

QL1.2 STIMULATE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

INTENT:

Support and stimulate sustainable growth and development, including improvements in job growth, capacity building, productivity, business attractiveness and livability.

LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

IMPROVED	ENHANCED	SUPERIOR	CONSERVING	RESTORATIVE
(1) Project only focus. Community growth and development is measurable but confined to the economic contribution of the delivery of a single project. The economics of the project are the only contribution to economic growth and development. That contribution consists primarily of jobs created during the design and construction. (A)	(2) Significant and desirable development. The project creates facilities and infrastructure that increase access to other facilities and infrastructure. The completed works contributes to community growth and development by adding a new operating capacity, or increase the quality of existing capacity. Capacity additions can apply to business and industry. They can also apply to the public in terms of cultural and recreational facilities and infrastructure. Jobs are created because of this development. (A, B)	(5) Improving local productivity. The additional access and increases in the number and quality of choices is sufficient to substantially increase local productivity. Need for repair or refurbishment of existing infrastructure is considered. Cost effective access to business and industry-related infrastructure increases productivity. The constructed works fosters an expansion of the local skill base. (A, B, C)	(13) Business and people attractiveness. The constructed works is designed to contribute substantially to community attractiveness for compatible businesses and industries by improving the overall business environment. This may include increased productivity, cost effective access to facilities and infrastructure, and enhanced cultural and recreational opportunities. People want to live and work in the community. (A, B, C, D)	(16) Developmental rebirth. At the early development stages, the project owner and the project team work with the community to identify existing community assets in the natural or built environment which, if restored, would improve the economic growth and development capacity of the community. The constructed works improve attractiveness through restoration of existing infrastructure, including physical, knowledge and social assets. Adaptive to changing conditions. (A, B, C, D, E)

DESCRIPTION

This credit is designed to foster sustainable, long-term economic growth and development for the community that is in concert with preexisting community goals. The overall objective is to create socio-economic vitality and prosperity. The goal of infrastructure projects is to contribute to the socio-economic vitality and attractiveness of the community for both work and life. Such a community attracts business and industry for its productivity and livability. People want to reside in the community because of opportunity, culture, recreation and security. Sustainable, long-term growth and development requires an ability to adapt to changing economic conditions and operating environment. Businesses want to relocate to the area because of the overall benefits and attractiveness.

Sustainable economic growth and development is not synonymous with expansion. Because of economic downturns and changes in demographics, many communities are facing shrinking populations and an eroding tax base. As a consequence, growth per se is not a viable option. In fact, in these situations, it may be more desirable to reduce the quantity of unused and abandoned housing, commercial buildings and industrial facilities to reduce the associated infrastructure burden.

For this credit, projects are recognized for their contribution to what is termed "sustainable community growth and development". This is growth and development that takes into account what is realistic and affordable, and sets the community on an efficient path for development and/or renewal. Communities are consolidated and reconfigured in ways that form the nucleus for redevelopment. Infrastructure projects must contribute to the overall community attractiveness for business and people. Existing infrastructure should be repaired, replaced and/or refurbished on a cost-effective schedule. A broad set of alternatives should be considered, covering business and industry, cultural and recreational elements.

ADVANCING TO HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

Benchmark: The project is designed as an entity unto itself, simply meeting the planning and regulatory requirements. No overall assessment of its contribution to sustainable community growth and development is made.

Performance improvement: Expand focus from a project-only look to community-wide considerations. Make growth and development for business and people attractive through increased infrastructure efficiency and cultural/recreational resources. Seek to restore, redevelop and repurpose community assets.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND DOCUMENTATION

A. Does the project create a significant number of jobs during its design and construction?

1. *Analyses showing what jobs are reasonably created during the design and construction of the project.*

B. Does the delivered works create new, or increase the quality of existing, operating, recreational or cultural capacity for business, industry, or the public?

1. *Report showing how the delivered works expands the capacity or increases the quality of operating, recreational or cultural capacity.*

**METRIC:****Assessment of the project's impact on the community's sustainable economic growth and development.**

2. *Verification of the report results by references to official community plans, goals, needs assessments, minutes of meetings, or letters from community leaders, decision-makers.*

C. Does the delivered works significantly improve community productivity?

1. *Analyses showing the effects of the delivered works on local productivity, e.g., reduced congestion, lower operating costs, increased operating capacity, increased efficiency, and new operating alternatives.*

D. Does the project improve community attractiveness for compatible businesses and industries, improves recreational opportunities, and generally improves the economic and social condition of the community?

1. *Demonstration of how the project improves community attractiveness for compatible businesses and industries, improves recreational opportunities, and generally improves the economic and social conditions in the community.*

2. *Evidence showing how the project will improve the overall business environment, e.g., increased productivity, improved access to facilities and infrastructure, increased alternative resources, facilities and infrastructure.*

3. *Evidence of new employment opportunities that will be created and the skill base is expanded.*

E. As part of the delivery of the constructed works, does the project rehabilitate, restore, create or repurpose existing community infrastructure assets in the natural and/or built environment, and in doing so, improves community prospects for sustainable economic growth and development?

1. *Reports, minutes of meetings, memoranda documenting efforts by the project team to work with the community to identify community infrastructure assets, needs for improvement, prospects and plans for growth and development.*

2. *Analyses showing how the project will improve community prospects for sustainable economic growth and development.*

SOURCES

- W. A. Wallace, Project Sustainability Management Guidelines, Unpublished manuscript, September 2010.

RELATED CREDITS

QL1.1 Improve Community Quality of Life

QL1.3 Develop Local Skills and Capabilities