



June 15, 2026

The Honorable Bryan Anguiano  
California State Director for Rural Development  
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development  
430 G Street, Agency 4169  
Davis, CA 95616

RE: Letter of Support – River Communities Grocery Cooperative Feasibility and Organizational Development Initiative – USDA Rural Business Development Grant Application

Dear Director Anguiano:

As the Third District Supervisor for San Bernardino County, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for River Communities Coalition's application for funding through the USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program for the River Communities Grocery Cooperative Feasibility and Organizational Development Initiative.

As the County Supervisor representing the eastern portion of the county, I recognize the unique challenges faced by rural and geographically isolated communities such as Needles. Residents of the Colorado River region often travel significant distances, and frequently across state lines, to access a full-service grocery store and other essential services. These transportation challenges can create additional hardships for seniors, individuals with disabilities, families on fixed incomes, and residents with limited transportation options.

The proposed project will fund a professional feasibility study and organizational development activities designed to evaluate whether a community-owned grocery cooperative can provide a viable, sustainable, and locally driven solution to improve food access within the region. The project represents a responsible approach to community development by utilizing objective analysis, stakeholder engagement, and leadership development before future decisions are made.

River Communities Coalition has demonstrated a commitment to engaging residents, building partnerships, and exploring innovative solutions to local challenges. The organization's efforts to evaluate food access opportunities align with broader goals of strengthening rural communities, supporting economic development, and improving quality of life for local residents.



## County of San Bernardino

This letter of support does not constitute a financial commitment by San Bernardino County. Rather, it reflects support for the proposed feasibility study and organizational development activities and recognizes the potential value this project may provide to residents of Needles and the surrounding Colorado River communities.

I respectfully encourage USDA Rural Development to give favorable consideration to this application. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (909) 387-4855 or at [Supervisor.Rowe@bos.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Supervisor.Rowe@bos.sbcounty.gov).

Sincerely,

Dawn Rowe  
Third District Supervisor  
San Bernardino County