

### FIVE THINGS THAT MATTER – EB-5 PROJECT INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

Phone: 1-561-386-5356

E-mail: info@EB5AN.com

www.EB5AN.com

www.EB5investments.com

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#### Introduction

- After researching all the options and determining that the EB-5 Program is the right path forward, an investor is ready to choose an EB-5 project. Selecting the right project is crucial for obtaining a Green Card while safeguarding the investor's capital.
- We are pleased to share an EB-5 project investment framework for investors considering EB-5.
- estate projects can be a daunting task. Drawing on years of experience in reviewing hundreds of projects, EB5 Affiliate Network has distilled this complex process into a list of the five things that matter most for anyone reviewing an EB-5 project. Each of these considerations identifies and explains a core issue related to the two key risk areas of any EB-5 project: (i) immigration risk and (ii) financial risk.





## About EB5 Affiliate Network and the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Visa



EB5 Affiliate Network (EB5AN) is an EB-5 investment fund manager, USCIS-approved regional center operator, and consultancy. EB5AN helps foreign investors obtain U.S. permanent residency through investments in U.S. business enterprises and real estate development projects within the guidelines of the EB-5 program.



The EB-5 Immigrant Investor Visa program is a U.S. government program that encourages new investment in job-creating business enterprises. By making an eligible EB-5 investment that creates at least 10 new U.S. jobs, the foreign investor and his or her immediate family are eligible to receive U.S. permanent residency and to immigrate.



#### **EB-5 Investor Priorities and Green Card Benefits**

The number one priority for all our EB-5 investors is to secure a permanent green card.



All EB5AN investments are conservatively structured to help ensure green card approval.

Many of our EB-5 investors view immigrating to the United States via the EB-5 program as a gateway to a better future for their families. Our EB-5 investors are typically in pursuit of at least one of the following permanent green card benefits.



## **Employment** Flexibility

Work or start a business anywhere in the U.S.; change location as often as you like



### Safeguard of Hard-Earned Investment Funds

Protect funds with a passive investment and a successful immigration process



#### Residence Flexibility

Live anywhere in the U.S.; change location as often as you like



## Backup Plan for Instability

Secure a backup plan for safe haven in situations of political instability or economic volatility at home



## Travel Flexibility

Leave and enter the U.S. freely; no visa required



## Medicare Health Insurance Benefits

Receive health insurance benefits if you are at least 65 years old and have held your green card for at least five years



### Permanent Resident Status

Renew your green card every 10 years indefinitely



#### Superior Health Care

Gain access to the most technologically advanced health care services, which are available only in the U.S.



## **Higher Admission Rates at Top Schools**

Increase the odds of children's admission to top colleges and graduate schools



### Social Security Financial Benefits

Receive retirement benefits in the form of supplemental income after contributing to the Social Security program



## **Lower Tuition Costs**

Pay significantly less for children's tuition for college and graduate school



## U.S. Citizenship through Naturalization

Optional path to become a U.S. citizen after five years



## EB5AN: A Leading EB-5 Investment Fund Manager

2,000+ families from 60+ countries and regions have invested through EB5AN's direct and regional center investments.



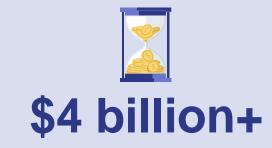


2013

**Established** 



**USCIS-approved regional** centers covering 20+ states



Assets under development



100%

Approval history on USCISadjudicated projects



projects; multiple I-526 and I-924 exemplar approvals Completed or ongoing EB-5



# **EB5AN Managing Partners**





Samuel B. Silverman Managing Partner EB5AN



Michael B. Schoenfeld Managing Partner EB5AN















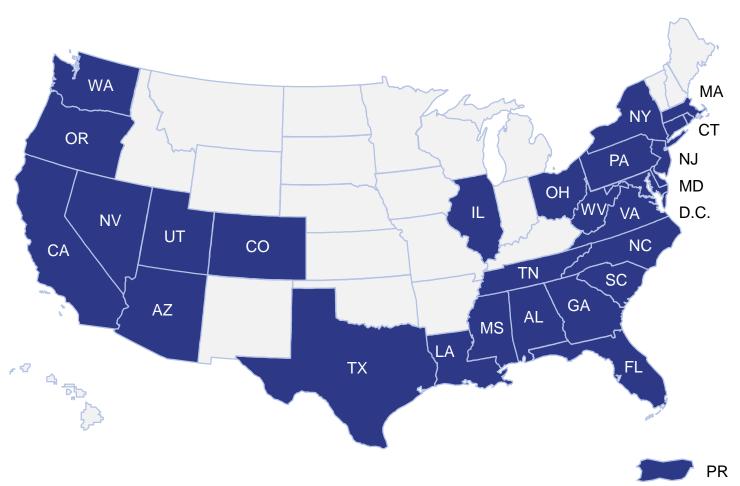


- Yale University B.A. in Economics with a concentration in Mandarin Chinese
- Boston Consulting Group (BCG) business and strategy consulting
- M.B.A., Stanford Graduate School of Business
- Forbes 30 Under 30 National Winner for Social Entrepreneurship

- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill B.A. in Economics and B.S. in Business Administration
- Boston Consulting Group (BCG) business and strategy consulting
- AEA Investors leading middle-market private-equity firm
- Forbes 30 Under 30 National Winner for Social Entrepreneurship



## EB5 Affiliate Network Operates 10+ Regional Centers that cover 20+ States, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C.



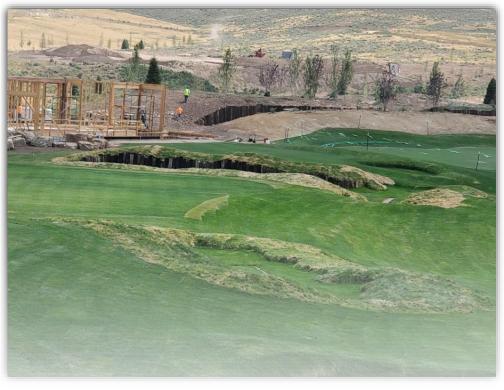




## Rural and Urban EB-5 Projects

- EB-5 projects that are located in rural or highunemployment areas qualify for targeted employment area (TEA) designation. (Highunemployment TEA projects are also known as urban projects.)
- Rural and urban EB-5 projects can accept a lower minimum investment amount of \$800,000 instead of \$1,050,000.
- Both categories allow investors to obtain set-aside visas under the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022.
- The rural TEA set-aside visa category is made up of 20% of the total EB-5 visa supply. Urban projects are assigned 10% of the total EB-5 visa supply.
- Investors in rural projects also gain priority processing of Form I-526E.
- Prospective investors should examine the particular risk profile of each available rural or urban project.







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High Quality EB5AN Projects Open for Investment

## 1 USCIS I-956F Project Request Approval

#### Why it matters



- When an investor files an I-526E petition to immigrate under the EB-5 program, USCIS must determine
  whether the project receiving the investment qualifies for EB-5 and is expected to create the requisite number
  of jobs. Projects must file Form I-956F to apply for USCIS approval before the investors can submit their I526E petitions.
- Even though investors can file their I-526E petitions before the project's I-956F application is approved, investors in projects without I-956F approval face greater immigration risk—the project's economic analysis could be rejected, the project could be improperly structured, or the project could otherwise be ineligible under the EB-5 program. On the other hand, projects with I-956F approval have already been reviewed and approved by USCIS.

I-956F approval and regional center designation, which is applied for through Form I-956, are not the same. Only I-956F project approval means that the project itself has passed USCIS scrutiny. At the same time, it is also important for investors to make sure that a project's regional center has obtained official USCIS designation through Form I-956.





## 1 USCIS I-956F Project Request Approval

#### **Investor benefit**



- Investors who select projects with I-956F approval know at the time of their investment that USCIS has already reviewed the project documentation and determined that it is compliant with the EB-5 program and that the economic methodology used to calculate job creation is consistent with USCIS requirements.
- The I-526E petition contains only two types of documentation: project documentation and investor documentation. USCIS will not need to re-review project documentation, which means investors do not bear the risk that the project might not be approved by USCIS.
- For projects with I-956F approval, USCIS will only review individual investor information and source of funds documentation when adjudicating investors' I-526E petitions. I-956F approval may result in faster processing times for I-526E petitions because the information under review by USCIS is significantly reduced.

#### Question(s) to ask



- Has the EB-5 project already filed and received approval for its I-956F application? A project sponsor should be direct and honest, answering either yes or no. If the sponsor claims the project has I-956F approval, follow up by requesting a copy of the official USCIS approval letter. Any reputable project sponsor can provide the letter and will be proud to do so.
- Has the EB-5 regional center sponsoring the project already filed and received approval for its I-956 application? A project sponsor should be direct and honest, answering either yes or no to both questions. If the Form I-956 has been approved, the project sponsor should be able to provide a copy of the USCIS Form I-956 approval letter.



## 2 Sufficient EB-5 job creation

#### Why it matters



- After USCIS has approved a project under the EB-5 program and has accepted investors' I-526E petitions, the
  project must create at least 10 jobs per EB-5 investor for each investor to receive his or her permanent Green
  Card.
- I-526E approval grants an investor a temporary Green Card, but for temporary residency to become permanent, the investor must file Form I-829 two years after I-526E approval. The I-829 petition must demonstrate that an investor's investment has resulted in 10 jobs as required by the EB-5 program.
- For real estate projects sponsored by regional centers, most of the EB-5-eligible jobs created are calculated based on construction expenditures and revenue generation—not on the number of individual W-2 employees.
- Regional economic multipliers are assigned for each \$1 million of investment capital spent on construction
  costs or \$1 million of new revenue creation. Therefore, most of the estimated EB-5 jobs created by the project
  and assigned to EB-5 investors are calculated using the project's construction budget and estimated revenues.
- If a real estate project is in the early stages of development and has not created all of the required EB-5 jobs at the time of the EB-5 investment, the investor faces greater immigration risk because the project might lack sufficient capital, face delays in expending that capital, or fail to create revenue as expected—any of which might result in a failure to create the number of EB-5 jobs required to ensure all EB-5 investors receive their permanent Green Cards.



- Projects that are under construction and have spent significant amounts of capital—including the use of bridge financing have already created a pool of jobs for potential EB-5 investors.
- Such projects offer the security of advanced project completion and ensure that the required number of jobs will be created for EB-5 investors to receive their permanent Green Cards.

#### **Questions to ask**

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- Has the project started construction? Investors should be cautious about projects not yet under construction. Many developers are dependent on EB-5 capital and will not break ground before securing these investments. In such cases, if the project fails to raise the EB-5 capital, the project will fail.
- Have enough jobs been created for all EB-5 investors in the project? The safest projects will have not only started construction but will be far enough along in construction to create the required jobs for all the EB-5 investors. Such projects effectively have eliminated the immigration risk.
- What percentage of the required EB-5 jobs come from construction alone, not revenue creation? The more a project depends on construction spending alone for EB-5 job creation, the greater the certainty that enough EB-5 jobs will be created. If EB-5 job creation depends on future revenues, the immigration risk to EB-5 investors is higher because not only must the project's construction spending match its budget but the project's revenues must also meet expectations. Revenues are projected years into the future and may not adequately account for changes to the market or other factors.
- If the project is already under construction, is sufficient capital available to complete the project and create the total number of projected jobs? Investors should be wary of projects that are delayed or have been "under construction" for long periods. Appropriate construction timelines vary based on asset type, size, and location.



## 2 Sufficient EB-5 job creation

#### **Note regarding bridge financing**



- Due to the long wait times associated with the EB-5 process, reputable and experienced project sponsors
  often use bridge financing for projects while raising EB-5 capital.
- Access to bridge financing is a positive indicator that the project sponsor has the financial means to fund the
  project without raising all or any of the EB-5 capital.
- This approach benefits EB-5 investors because all jobs created by bridge financing count toward the EB-5 job requirement.
- Through bridge financing, some—or even all—of the required jobs can be created before any EB-5 investors
  make investments.
- In such cases, if the project has also received approval for its I-956F application, EB-5 investors can be
  assured that the project has already created all jobs and met all requirements for their permanent Green Cards
  even before making their investments.



## 3 Properly structured capital stack

#### Why it matters



- A project's capital stack is the combined sources of its financing. For EB-5 real estate projects, the capital stack is
  usually divided into senior loan financing from a bank, EB-5 project financing—usually in the second position as
  mezzanine debt or preferred equity—and equity financing from the developer.
- Understanding how the capital stack is structured and how much of the funding is already committed offers insight
  into the financial risk of a project. The primary risks are as follows:
  - No bank financing has been drawn. Certain projects may have only secured a commitment letter or may lack bank financing for other reasons. In such cases, the EB-5 investors bear the risk that the bank will not finance the project. Without bank financing, which is often most of the capital for the deal, the project will likely fail.
  - No developer equity is committed. Certain project developers may not commit equity until the EB-5 capital is fully raised and committed. This may indicate that the developer is wary of the project risks and will only take chances with other people's money or that the developer doesn't have alternatives and can't complete the project without EB-5 capital.
  - Developer equity amount is too small. Working with project developers that contribute only a nominal amount
    of capital to a project—such as 5% of the total cost—may increase both immigration risk and financial risk to EB5 investors. Such developers have not taken on enough risk to attempt to mitigate and reduce the project's
    overall risk. We recommend seeking projects with a minimum of 10% committed developer equity.



- Investing in a properly structured project that is partially or fully financed by a reputable and well-capitalized developer will increase the likelihood that investors will receive their permanent Green Cards. It also increases the likelihood that investors' capital will ultimately be repaid at the end of the loan or investment period.
- Exit opportunities are available for completed projects, but incomplete or stalled projects do not have favorable exits for EB-5 investors.

#### **Questions to ask**

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- What is the capital stack for the EB-5 project? The capital stack is typically reflected in both percentages and hard numbers. For example, for a project that costs \$100 million, a typical capital stack may have 65% senior financing (\$65 million), 15% EB-5 mezzanine financing (\$15 million), and 20% developer equity (\$20 million). In general, EB-5 investors should strongly avoid projects with more than 50% EB-5 financing in the capital stack and projects that do not use third-party bank financing.
- Has a senior loan been secured and, if so, how much has been drawn?
   Commitment letters and letters of intent are not binding. Investors should ensure that a senior loan agreement has been executed with a reputable financial institution.
   Depending on asset class, some developers may have strong relationships with lenders and only secure the loan later in the process if they have a sufficient balance sheet.
- Has developer equity been committed? Investors should request a copy of the equity commitment letter from the developer and other evidence that the developer has committed the stated equity to the project. If the land is purchased and construction has started prior to EB-5 investment, this is a strong signal equity is committed.
- **Is the developer equity amount too small?** Generally, developer equity amounts of less than 10% indicate that the developer has not incurred enough risk to mitigate project risk.



## 4 Feasible exit strategy

#### Why it matters



- A project's exit strategy is how the project will ultimately make money—specifically, enough money to pay back all EB-5 investment capital.
- Many EB-5 projects are structured as real estate projects because real estate projects have hard assets as collateral and a relatively easy-to-understand exit strategy in a well-known and mature market.
- While emerging, venture capital, and speculative investments may qualify for the EB-5 program, they typically
  are not a good fit because of the greater financial risk associated with such investments.
- Gambling on speculative investments makes sense for those chasing a high return, but such investments do
  not make sense for EB-5 investors who want to ensure that they obtain Green Cards and safeguard the return
  of their capital in a defined time period.



### 4 Feasible exit strategy

#### **Investor benefit**



 A clearly defined and feasible exit strategy is critical to the return of the EB-5 investor's capital. A reputable developer with a track record of repayment and exits increases the likelihood that the EB-5 investment capital will ultimately be returned to the investor.

#### **Questions to ask**

- What is the exit strategy for the EB-5 project and EB-5 Investors? Real estate projects typically employ two primary types of exit strategies: selling the project or refinancing the asset after operations are stabilized. In the first case, investors need to determine the likelihood, timing, and price for the completed project to sell. For a refinance, investors need to determine the likelihood that the project will be well-operated and generate enough value.
- If the exit strategy is from unit sales, what is the third-party appraised sales value for the project upon completion? Reputable project sponsors obtain third-party appraisals for projects intended for sale upon completion.
- Additionally, what is the plan for redeploying the capital after the unit sales? The redeployment of EB-5 capital is an important topic, and having a clear plan in place is critical to ensuring Green Card safety.
- If the exit strategy is from refinancing from operations, what are the projected revenues and costs? Reputable project developers have financial projections and pro formas regarding expected revenues and costs that are backed up by third-party appraisals and data.
- Has the developer or project sponsor previously sold or refinanced similar projects in the past, and have these past projects met their anticipated financial targets? Reputable project developers have successfully executed similar projects in the past with conservative financial assumptions that were either met or exceeded in terms of the sale price or exit strategy assumptions.



## **5** Guarantees and protections

#### Why it matters



- Well-structured projects typically feature certain guarantees and protections for investors that limit immigration and financial risk. The following are some common guarantees and protections:
  - An I-526E refund guarantee ensures that if an EB-5 investor's I-526E petition is denied, their EB-5 investment will be refunded. Without this guarantee, a denial could mean that an investor's capital remains invested for an extended period with no Green Card benefit and little or no return. An I-526E refund guarantee should be from a strong, well-capitalized entity, which helps ensure that an investor will be able to receive his or her capital back promptly in the case of an I-526E denial.
  - A completion guarantee ensures that the developer will fund any project costs in excess of the budgeted amount. Developers securing senior bank financing should always have this type of guarantee. Without it, any costs over budget could result in a delayed or incomplete project.
  - Repayment terms ensure repayment within a set timeframe. Projects typically have loan terms, but they
    may allow extensions for long periods, or even indefinitely. They may also have equity conversion options.
    In such cases, the project sponsor may be able to keep EB-5 capital invested even after investors have
    received permanent Green Cards. Well-structured projects usually require repayment within a certain
    period once an EB-5 investor has received his or her permanent Green Card or, even better, once each
    investor has filed his or her I-829 petition.



## **5** Guarantees and protections

#### **Investor benefit**



 Guarantees and protections are all for the investor's benefit. Their absence may raise concerns or indicate high immigration or financial risk.

#### **Questions to ask**



- Does the project fully refund EB-5 investor capital if an I-526E petition is denied?

  Strong EB-5 projects have a clear plan to repay investors in the case of an I-526E petition denial.
- Does the project have a completion guarantee? A completion guarantee reduces the job
  creation and financial risk since a fully constructed project is worth substantially more than
  a partially completed project and all construction jobs will be created if the project
  completes construction.
- What are the repayment terms? Strong EB-5 projects have a clearly defined term of investment with minimal flexibility for the project developer to extend or delay repayment of EB-5 investor capital.
- What is the loan term? The loan term should be clearly defined and meet USCIS requirements for keeping the EB5 investment capital at risk.
- Is there any option or ability for the loan to be converted to equity without EB-5 investor consent? Some projects have this type of a loan conversion option which can be highly misleading for potential EB-5 investors. Investors should be cautious and confirm if this type of conversion option is present.
- What other guarantees or protections does the project offer? Strong projects offer multiple guarantees and other similar protections for EB-5 investors to reduce both immigration and financial risk.



## **5** Guarantees and protections

## Note regarding principal repayment guarantees



- Certain projects may guarantee the repayment of EB-5 investors' investment principal.
- Such guarantees are likely to result in increased scrutiny from USCIS and even denials because such guarantees are in direct conflict with the "atrisk" requirement of the EB-5 program.
- EB-5 investors should carefully examine how such repayment guarantees are worded and whether they are likely to be accepted by USCIS.
- Generally, we do not recommend investing in projects with repayment guarantees.

## Note regarding EB-5 capital repayment with a real estate asset



- Certain projects may repay investors by giving them houses or condominium units.
- Once again, USCIS is generally against this type of repayment because it conflicts with the at-risk requirements of the program.
- While such projects might have been approved in the past through clever structuring that slipped past USCIS scrutiny, USCIS is now much more vigilant in striking down such Green-Card-for-realestate schemes.
- We do not recommend investing in projects that promise a real estate asset as EB-5 capital repayment.







## Wohali Utah – Rural TEA (Loan)





## Wohali Utah: Residential Community with Upscale Amenities

Qualifies as a rural TEA – \$800,000 investment with faster, priority processing and 20% visa set aside

#### WohaliUtah.com



#### Residential Community Development with Amenities

Secured EB-5 loan investment

\$79.2M, ~19% of total cost

Total project cost **\$427.5M** 

#### **Rural TEA**

provides priority processing and visa set asides to avoid backlog I-526E approval refund and job creation guaranties

\$50M senior construction loan in place

Rolling 5-year loan term from investment date

(with a single 1-year optional extension)

Phase 1 nearly sold out

Construction underway with 300+ EB-5 jobs already created



## August 2022 Construction and Sales Update

Phase 1 is nearly sold out with only six lots remaining.

Construction of the golf course, clubhouse, and community infrastructure is well underway.





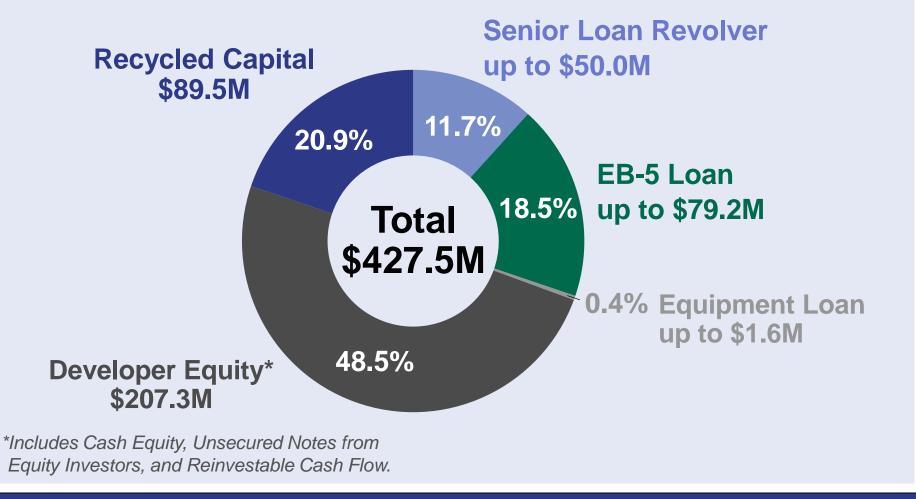






## **Capital Stack Breakdown**

EB-5 loan is up to 18.5% of stack; fully capitalized with no minimum raise; EB-5 loan will not reduce or replace developer equity



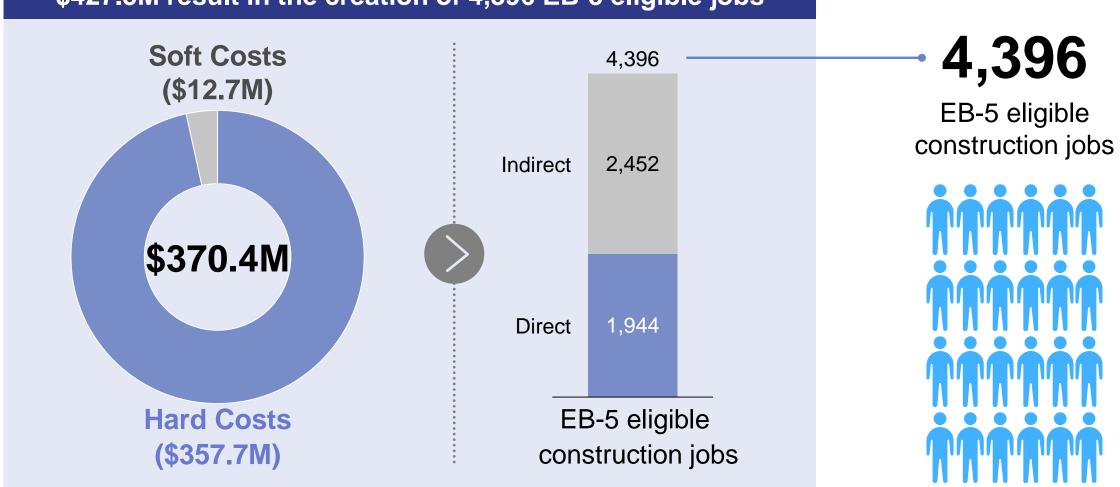




## The Wohali Utah project creates 4,396 EB-5 eligible jobs.



\$370.4M in EB-5 eligible costs out of a total project cost of \$427.5M result in the creation of 4,396 EB-5 eligible jobs







Twin Lakes Georgia – Rural TEA (Preferred Equity)





## Twin Lakes Georgia: Single-Family Home Community with Amenities

This rural TEA project qualifies for an \$800,000 investment with priority processing and a 20% visa set aside.



#### **Single-Family Home Community with Amenities**

Kolter has built 20,000+ single family homes

\$40M, ~6% of total cost

Total project cost **\$666.8M** 

Construction already underway

**Rural TEA** 

provides priority processing and visa set asides to avoid backlog Senior loan with Wells Fargo Bank

Total EB-5 job creation **6,944+ jobs** 

24+ jobs

already created for each \$800K investor 1,220+ jobs already created as of June 2022



## **Construction Progress Photographs**









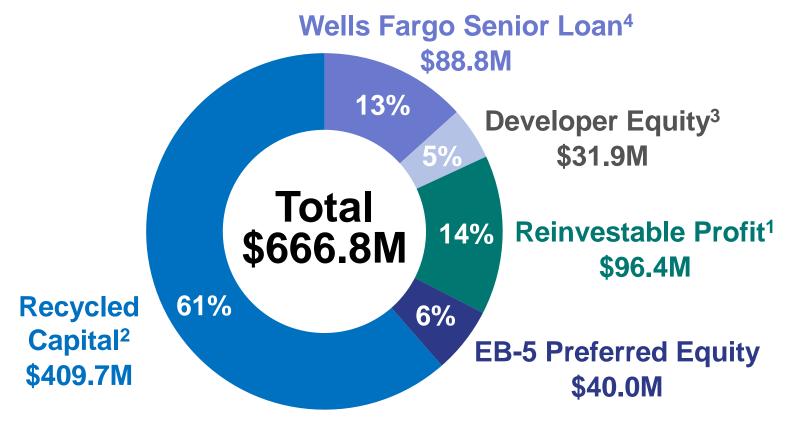






## **Capital Stack Breakdown**

Twin Lakes Georgia is fully capitalized with no minimum EB-5 raise; EB-5 preferred equity is only ~6% of total project cost



Reinvestable profit is total anticipated unlevered cash flows. This figure is dependent on home sales performance. 100% of profits may not be available to finance project costs.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Recycled capital is funds that are reused on a rolling basis as homes are continuously built and sold.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Developer equity is comprised of (i) peak Kolter cash equity; (ii) an intercompany note provided by members of Kolter; and (iii) \$900,000 of EB-5 equity from a closed offering.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The senior loan facility is comprised of (i) acquisition and development (A&D) loans for phases 2, 3, & 4 of up to \$38.7 million; (b) future phase A&D loans of \$30.1 million; and (c) a revolving \$20.0 million line of credit.

## Twin Lakes Georgia creates 6,945 EB-5 eligible jobs.



\$527.2 million in EB-5 eligible costs out of the \$666.8 million total project cost will create 6,945 EB-5 eligible jobs







## Saltaire St. Petersburg – Urban TEA (Loan)





## Saltaire St. Petersburg: Luxury Condominiums and Retail Space

Qualifies as a high unemployment TEA under the current rules – \$800K investment

192 residences (levels 6-35)

Penthouse units (levels 34–35)

Standard units (levels 6–33)

Amenities and plaza units (level 7)

Parking garage (levels 2–6)

Retail space and lobby (level 1)



#### Luxury condominiums and retail space

Secured EB-5 Ioan investment

Phase II EB-5 \$49.5M, 22% of total cost

Total project cost \$227.4M

EB-5 loan repayment guaranty

10+ Jobs
Already
Created for
All Investors

I-526 approval refund guaranty

100% of Condos Sold Out

Senior loan executed with Wells Fargo Bank

Construction already underway



## July 2022 Construction Update

Vertical construction has been completed.

Construction has already reached the top floor.





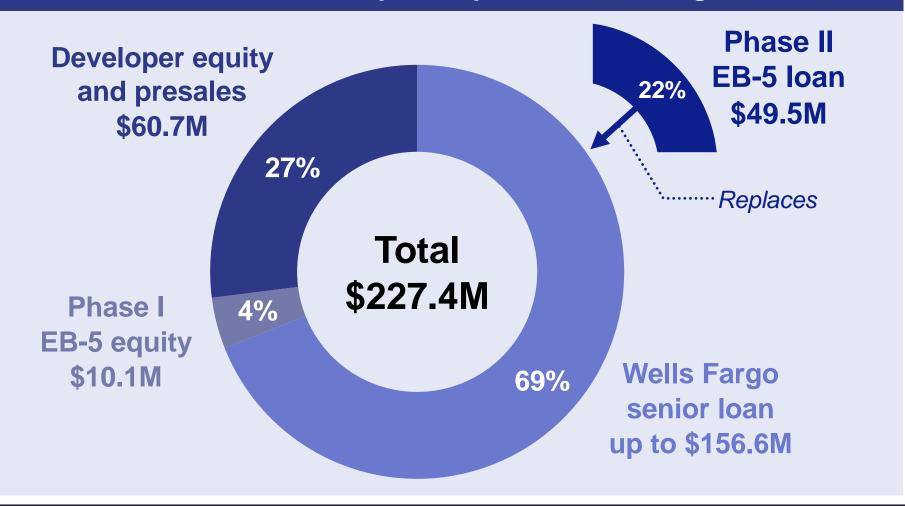






## **Capital Stack Breakdown**

EB-5 Phase II loan up to 22% of stack; fully capitalized with no minimum raise; EB-5 loan replaces part of Wells Fargo senior loan

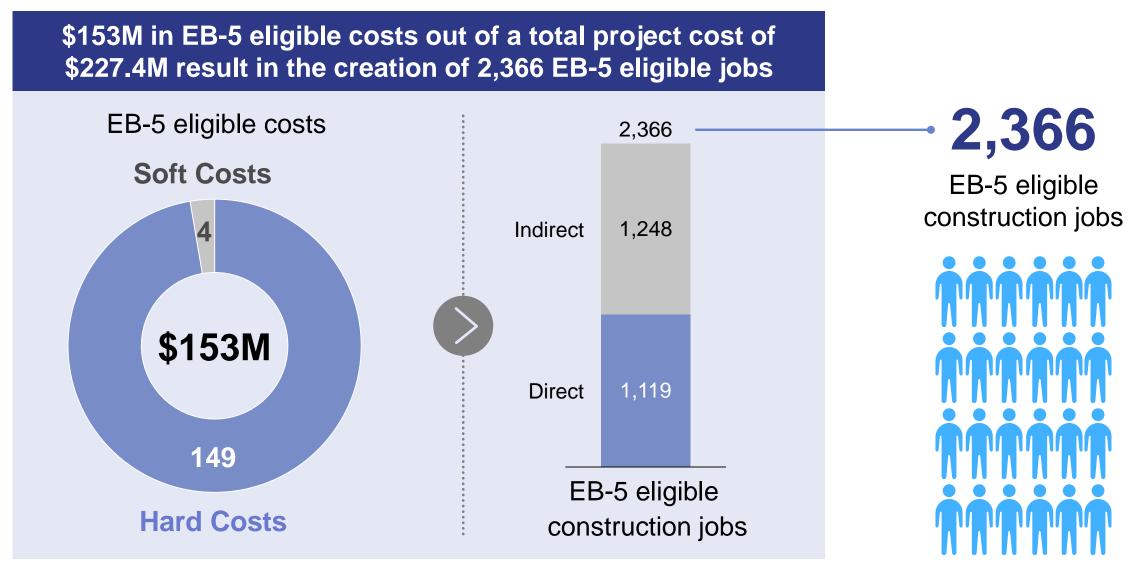






## The Saltaire project creates 2,366 EB-5 eligible jobs.











Please contact us to schedule a call to discuss approved and available EB-5 projects.

Phone/WhatsApp: 1-561-386-5356

E-mail: info@EB5AN.com

www.EB5investments.com