

DOCKETED

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Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion -Â Innercare

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.

Innecare is a non-profit corporation providing an array of comprehensive primary care services to residents throughout Imperial and Riverside County. Innecare is a Federally Qualified Health Center and was the first migrant health center established in this nation by the federal government in 1970. Innecare has expanded from two original clinics to ten clinics, four dental centers, and three Women, Infant and Children Nutrition Education Centers and six WIC voucher distribution sites.

Innecare

852 East Danenberg Drive, El Centro, CA 92243
Phone (760) 344-9951 Fax (760) 344-5840
www.innecare.org

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Making life healthy from the inside out

Innecare strongly supports the development of a San Diego State University STEM research and workforce development campus project in Brawley, which would be enormously helpful to all Salton Sea Lithium developers.

Innecare believes 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 the Imperial Valley. If you have any questions, please contact my office at Yvonneb@innercare.org or at 760-344-9951, extension 10159.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Bell, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Senator Ben Hueso
Senator Nancy Skinner

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