

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 23, 2024

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

REQUEST: RATIFY A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE, 2024/25 CONGRESSIONAL COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST FOR A CRITICAL MINERALS CHARACTERIZATION LABORATORY AT THE PALM DESERT CAMPUS

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify a letter of support for the University of California, Riverside, 2024/25 Congressional Community Project Funding Request for a Critical Minerals Characterization Laboratory at the Palm Desert Campus.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On March 23, 2023, the City Council previously ratified letters of support for the University of California, Riverside (UCR), 2023/24 Congressional Community Project Funding Request for Critical Minerals Characterization and Microgrid Living Laboratories at the Palm Desert Campus.

The Critical Minerals Characterization Laboratory was not included in the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Federal Budget. At the request of UCR, the City Council Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs authorized immediate issuance of the renewed letter of support.

Critical Minerals Characterization Laboratory: UCR is seeking funding to establish a critical minerals characterization laboratory at the Palm Desert campus to help meet the needs of strategic boron, rare earth element and lithium industries located in the Mojave Desert and Lithium Valley regions of Southern California.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Letter of Support - UCR Critical Minerals Characterization Laboratory