



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL NPUA

Regular Special

Meeting Date: June 23, 2026

Title: Letter of Support for River Communities Coalition USDA Rural Business Development Grant Application

Background: On March 14, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-19 designating the City of Needles as a Food Desert based upon data identifying limited access to healthy and affordable food options within the community.

River Communities Coalition (RCC) has submitted an application to the USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program for the River Communities Grocery Cooperative Feasibility and Organizational Development Initiative. The proposed grant would fund a feasibility study, community outreach, and organizational development activities to evaluate potential approaches to improving food access within Needles and the surrounding Colorado River region.

The requested Letter of Support is limited to RCC's grant application for planning and feasibility activities. Approval of the Letter of Support does not constitute approval of any future grocery cooperative project, financial assistance, use of City property, or other future City action that may result from the study. Any future proposal requiring City participation would be subject to separate City Council review and approval.

Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez and San Bernardino County Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe have also submitted letters supporting RCC's grant application.

Fiscal Impact: None. Approval of the Letter of Support does not create any financial obligation or commitment by the City.

Recommendation: Authorize the Mayor to execute the attached Letter of Support for River Communities Coalition's USDA Rural Business Development Grant application.

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, City Manager

City Management Review: Patrick J. Martinez Date: 6/17/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): _____ Date: _____