

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

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Jennifer Kuan, PhD
Acting Executive Director, Institute for Innovation & Economic Development (iiED)
California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)
100 Campus Center
Seaside, CA 93955

July 25, 2023

RE: Letter of Support for California State University, Monterey Bay Disaster Recovery Grant

Dear Dr. Kuan,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors to express our enthusiastic support for California State University, Monterey Bay's Disaster Recovery proposal to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). We believe that this proposal, which aims to provide business resilience services, will significantly contribute to the successful formation of new ventures in our region and support existing businesses in preparing for future natural disasters.

As we all know, entrepreneurs and small businesses play a crucial role in maintaining the economic health of any regional economy. In Monterey County, these businesses account for approximately half of all jobs. However, they are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Our County has experienced several major disasters in recent years, including the devastating 2016 Soberanes fire, the 2020 River Road fires, and severe flooding and road closures just this past winter. These events have resulted in significant loss of income and jobs, with long-lasting effects on our community.

The proposed Monterey Bay Regional Business Resilience Program, spearheaded by the Institute for Innovation and Economic Development (iiED), will create and entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem that aligns with the goals and objectives outlined in the adopted Monterey County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. By providing access to business assistance services, this program will equip nascent companies with essential resources needed to succeed and create jobs in Monterey County.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support for projects in our region, as it strengthens economic development and helps ensure a diversified and healthy economy. Collaborating with California State University, Monterey Bay through the Disaster Recovery grant will undoubtedly enhance our collective efforts to build resilience and create a sustainable future for our community.

Thank you for considering this letter of support. We look forward to the positive impact that this grant will have on our region's businesses and overall economic well-being.

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Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair
County of Monterey Board of Supervisors

