

City Council Chambers
29844 Haun Road
Menifee, CA 92586



Bill Zimmerman, Mayor
Bob Karwin, District 1
Ricky Estrada, District 2
Lesa Sobek, District 3
Dean Deines, District 4

AGENDA

Menifee City Council Regular Meeting Agenda

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024
5:00 PM Closed Session
6:00 PM Regular Meeting**

**Armando G. Villa, City Manager
Jeffrey T. Melching, City Attorney
Sarah Manwaring, City Clerk**

10.5 Southwestern Riverside County Higher Education Coalition

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Appointment of the City of Menifee's 2024 Southwest Elected Collaborative Group representatives to the Southwestern Riverside County Higher Education Coalition in keeping with City Council Policy No.2; and
2. Adopt a resolution acknowledging the need for expanded public higher education institutions within southwestern Riverside County and funding for the cost of tenant improvements to create an expanded presence for California State University San Marcos at the Mt. San Jacinto College campus in Temecula.



CITY OF MENIFEE

SUBJECT: Southwestern Riverside County Higher Education Coalition

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2024

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Gina Gonzalez, Economic Development Director

REVIEWED BY: Rebekah Kramer, Assistant to the City Manager

APPROVED BY: Armando G. Villa, City Manager

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DISCUSSION

Higher educational attainment levels are directly associated with business and retail attraction, increased access to higher paying jobs, social mobility, and improved quality of life with reductions in student and workforce commuting to other regions for employment. Recognizing the important role higher education plays with the long-term sustainability of our region, stakeholders have come together as part of the Southwestern Riverside County Higher Education Coalition ("Coalition") to explore how to expand access to higher education in the region.

The Coalition has grown out of the broader Southwest Elected Collaborative Group on which Councilmember Sobek and Mayor Zimmerman are serving as the City of Meniffee's elected representatives. The Coalition board includes stakeholder representatives from throughout the region including the County of Riverside, cities, water agencies, school districts, Mt. San Jacinto College ("MSJC"), and healthcare partners. Councilmember Sobek was recently nominated to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Coalition Board.

In keeping with the City's Legislative Platform and Strategic Plan objective to partner with higher education institutions and other stakeholders to create workforce development programs that

support the training and education of workers and business development, city staff and elected representatives are working in collaboration with coalition members to identify and address higher education institutional needs in Southwest Riverside County. Given that the Coalition has grown out of the broader Southwest Elected Collaborative Group with the specific purpose of advocating for the expansion of higher education opportunities in Southwest Riverside County, there is a need to appoint a Menifee City Council representative and alternate to serve as part of the Coalition on behalf of the city. For continuity purposes, based upon the Coalition's relationship to the Southwest Elected Collaborative Group, it is recommended that Councilmember Sobek serve as the City's appointed representative on the Coalition with Mayor Zimmerman serving as the alternate representative.

Knowing the need for added University presence in the region, the Coalition is working on attracting and supporting higher educational attainment opportunities. This includes, but is not limited to, obtaining support for the expansion of California State University San Marcos with the addition of a Temecula Valley campus. Cal State San Marcos estimates 4,000 students from the Temecula Valley are enrolled in the University. The MSJC campus in Temecula has available space to accommodate Cal State San Marcos's current needs. The estimated cost of the tenant improvements required to support the campus expansion which will be completed in phases is \$18 million. Phase one of the project includes tenant improvements to support nursing, business administration, and computer engineering degree program courses at an estimated cost of \$11 million. The Coalition is seeking support from stakeholders in our region through the adoption of the attached resolution to be used as leverage in securing outside funding for the required MSJC Temecula Valley campus improvements.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

Thriving Economy

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 24-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENIFEE, CALIFORNIA, ACKNOWLEDGING THE NEED FOR EXPANDED PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WITHIN SOUTHWESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY AND FUNDING FOR THE COST OF TENANT IMPROVEMENTS TO CREATE AN EXPANDED PRESENCE FOR CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS AT THE MT. SAN JACINTO COLLEGE CAMPUS IN TEMECULA VALLEY

WHEREAS, the City of Menifee ("City") is located in Southwestern Riverside County, with a current population of 110,034 projected to grow to 126,000 by 2026; and

WHEREAS, within the City and the greater region there presently is not a full-fledged four-year public university, thereby forcing students pursuing higher education seeking to begin a four-year education after graduating from high school to leave this geographic area or to commute great distances; and

WHEREAS, the commute time to the nearest four-year public universities is upward of one to two hours, exacerbated by the lack of public transportation to access those schools; and

WHEREAS, this region is projected to grow through 2060 without pause, making it one of the fastest-growing geographic areas in California and nation; and

WHEREAS, the region presently has a lower than statewide average percentage of population that has completed a four-year university education; and

WHEREAS, the region is working strategically and earnestly to attract higher-paying jobs to increase social mobility and to help reduce significant workforce commuting to other regions, which not only causes massive freeway congestion and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, but also greatly impacts the quality of life, including physical and mental health, for those commuters and their ability to be active contributors to their communities; and

WHEREAS, California State University, San Marcos ("CSUSM") reports that about one-quarter of their student population come from this geographic area, which equates to approximately 4,000 students; and

WHEREAS, CSUSM also reports that they have a large number of students from the area that do not finish their Bachelor's degrees there; and

WHEREAS, enrollment at Mt. San Jacinto Community College (MSJC) is up 50-60% over pre-pandemic enrollment; and

WHEREAS, considering vehicle mileage, fuel cost, and the expense of time waiting in traffic, the absence of a four-year university in this region creates a real barrier to personal growth and professional development, as well as economic growth of this region.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENIFEE, CALIFORNIA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Access to public higher education opportunities is critically important to economic growth within the region.
2. The CSUSM Temecula Valley campus is an important link to expand public higher education in this region and the symbiotic relationship of this campus to regional economic development goals and needs.
3. The City strongly supports regional efforts to advocate for funding for the expansion of public higher education in Southwestern Riverside County.
4. The City requests its legislative representatives consider this need and assist in the advocacy efforts for the necessary funding to complete the tenant improvements for the CSUSM Temecula Valley campus expansion, and four-year education in Southwest Riverside County.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2024.

Bill Zimmerman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Manwaring, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jeffrey T. Melching, City Attorney