



# **SPACE VANDENBERG PROJECT DIRECTOR**

# REACH

Ideas + Action for a Thriving Central Coast

# SPACE VANDENBERG

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Space Vandenberg is California's moonshot: a bold \$9.5M initiative to transform Vandenberg Space Force Base into the nation's premier spaceport and launchpad for innovation and job access, while powering a thriving Space Triangle connecting the Central Coast, Kern and Los Angeles Counties. Backed by years of coalition-building, this initiative will launch a dedicated entity to unlock infrastructure, expand career pathways, and drive innovation. With a \$1.8 trillion market in play, this catalytic investment will advance regional coordination to build a thriving space, defense, and satellites sector, secure California's leadership, and uplift communities historically left out of the opportunity equation.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to elevate California's global competitiveness in space. Through the formation of a dedicated Space Vandenberg development entity, we will unlock transformative investment and job creation.

This role will direct project efforts to launch and sustain an entity to lead the world's premier space launch innovation hub through high-impact, integrated functions:

- **Vandenberg Works:** Open doors for Central Coast residents to space careers through inclusive workforce pathways, including career exposure, training, and credential programs.
- **Vandenberg Innovates:** Transform the region into a hub for space tech innovation and problem-solving via university-industry-VSFB collaboration, entrepreneurship, and R&D.
- **Vandenberg Accelerates:** Drive the development of critical infrastructure for spaceport growth through pre-development, permitting, innovative financing strategies and development.

This project is part of a broader statewide initiative under the [California Jobs First](#) initiative:

- [Space Vandenberg REACH press release](#)
- [CA Jobs First Implementation funding press release](#)
- [CA Economic Blueprint](#)

For more information, please see our [Space Vandenberg webpage](#).

# ABOUT REACH

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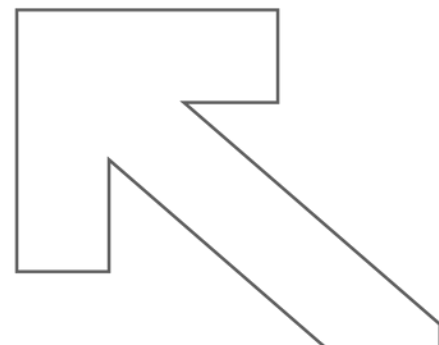
REACH is a fast-growing economic impact organization advancing a mission to increase economic prosperity on the Central Coast through big thinking, bold action and regional collaboration.

## OUR VISION, OUR WORK, OUR CULTURE

As a private sector-led 501c(3) organization that works in partnership with government, education, and nonprofits across San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties, REACH strives to ensure the Central Coast of California will be a place where current and future generations have the opportunity to thrive.

Established in 2019, REACH is a dynamic, early-stage organization of team players who jump in and work together to ensure overall success no matter the task. We flex to tackle emerging needs and opportunities, run toward challenges and cheer each other to the finish line.

REACH is an equal opportunity employer and does not engage in practices that discriminate against any person employed or seeking employment based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, protected Veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable law.



# ROLE OVERVIEW

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The Space Vandenberg Project Director role at REACH is both strategic and hands on, responsible for overseeing a diverse portfolio of grant-funded projects under a single umbrella project. The role will focus on spaceport-related infrastructure development while also guiding workforce development initiatives and innovation ecosystem projects. Components of this project will be implemented by REACH, while some components will be implemented by grant partners and technical consultants; this role will oversee the project in its entirety. This temporary two-year position is funded by the recent grant award and will focus on advancing infrastructure projects from concept through feasibility, entitlement, and readiness-to-build, as well as overseeing the implementation of STEM and credentialed degree programs and university innovation projects.

This position requires exceptional stakeholder engagement and the ability to navigate complex landscapes with federal government, industry, education and nonprofit partners, and other regional stakeholders. The Project Director will coordinate planning efforts, facilitate cross-sector collaboration, manage consultants, and ensure that projects are delivered on time, within scope, and aligned with REACH's mission to create inclusive economic opportunity across the Central Coast.

## Status

Full-Time Exempt  
Temporary grant-funded  
position expected to last 2 years  
Reports to Vice President of  
Projects and Programs

## Location

San Luis Obispo or  
Santa Barbara County  
(Hybrid with Local  
Travel Expected)

## Compensation

\$120,000 Annually  
Health Insurance  
Healthcare FSA  
Paid Vacation/PTO  
401k  
Professional Development  
Phone/Internet Stipend

## Apply

through posting on  
[Indeed](#)

# THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

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The successful candidate will:

- Have experience managing large, multi-stakeholder projects with complex components, including stakeholder engagement and building cross-sector partnerships, planning, tracking, and delivery of key project deliverables, and fulfilling reporting and compliance requirements required for grants.
- Have experience in infrastructure or real estate development and/or project financing (in private sector and/or federal government), understanding financing models, capital stacks, leveraging public/private resources, and leading projects through the concept, feasibility and entitlement processes.
- Have strong communication, trust-building, and facilitation skills, an ability to anticipate and manage risks and balance priorities, and a talent for moving projects forward in politically nuanced environments to ensure measurable outcomes are met and that there is strong partner alignment.



# CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

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## INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP

- **Entity Creation and Oversight** – Oversee in partnership with professional advisors the establishment of a formal legal and financial structure that may include researching potential models, assessing governance, legal, and financial frameworks, and evaluating the entity’s capacity to acquire, lease, or develop property, as well as coordinate workforce development and innovation initiatives.
- **Infrastructure** – In partnership with technical consultants, guide real estate predevelopment projects from concept through feasibility, entitlement, permitting, funding, and readiness-to-build, ensuring timely and effective project advancement.
- **Financing & Investment** – In partnership with technical consultants, evaluate financing models, capital stacks, and investment strategies to determine project feasibility, sustainability, and alignment with strategic objectives.
- **Workforce Development and Innovation** – Oversee grantee-led projects that build and expand career pathways, and drive innovation initiatives that foster collaboration among industry, academia, and government.



# CORE RESPONSIBILITIES cont.

## STAKEHOLDER + PARTNER COORDINATION

- Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders including federal government leaders, education and nonprofit partners, and private sector employers.
- Facilitate cross-sector meetings, workshops, and public forums to ensure stakeholder alignment across the full project.
- Navigate stakeholder dynamics and mediate competing priorities to keep projects on track.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT + OVERSIGHT

- Lead a team in planning, coordination, and execution of multiple grant-funded projects within the two-year grant period, utilizing well-established processes and tools from years of REACH's experience in grants management. Manage REACH staff contributions, providing clear direction and accountability.
- Develop and manage project plans, budgets, timelines, consultant scopes, and deliverables, ensuring grant compliance.
- Oversee consultants (engineering, planning, legal, etc.) to ensure quality deliverables and adherence to timelines.



# QUALIFICATIONS

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- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in project management, planning, business administration, or a related field; experience in the aerospace and defense industry a plus.
- PMP or equivalent project management certification (preferred).
- Knowledge and experience with financing models, capital stack structures, and investment strategies for project feasibility and sustainability.
- Experience in infrastructure or real estate development and/or project financing (in private sector and/or federal government), understanding financing models, capital stacks, leveraging public/private resources, and leading projects through the concept, feasibility and entitlement processes.
- Experience managing large, multi-stakeholder projects with complex components, including stakeholder engagement and building cross-sector partnerships, planning, tracking, and delivery of key project deliverables, budgeting, and fulfilling reporting and compliance requirements required for grants.
- Strong communication, trust-building, and facilitation skills, an ability to anticipate and manage risks and balance priorities, and a talent for moving projects forward in politically nuanced environments to ensure measurable outcomes are met and that there is strong partner alignment.
- High ethical standards and commitment to REACH's mission and values.

