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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.

The City of Imperial is committed to promoting and providing for the safety, health, and welfare of their citizens and business community. Incorporated in 1904, the City of Imperial is a General Law City that operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The City of Imperial 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 the City Manager's Office at (760) 355-4373.

Sincerely,


Geoff Dale
Mayor

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