

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-33

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES SUPPORTING AND RATIFYING THE CITY'S APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GO-BIZ) RECOMMENDING THE NOMINATION OF CENSUS TRACT 06071010700 TO THE OPPORTUNITY ZONE 2.0 PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Needles is committed to promoting economic development, expanding employment opportunities, increasing housing production, encouraging private investment, and strengthening the long-term economic vitality of the community; and

WHEREAS, Opportunity Zones are a federal economic development initiative designed to encourage long-term private investment in designated low-income communities, and the Opportunity Zone 2.0 Program provides additional opportunities to support housing, infrastructure, business development, manufacturing, transportation and logistics, tourism, workforce development, and other job-creating investments; and

WHEREAS, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 permanently reauthorized the Opportunity Zone Program and directed governors to nominate eligible low-income census tracts for designation by the United States Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) invited local jurisdictions to recommend eligible census tracts for consideration and nomination by the Governor of California; and

WHEREAS, the City of Needles identified Census Tract **06071010700** as an eligible **rural** census tract that strongly aligns with the State's Opportunity Zone 2.0 evaluation criteria through enhanced rural Opportunity Zone incentives, development-ready sites, strategic transportation assets, municipally owned utility infrastructure, Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) implementation, and support of the California Jobs First Regional Plan; and

WHEREAS, the rural census tract is uniquely positioned to leverage enhanced rural Opportunity Zone incentives together with more than **\$28 million** in recent public infrastructure investments to attract long-term private capital, expand housing opportunities, strengthen regional supply chains, create quality jobs, and support sustainable economic development; and

WHEREAS, the City has demonstrated its commitment to economic development through continued investment in public infrastructure, implementation of the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Pilot Program, support for business expansion, housing initiatives, and strong partnerships with GO-Biz, California Jobs First, San Bernardino County, regional economic development organizations, and private industry; and

WHEREAS, as California's eastern gateway, the City is strategically located along Interstate 40, Historic Route 66, the BNSF Southern Transcon, and Needles Municipal Airport, positioning the community to support industrial development, transportation and logistics, tourism, housing, manufacturing, and other California Jobs First priority sectors; and

WHEREAS, because GO-Biz established a mandatory application deadline of July 20, 2026, which preceded the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting, City staff submitted the City's application prior to Council consideration in order to preserve the City's eligibility for nomination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Needles hereby supports and ratifies the City's application submitted to the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) recommending the nomination of Census Tract **06071010700** for designation under the Opportunity Zone 2.0 Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council finds that continued Opportunity Zone designation will strengthen the City's ability to leverage public investment and enhanced rural Opportunity Zone incentives to attract private capital, expand housing opportunities, support business growth, create quality jobs, revitalize underutilized properties, diversify the local economy, and advance the City's long-term economic development strategy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council reaffirms its commitment to fostering a predictable, investment-ready environment that supports sustainable economic growth, implementation of the California Jobs First Regional Plan, and continued revitalization of the City of Needles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes and directs the City Manager, or designee, to prepare, execute, submit, and manage all applications, supporting documentation, certifications, correspondence, letters of support, and other materials necessary to advance the City's nomination throughout the State's review process.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 28th day of July, 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk (SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney