

DOCKETED

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Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion - Comite Civico del Valle, Inc.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



COMITE CIVICO DEL VALLE, INC.
INFORMED PEOPLE BUILD HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
www.ccvhealth.org

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

We are pleased to provide this letter in support of San Diego State University's expansion plan for a STEM building on the Brawley campus. We urge you to include SDSU's \$80M request for a STEM building to support workforce needs related to lithium extraction in the Lithium Valley Budget Package.

For 35 years, Comite Civico del Valle, Inc. (CCV) has stayed true to its mission to improve access to healthcare, information, and prevention programs for low-income, underrepresented, and underserved community members in Imperial County via education, capacity building, and civic participation. We have often seen outsiders attempt to move into the region and profit from our resources without taking into consideration the needs of the community or the regional impact of their actions. That is why we support SDSU's plans for expansion, and their **Imperial Valley** driven commitment. The close proximity to the Salton Sea and the lithium extraction operations create an ideal location for STEM research and curriculum. Educational programming that can support the alternative fuel industries interested in investing in the Imperial Valley would have a significant economic impact on the city and region. This type of project supports the vision outlined in the Imperial County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that calls for training and job opportunities that help bolster economic growth in the region. A dedicated pipeline for our students to receive the training to fulfill the workforce needs would have a transformative effect. And expanding STEM capabilities at the Brawley campus would allow for students to complete their education without commuting to the San Diego campus and would also allow for significant additional student enrollment.

SDSU shares our common goal of building up the community and creating lifelong pathways for success for the underrepresented. As we have been actively working to increase investment in educational resources, we know that this project will be a catalyst for future growth and development in the Imperial Valley. We strongly support San Diego State University and look forward to strengthening our community partnership for the betterment of the region. If you have any questions, please contact us at 760-351-8761 or email us at contact@ccvhealth.org.

Sincerely,

Luis Olmedo
Executive Director
Comite Civico del Valle

CC:

Senator Ben Hueso
Senator Nancy Skinner
Asm. Eduardo Garcia
Asm. Phil Ting