30 calendar days of filing the appeal. Any brief, written statement, or evidence in support of an appeal that is not filed with Form I-290B must be directly sent within 30 days of filing the appeal to:

USCIS Administrative Appeals Office
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, MS 2090

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Washington, DC 20529-2090

For more information about the filing requirements for appeals and motions, please see 8 C.F.R. § 103.3 or 103.5, or visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SMKendall", written in a cursive style.

Sarah M. Kendall
Chief, Immigrant Investor Program

Enclosure: (1) Form I-290B with instructions
(2) Notice of Intent to Terminate issued on July 23, 2018

cc: Shuo Rong
Law Offices of Jean D. Chen
2107 N. First Street, Suite 400
San Jose, CA 95131

NOTICE OF TERMINATION
Termination of Regional Center Designation Under the Immigrant Investor Program
Golden State Economic Development Fund, LLC

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.6(m)(6) (*Continued participation requirements for regional centers*) provides:

(i) Regional centers approved for participation in the program must:

(A) Continue to meet the requirements of section 610(a) of the Appropriations Act.

(B) Provide USCIS with updated information annually, and/or as otherwise requested by USCIS, to demonstrate that the regional center is continuing to promote economic growth, including increased export sales, improved regional productivity, job creation, and increased domestic capital investment in the approved geographic area, using a form designated for this purpose; and

(C) Pay the fee provided by 8 CFR 103.7(b)(1)(i)(XX).

(ii) USCIS will issue a notice of intent to terminate the designation of a regional center in the program if:

(A) A regional center fails to submit the information required in paragraph (m)(6)(i)(B) of this section, or pay the associated fee; or

(B) USCIS determines that the regional center no longer serves the purpose of promoting economic growth, including increased export sales, improved regional productivity, job creation, and increased domestic capital investment.

(iii) A notice of intent to terminate the designation of a regional center will be sent to the regional center and set forth the reasons for termination.

(iv) The regional center will be provided 30 days from receipt of the notice of intent to terminate to rebut the ground or grounds stated in the notice of intent to terminate.

(v) USCIS will notify the regional center of the final decision. If USCIS determines that the regional center's participation in the program should be terminated, USCIS will state the reasons for termination. The regional center may appeal the final termination decision in accordance with 8 CFR 103.3.

(vi) A regional center may elect to withdraw from the program and request a termination of the regional center designation. The regional center must notify USCIS of such

election in the form of a letter or as otherwise requested by USCIS. USCIS will notify the regional center of its decision regarding the withdrawal request in writing.

I. Procedural History

On May 4, 2015, USCIS designated and authorized the Regional Center's participation in the Program. On July 23, 2018, USCIS issued a Notice of Intent to Terminate ("NOIT") to the Regional Center which afforded the Regional Center 30 days from receipt of the NOIT to offer evidence in opposition to the grounds alleged in the NOIT. On August 24, 2018, USCIS received a response to the NOIT (the "NOIT Response"), which did not sufficiently address the grounds alleged in the NOIT. Accordingly, USCIS has determined that the Regional Center's participation in the Program should be terminated. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.6(m)(6)(v) and through this Notice of Termination, USCIS hereby terminates the Regional Center's participation in the Program.

II. Reasons for Termination

USCIS has determined that the Regional Center no longer serves the purpose of promoting economic growth, including increased export sales, improved regional productivity, job creation, or increased domestic capital investment as required by 8 C.F.R. § 204.6(m)(6).

A. Failure to Continue to Serve the Purpose of Promoting Economic Growth

Regional centers are designated for the promotion of economic growth and must continue to meet the requirements of section 610(a) of the Appropriations Act as amended, and promote economic growth in a manner that does not conflict with requirements for classification under section 203(b)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA"), removal of conditions on lawful permanent residence under section 216A of the INA, and implementing regulations following their designation. According to section 610(a) of the Appropriations Act, economic growth includes increased export sales, improved regional productivity, job creation, or increased domestic capital investment. *See also* 8 C.F.R. § 204.6(m)(6)(ii) ("USCIS will issue a notice of intent to terminate the designation of a regional center in the program if. . . USCIS determines that the regional center no longer serves the purpose of promoting economic growth, including increased export sales, improved regional productivity, job creation, and increased domestic capital investment.").

The reasons why a regional center may no longer serve the purpose of promoting economic growth are varied and "extend beyond inactivity on the part of a regional center." 75 FR 58962. For example, depending on the facts, a regional center that takes actions that undermine investors' ability to comply with EB-5 statutory and regulatory requirements such that investors cannot obtain EB-5 classification through investment in the regional center may no longer serve the purpose of promoting economic growth. *See* Section 610(a)-(b) of the Appropriations Act (stating that one purpose of a regional center is to concentrate pooled investment in defined economic zones and accomplishing such pooled investment by setting aside visas for aliens classified under INA 203(b)(5)). Likewise, a regional center that fails to

engage in proper monitoring and oversight of the capital investment activities and jobs created or maintained under the sponsorship of the regional center may no longer serve the purpose of promoting economic growth in compliance with the Program and its authorities.

When derogatory information arises (such as evidence of inaction, mismanagement, theft, or fraud by the regional center or related entities), USCIS weighs all relevant factors in the totality of the circumstances to determine whether the regional center is continuing to serve the purpose of promoting economic growth. Such factors may include the seriousness of the derogatory information, the degree of regional center involvement in the activities described in the derogatory information, any resulting damage or risk imposed on investors and the economy, as well as any mitigating, corrective, or restorative actions taken or forthcoming to redress the situation.

USCIS has considered all evidence in the record, including evidence provided in response to the NOIT, “for relevance, probative value, and credibility, both individually and within the context of the totality of the evidence,” in determining whether the Regional Center’s continued participation is justified under the regulations by a preponderance of the evidence. *See Matter of Chawathe*, 25 I&N Dec. 369, 376 (AAO 2010). For the reasons set forth below, USCIS has determined by a preponderance of the evidence that the Regional Center no longer serves the purpose of promoting economic growth in compliance with the Program.

1. Lack of Regional Center Activity

As noted in the NOIT, the Regional Center’s Form I-924A filings for fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017 do not report any EB-5 capital investment or job creation. In addition, although USCIS designated the Regional Center on May 4, 2015, the Form I-924A filings do not report any pending or approved Forms I-526 filed by petitioners who have made or are actively in the process of making investments associated with the Regional Center. On its I-924A filing for fiscal year 2016 (RCW1635654877), received by USCIS on December 19, 2016, the Regional Center indicated that it expected its immigrant investors to file I-526 petitions with USCIS in a few months. Again, on its I-924A filing for fiscal year 2017 (RCW1800255971), received by USCIS on December 27, 2017, the Regional Center once again indicated that its immigrant investors would be filing I-526 petitions within a few months. As of the date of this notice, USCIS has not received any I-526 petitions from investors associated with Golden State Economic Development Fund, LLC.

In the NOIT Response, the Regional Center provided the following evidence:

- Letter from Yanjun Chen, Regional Center principal, dated August 22, 2018;
- Architectural Plans & Site Plan for Brisbane Project;
- Geotechnical Report of the Brisbane Project;
- Architectural Plans & Renderings of San Bruno Project;

- Completeness Letter from City of San Bruno.

In response to the Regional Center's lack of economic activity, the letter from Yanjun Chen stated that the Regional Center is continuing to promote economic growth through the Brisbane Project, a proposed residential development in Brisbane, California, and the San Bruno Project, a proposed residential development in San Bruno, California that the Regional Center has been pursuing since early 2015.

However, based on the evidence submitted, the Regional Center's NOIT Response failed to demonstrate that either project has advanced past the preliminary planning stages such that they are more likely than not to result in job creation and economic growth. In fact, Mr. Chen acknowledged the main obstacles to the readiness of both projects, which include geotechnical and environmental concerns, permitting delays, "pre-construction wrangling with administrators, regulators, and neighborhood organizations," and lengthy city review processes. Despite the Completeness Letter from the City of San Bruno, dated September 1, 2016, the City of San Bruno website only states that the "project is currently under review"¹ and the proposed project also does not appear on the city's June 2018 list of "Major Development Projects in San Bruno in Approval Stage or Under Construction."² Mr. Chen did not provide any evidence that permits, or the cities' approval, are more likely than not to be obtained for either project. In addition, Mr. Chen did not provide any evidence that non-EB-5 sources of financing has been secured, or even applied for, or that construction contracts have been obtained. Finally, Mr. Chen did not provide any credible timeline for construction, a timeframe for when project amendments may be submitted to USCIS, or a description of the steps the Regional Center has taken to attract and raise EB-5 funds. Absent any independent objective evidence in support, USCIS considered the aspirational statements about these projects contained in the letters to be of limited probative value as evidence of the Regional Center's future ability to serve the purpose of promoting economic growth.

These above issues cast doubt on the Regional Center's ability to identify and sponsor viable projects in the furtherance of job creation and economic growth within its respective geographic area. The Regional Center's filings do not indicate that it has conducted activity that serves the purposes of the Program since its designation. Additionally, the Regional Center's NOIT response, and lack of evidence of progress made in sponsoring any viable projects since receiving its initial designation, casts doubt on the likelihood of the Regional Center promoting economic growth and job creation in the future.

In the absence of evidence of increased export sales, improved regional productivity, job creation, or increased domestic capital investment, USCIS concludes that the Regional Center no longer serves the purpose of promoting economic growth.

¹

https://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/gov-city_departments/commdev-planning_division/development_activity_glenview_trace.htm, last accessed November 30, 2018.

² <https://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=29250>, last accessed November 30, 2018.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons described above and set forth in the NOIT and pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 204.6(m)(6), USCIS has determined that the Regional Center no longer serves the purpose of promoting economic growth and hereby terminates the Regional Center's participation in the Program.

If the Regional Center disagrees with this decision, or if the Regional Center has additional evidence that shows this decision is incorrect, the Regional Center may file a motion or an appeal to this decision by filing a completed Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, along with the appropriate filing fee. A copy is enclosed. The Regional Center may also include a brief or other written statement and additional evidence in support of the motion or appeal. The Form I-290B must be filed within 33 days from the date of this notice. If a motion or appeal is not filed within 33 days, this decision is final.

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