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Submitted On: 4/27/2022  
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**Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion - Imperial Valley  
Regional Chamber of Commerce**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



# IMPERIAL VALLEY REGIONAL CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

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

April 20, 2022

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.

Our mission at the Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (IVRCC) is dedicated to serving Imperial Valley businesses and promoting community prosperity through advocacy, economic development, connectivity, and business education. Our mission as a regional chamber embraces the expansion plan by SDSU and IVRCC is looking towards the future, partnering with SDSU on this amazing vision. The Imperial Valley is rich in resources, but these resources need guidance that this is sustainable plan provides to move towards economic prosperity, growth in education and community engagement.

We have 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 County. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Irigoyen at (760) 554-1481.

Sincerely,

Anne Irigoyen  
President, Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Senator Ben Hueso  
Senator Nancy Skinner  
Senator John Laird  
Senator Bob Wiecekowski  
Asm. Eduardo Garcia  
Asm. Phil Ting  
Asm. Kevin McCarty  
Asm. Richard Bloom