

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 13, 2025

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: LETTER OPPOSING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY BUDGET CUTS

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify a letter of opposition to budget cuts to the California State University system.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The City received a request from California State University, San Bernardino, Office of Government, Tribal & Community Relations to submit a letter opposing the proposed CSU budget cuts. At the direction of the City Council Subcommittee on Legislative Affairs, the letter was issued on February 28, 2025.

The CSU system is a critical driver of workforce development and economic growth, including at the CSU San Bernardino – Palm Desert Campus. The proposed cuts would negatively impact student access, faculty retention, and university operations, potentially reducing course offerings, increasing class sizes, and leading to job losses. The City Council is now asked to ratify the letter's issuance.

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
2. CSU Budget Advocacy Brief