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<th><strong>Docket Number:</strong></th>
<th>20-LITHIUM-01</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Title:</strong></td>
<td>Lithium Valley Commission</td>
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<td><strong>TN #:</strong></td>
<td>242843</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Document Title:</strong></td>
<td>San Diego State University Comments - Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion - Calexico Union High School District</td>
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<td><strong>Description:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Organization:</strong></td>
<td>San Diego State University</td>
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<td><strong>Submitter Role:</strong></td>
<td>Intervenor</td>
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<td><strong>Submission Date:</strong></td>
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Comment Received From: San Diego State University
Submitted On: 4/27/2022
Docket Number: 20-LITHIUM-01

Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion - Calexico Union High School District

Additional submitted attachment is included below.
April 21, 2022

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

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of San Diego State University’s expansion plan for an Innovation District and STEM programs on the Brawley campus. I 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.

Brawley’s 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 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 additional student enrollment.

I want to share with you that we are dynamic border community that is the gateway from Mexico to the United States in the southeastern corner of California. Our city is a vibrant multicultural community that is implementing a fast-track economic development model that offers business development incentives that include, but are not limited to, having the designation for the Opportunity Zone program (a federal tax deferral program for new investments) in our city. Our city is home to 13,347 students that receive education through our three high schools, three junior high schools and nine elementary schools.

As the Mayor of Calexico who has been actively working to increase investment in educational resources, expand current businesses and attract new industry, I know that this project will be a catalyst for future growth and development in the region. I strongly support San Diego State University and look forward to strengthening our community partnership for the betterment of Imperial Valley.
If you have any questions, please contact me via email at jmoreno@calexico.ca.gov, you can also contact Interim City Manager Diego Favila at (760) 768-2110 and via email at dfavila@calexico.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

CITY OF CALEXICO

[Signature]

Javier Moreno
Mayor

cc: Senator Ben Hueso
    Senator Nancy Skinner
    Senator Bob Wieckowski
    Senator John Laird
    Senator Nancy Skinner
    Asm. Eduardo Garcia
    Asm. Phil Ting
    Asm. Kevin McCarty