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Submitted On: 5/11/2022
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Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion - Padilla

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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

Dear Governor Newsom:

We are 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 in Imperial County. We 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.

The proposed Innovation District'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 as a whole.

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 our students, and residents 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 have dedicated much of my public life to increasing investment in our educational resources and programs, and we 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 the Imperial County. Should you have any questions, please contact me at steve@votestevepadilla.com.

Sincerely,

Steve Padilla
Councilmember, City of Chula Vista
Chair, California Coastal Commission
Candidate, California State Senate, District 18

Cc: Lithium Valley Commission
Senator Ben Hueso
Senator Nancy Skinner
Asm. Eduardo Garcia
Asm Phil Ting
Senator Nancy Skinner