

8) **Resolution in Support of Expanded Higher Education and Funding for Tenant Improvements to Create an Expanded Presence for California State University San Marcos at the Mt. San Jacinto College Campus in Temecula Valley**

Adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING 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.



## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Jason Simpson, City Manager

**Prepared by:** Shannon Buckley, Assistant City Manager

**Date:** February 13, 2024

**Subject:** Resolution in Support of Expanded Higher Education and Funding for Tenant Improvements to Create an Expanded Presence for California State University San Marcos at the Mt. San Jacinto College Campus in Temecula Valley

### **Recommendation**

Adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING 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.

### **Background**

Through a grassroots effort, a group of local elected officials, members from school districts and boards, members from water agencies, and members from private businesses formed a task force called the Southwestern Riverside County Higher Education Coalition. The Coalition identifies a need for a 4-year University in Southwestern Riverside County. The Coalition requested the City of Lake Elsinore adopt a Resolution advocating the need for public higher education opportunities in the region. The City of Lake Elsinore has been invited to attend and/or participate in Coalition meetings.

## Higher Education

The demand for higher education opportunities in Southwestern Riverside County has notably increased recently. Recognizing this need, California State University San Marcos has expressed interest in expanding its presence at the Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC) Campus in Temecula Valley. This expansion aligns with the broader goal of enhancing access to quality higher education within the region.

### **Discussion**

January 9, 2024, The Southwestern Riverside County Higher Education Coalition met at the City of Murrieta. Officers and a Board of Directors were nominated to the Coalition at that meeting. A list of initial tasks was discussed, and various members in attendance teamed up to research or act on initial tasks. Councilmember Natasha Johnson was nominated as a 1 Board member. The primary goal is to establish an incubator program and a Cal State San Marcos 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 space available to accommodate Cal State San Marcos's current needs. The Coalition estimates an \$11 million shortfall for tenant improvements. The Coalition will seek funding opportunities for the improvements. Subsequently, the Coalition aims to expand Cal State San Marcos' presence in the Temecula Valley to establish a four-year university.

Staff recommends the adoption of a resolution by the City of Lake Elsinore City Council in support of expanded public higher education institutions in Southwestern Riverside County, as it explicitly endorses the allocation of funds for tenant improvements to facilitate the establishment of an expanded presence for California State University San Marcos at the Mt. San Jacinto College Campus in Temecula Valley.

The expansion of higher education institutions contributes to the intellectual and economic development of the community, providing residents with increased access to quality education.

Supporting the establishment of California State University San Marcos at Mt. San Jacinto College Campus aligns with the City's commitment to fostering a thriving and educated community.

An expanded higher education presence can attract talent, stimulate economic growth, and enhance the overall vitality of Southwestern Riverside County.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The proposed resolution does not impose direct financial obligations on the City of Lake Elsinore. Instead, it urges relevant authorities to allocate funds for tenant improvements required to expand California State University San Marcos at the Mt. San Jacinto College Campus.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - Resolution

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING 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 Lake Elsinore, California, ("City") is located in Southwestern Riverside County, with a population of 71,563 (2021) projected to grow to 111,600 by 2045; and

**WHEREAS**, within our 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 LAKE ELSINORE, CALIFORNIA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Access to public higher education opportunities is critically important to economic growth within the region.

**Section 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.

**Section 3.** The City strongly supports regional efforts to advocate for funding for the expansion of public higher education in Southwestern Riverside County.

**Section 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 and Adopted** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lake Elsinore, California, this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

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Steve Manos  
Mayor

Attest:

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Candice Alvarez, MMC  
City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA     )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE    ) ss.  
CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE    )

I, Candice Alvarez, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Lake Elsinore, California, do hereby certify that Resolution No. 2024-\_\_ was adopted by the City Council of the City of Lake Elsinore, California, at the Regular meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 and that the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

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Candice Alvarez, MMC  
City Clerk