



# IMPERIAL VALLEY **REGIONAL** CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

October 23, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Department  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Letter of Support for the GREAT Gateway Project – EPA CCG Grant Application

Dear Environmental Protection Agency,

On behalf of the Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce and its Board of Directors, I am writing to express our strong support for the GREAT (Green Renewable Energy Advancing Together) Gateway Project in Niland, California, and to endorse its application for the EPA's Community Change Grant (CCG).

We feel that this initiative is crucial for addressing infrastructure deficiencies and promoting sustainable economic development through renewable energy. Niland, an unincorporated community in northern Imperial Valley, faces significant challenges due to inadequate infrastructure and severe economic distress.

After careful review of the project, we feel that The GREAT Gateway aims to:

1. Improve Infrastructure: Address critical infrastructure needs, including potable water, sewage systems, and improved roads, sidewalks, and drainage.
2. Promote Renewable Energy: Utilize the region's lithium resources to advance green energy solutions.
3. Stimulate Economic Development: Create jobs and attract investment to the region.
4. Enhance Quality of Life: Revitalize Niland by improving living conditions and access to essential services.

Transforming the city of Niland into an educational space via the Lithium Valley Visitor Center, Tribal Heritage Hall and Industry Connection Center will allow the city to give the necessary support to Lithium Valley. Creating meeting spaces, better transportation options and outdoor recreation is vital to the growth of not only Niland, but surrounding areas and the Lithium Valley as a whole.

Our support for this project stems from its alignment to our Mission to serve the Imperial Valley businesses and community by promoting prosperity through advocacy, economic development, connectivity and business education.

We feel that this project is a key component of a larger strategy to position Imperial Valley as a leader in the green energy sector. The potential positive impacts on the environment, economy, and quality of life for residents are immense.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sher Cowie  
President / Chief Executive Officer  
Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce