



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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January 14, 2025

Rosibel Ochoa, PhD
Associate Vice Chancellor
Technology Partnerships
University of California, Riverside
245 University Office Building
Riverside, CA 92521

Re: NSF R2I2: A Hub for Innovation and Community Engagement to Accelerate Climate Resilience and Adaptation in Inland Southern California

Dear Dr. Ochoa,

On behalf of the City of Palm Desert, I would like to extend our support to UC Riverside and its proposal to create a Regional Proof of Concept Center in Riverside County, submitted in response to NSF 24-595: Regional Resilience Innovation Incubator (R2I2).

We strongly believe that UCR's Office of Technology Partnerships, along with its partners such as UCR Extension and UCR Palm Desert, can significantly contribute to broadening participation in STEM and reducing barriers to inclusion and access to STEM education and careers. Their proposed program aims to identify viable, cost-effective solutions for private sector and community implementation through technology transfer and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the program will establish a platform connecting climate and earth science research with the needs of the region's most climate-vulnerable communities, addressing issues such as poor air quality, extreme heat, wildfires, and human health.

This hub will play a critical role in building a robust technology and entrepreneurial ecosystem, creating opportunities for individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities to engage in STEM and bring expertise and innovation to the Inland Empire region.

As a supporter of this initiative, we are prepared to collaborate with UCR to provide lectures, workshops, and outreach to the region's most climate-vulnerable communities, focusing on clean energy, food security, and regional resilience solutions. It is our hope that this grant will help the Inland Empire become a premier ecosystem for accelerating innovation from regional universities and research centers into successful and sustainable businesses.

We look forward to partnering with UC Riverside to ensure the success of this transformative initiative for the Inland Empire.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Harnik, Mayor
City of Palm Desert