



CHAPTER I

C H A P T E R I

INTRODUCTION

This document comprises the 2007 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG), and represents the coordinated efforts and concerns of area residents, business leaders, economic development professionals, and publicly elected officials from various governmental entities located throughout the District. The Central Arizona Association of Governments, also referred to as Arizona Planning Region Number 5, is a regional council of governments (COG), which is comprised of 18 governmental entities located within Gila and Pinal Counties. The Central Arizona Association of Governments presently contains its central offices in the Town of Superior, Arizona.

In submittal of the 2007 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy planning document, the Central Arizona Association of Governments is officially requesting continued designation as an Economic Development District (EDD) by the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

This CEDS document is a comprehensive economic development planning effort that has incorporated an array of economic development initiatives and concerns at various levels, and has incorporated such input into a composite form that is truly representative of the CAAG District's needs, goals, and objectives. The following chapters of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the CAAG District address important planning elements, which pertain to administrative organization; past development efforts; the district and its economy; environmental considerations; an analysis of District growth centers; economic potentials and constraints; and an outline of the CAAG District's development strategy, and plan for implementation.