



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

August 2, 2023

To: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP)

RE: DE-FOA-0002940: Partner Letter for Imperial Valley College LIFT proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

The Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (IVRCC) is pleased to support Imperial Valley College (IVC) in its efforts to continue to launch an Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) called LIFT the Valley: Lithium Industry Workforce Training (LIFT) to meet the forecasted job demands of the burgeoning Lithium Valley.

Our county, Imperial County, is a large, rural area of 4,482 square miles, located on the U.S-Mexico border in the isolated southeastern corner of California. With seasonal agriculture as the primary economy, the county continues to suffer the highest unemployment rates in the state and the nation, and the poverty rate is the highest in the state. Through LIFT, IVC will establish a thriving workforce development pipeline connecting the California Imperial Valley's disadvantaged community members with much-needed opportunities for upward economic mobility. If successful, this project will have a profound effect on our community.

IVRCC has partnered with IVC in the past and is looking forward to partnering again on this project. We understand that we will provide community outreach.

We urge you to award funding to IVC. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for our region to begin creating an economy centered around clean energy, with a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce development funneling into it. If you have any questions at all about our support, please contact Sher Cowie at 760-352-7413 or CEO@IVRegionalChamber.com.

Sincerely,

Sher Cowie
President/Interim CEO
1095 S 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243
CEO@IVRegionalChamber.com
760-352-7413