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Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion - Imperial Irrigation District

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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April 18, 2022

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

RE: Support for Innovation District and STEM programs at SDSU Brawley

Dear Governor Newsom:

Imperial Irrigation District is pleased to provide this letter in support for San Diego State University's (SDSU) expansion plan for an Innovation District and STEM programs at its Brawley campus. We urge you to include SDSU's \$80 million request for a STEM building to support workforce needs related to lithium extraction in the revised budget.

The future of Lithium Valley creates an ideal opportunity to invest in STEM research and curriculum in this region. Educational programming that can support the alternative fuel industries would have a significant local economic impact. 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 local students to receive the training to fulfill the workforce needs would have a transformative effect. Expanding STEM capabilities at the SDSU Brawley campus would allow for students to complete their education there without commuting to the main campus in San Diego.

SDSU's expansion plan for an Innovation District and investment in STEM programs goes hand in hand with other local initiatives that seek to begin preparing students and out workforce here in Imperial County.

For these reasons, IID strongly supports the request from SDSU for funding in the revised budget. Thank you for your consideration, should you have any questions feel free to contact Antonio Ortega, Governmental Affairs Officer, at aortega@iid.com or 760-604-1092.

Sincerely,

Enrique B. Martinez
General Manager