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*Comment Received From: San Diego State University
Submitted On: 5/11/2022
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Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion - El Centro

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



*Mayor and
Council Members*
Cheryl Viegas-Walker
Tomás Oliva
Edgard Garcia
Martha Cardenas-Singh
Sylvia Marroquin

May 9, 2022

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

Dear Governor Newsom,

I write to you today to express the City of El Centro's full support of San Diego State University's request for \$80 million to fund a STEM building and Expansion Plan for an Innovation District on the SDSU-Imperial Valley Brawley Campus, which seeks to support workforce needs related to lithium extraction in the Lithium Valley Budget Package.

SDSU-Imperial Valley's campus in Brawley has a proximity to the Salton Sea and the lithium extraction operations that 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 surrounding cities and the entire region. A dedicated pipeline for students to receive the training to fulfill the workforce needs would have a transformative effect. Expansion of STEM capabilities at the Brawley campus addressing educational equity, as it would allow for students to complete their education without being required to commute over 2 hours away to the San Diego campus.

The City of El Centro believes that this project will be a catalyst for future growth and development in the region. I strongly support San Diego State University's request and look forward to strengthening our community partnership for the betterment of the Imperial Valley. If you have any questions, please contact me at toliva@cityofelcentro.org or at (760) 337-4515.

Sincerely,

Tomás Oliva
Mayor of El Centro

Cc: Senator Ben Hueso

El Centro City Hall

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Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Bob Wieckowski
Senator John Laird
Senator Nancy Skinner
Asm. Eduardo Garcia
Asm. Phil Ting
Asm. Kevin McCarty