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Submitted On: 4/27/2022
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**Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion - Imperial Valley
Economic Development Corporation**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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

April 25, 2022

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC), 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.

Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation is committed to the expansion of innovative industries and the diversification of our local economy that directly supports economic vitality and job creation in Imperial County. Strategic planning for the future of industry in Imperial County is paramount. Educational opportunities such as this STEM project will support the workforce needs of developers that are considering or have chosen to do business in our region. Participation in these programs will equip local students and job seekers with the tools necessary to secure the growing list of skilled jobs that are becoming available.

IVEDC 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 ESM and other Salton Sea Lithium developers.

I believe that this project will be a catalyst for future growth and development in the region. IVEDC strongly supports San Diego State University and I look forward to strengthening our community partnership for the betterment of the Imperial Valley. If you have any questions, please contact me in my office at tim@ivedc.com or at (760) 353-8332.

Sincerely,

Timothy E. Kelley
President/CEO
Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation

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