

Oakland Tribune

May 1, 2008

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Bay Area News Group-East Bay

A14

Thursday | May 1, 2008

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New economic engine matters to all residents

WE HAVE SAID IT before but it bears repeating. The economic development of the city of Oakland is one of the most important components in the future economic health of the Bay Area.

From San Mateo to the San Joaquin Valley, everyone has an interest in seeing Oakland succeed in its

The effort has been led by Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums and has been managed by the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (OMCC), but it is a broad-based, collaborative endeavor that involves more than 1,000 individuals and organizations from government, business, education, labor and the community.

OUR OPINION

efforts to become a much more powerful economic engine for the region.

Recognition of that fact is, in part, why the Oakland Partnership was formed. It is a public-private collaborative effort that began in 2007 with hopes of shaping an economic development strategy and a plan for creating a vibrant economy for Oakland, in which more Oaklanders participate and the region can benefit.

On Friday, the partnership will hold its second economic summit to brief the community on its progress.

The effort has completed the analysis and work plan phases and is now heading for the tough stuff, i.e. actually doing things. The group hopes to implement its plans over the next two or three years with six-month progress updates.

The partnership hopes to tackle such relevant and

difficult issues as business climate, land-use policies and planning, workforce development, public safety, the environment, green technology, health care issues and the creative arts, just to name a few.

The summit will be held

at the Marriott City Center in Oakland from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

The interesting and unusual aspect of this venture is that it is not just another government task force. It strikes us as a sincere

effort by the collaborative to involve as many in the community as possible in helping to shape Oakland's future economic vitality.

But the importance of this effort extends far beyond Oakland. As the old saying goes, a rising

tide lifts all boats. Considering that Oakland is the fourth largest cargo port in the nation, we think it is time for the tide to rise in Oakland and the Oakland Partnership seems like the best and most sensible means to that end.