

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2025

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE, REGIONAL RESILIENCE INNOVATION INCUBATOR

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify the letter of support for the University of California, Riverside, (UCR) Regional Resilience Innovation Incubator.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

At the request of the Executive Director of UC Riverside's Palm Desert Center, the City Council Subcommittee on Governmental Affairs, comprised of Mayor Harnik and Mayor Pro Tem Trubee, approved the issuance of the support letter on January 14, 2025.

Project Summary

The NSF R2I2 Initiative (National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines: Resilience Research and Innovation Initiative) is designed to create a hub for innovation and collaboration to address climate resilience challenges in Inland Southern California. This program connects cutting-edge research and technology development to community needs, focusing on critical issues such as air quality, extreme heat, and wildfire impacts. Phase I will establish key partnerships, prioritize high-impact projects, and pilot technologies to enhance regional adaptation and resilience efforts.

Leveraging UC Riverside's entrepreneurial and research capabilities, R2I2 aims to translate scientific discoveries into practical, community-focused solutions. By engaging with stakeholders across academia, government, and industry, the initiative seeks to accelerate the development and deployment of innovative strategies to bolster the region's climate resilience and sustainability.

Legal Review:

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter of Support, dated January 14, 2025
2. Program Outline