



City of Needles

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City Manager Patrick Martinez

June 23, 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:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 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.

The City of Needles recognizes the importance of ensuring that residents have reliable access to affordable and nutritious food options. Like many rural communities, Needles faces challenges associated with geographic isolation, transportation limitations, and the need for residents to travel outside the community to access a full-service grocery store. These conditions can create hardships for seniors, individuals with disabilities, families on fixed incomes, and other residents throughout the region.

The proposed project will support a professional feasibility study and organizational development activities designed to evaluate potential approaches to improving food access within Needles and the surrounding Colorado River region. The City believes that conducting a thorough feasibility assessment is a responsible approach that will provide valuable information to community leaders, residents, and stakeholders before any future development decisions are considered.

The City of Needles supports efforts to conduct a feasibility study and evaluate potential approaches that may improve food access, strengthen local economic opportunities, and enhance quality of life for residents throughout the Colorado River region. We believe the proposed feasibility study and organizational development activities align with the goals of fostering sustainable rural development and informed community planning.

Thank you for your consideration of River Communities Coalition's application. We respectfully encourage USDA Rural Development to give favorable consideration to this application.

Sincerely,

Jan Jernigan
Mayor
City of Needles