Date received:_____

PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

- ☐ Consent
- ☐ Action
- ☐ Information
- ☐ Discussion/Presentation

RESOLUTION TITLE: Letter in support of San Bernardino County Desert Trails Promise Zone Project
BOARD MEETING DATE: 2-23-16

BACKGROUND:
The San Bernardino County Desert Trails Promise Zone project coordinator has invited Palo Verde College to partner with and support the application by the Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council in Ridgecrest, California on behalf of the rural and/or remote communities of San Bernardino County in applying for selection as one of the the third round of Promise Zones sponsored by the USDA. The area in question includes Newberry Springs, Barstow, Needles, Hinkley, and Lucerne Valley as well as the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe in Havasu Lake. An introductory email from Mr. Ted Stimpfel, Project Subcommittee member is attached. The support letter from Palo Verde College will be included in the project application.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: n/a

BUDGET PAID FROM: n/a

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

Administrator Initiating Item:	College Council/Full Admin Review Date:
Lale Cilenti	

Carrie Mullion

From: nseda@mail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:05 AM
To: Lale Cilenti Arac
Subject: Desert Trails Promise Zone - San Bernardino County - Introduction

Lale Cilenti, Director
Palo Verde Community College
Needles Center
Needles, California

Dear Ms. Cilenti,

Thank you for your return telephone call this morning and your interest in participating with our Desert Trails Promise Zone – San Bernardino County. We look forward to working with you on our mutual efforts for a successful grant application.

The current participants in our effort include: the Community of Newberry Springs, Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association, The Chemehuevi Tribe in Havasu Lake and the community of Hinkley. We are currently working with the Cities of Needles and Barstow, and we are excited to have the support of the San Bernardino County First and Third District Supervisors, Robert Lovingood and James Ramos.

The Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council in Ridgecrest has agreed to be our Lead Applicant and Fiscal Manager. They were formed in 2000 and have a solid record of successfully maneuvering through the grant application process. We have developed our Promise Zone name which is the Desert Trails Promise Zone – San Bernardino County. Here are some details:

Promise Zone facts:
The Promise Zone designation partners the Federal government with local leaders who are addressing multiple revitalization challenges in a collaborative way and have demonstrated a commitment to results. Promise Zone Designees will receive:

- Opportunity to engage five AmeriCorps Vista members in the Promise Zone
- A federal liaison assigned to assist with navigation of federal programs
- Priority for certain competitive federal programs and technical assistance from participating agencies
- Promise Zone tax incentives, if enacted by Congress

The six goals identified for our Promise Zone are follows:

- Create jobs
- Increase economic activity
- Improve educational opportunities
- Reduce serious/violent crime
- Promote health and access to healthcare
- Improve community infrastructure

Some of the more specific things that could be achieved under these goals include:

- Revitalize and spur economic development in our small communities
- Improves roads and infrastructure
- Improve access to healthy clean water
- Help achieve State and Federal goals to reduce fossil fuel consumption with improved access to renewable energy, assistance for affordable solar rooftop systems, implementation of energy conservation plans for cities/communities to provide energy cost reduction and energy conservation
- Support mental health
- Veterans (mental health, support groups, back to work programs, assistance with transportation)

- Domestic violence, education and reduction
- Support and encourage our youth to strive for higher education in our local schools, i.e., "From Cradle to Career"
- Support after school and summer programs to engage youth and reduce introduction into crime/drugs
- Create solutions to help solve our homeless issues
- Support for Community Food Bank activities, assistance with transportation to and from Food Bank, and distribution services

We are excited to hear of your interest in possibly submitting a letter of support, and we would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss the Program with you.

Sincerely,
Ted Stimpfel, Subcommittee Member
Desert Trails Promise Zone - San Bernardino County
(626) 393-2000

PALO VERDE COLLEGE

WHERE KNOWLEDGE TAKES ROOT AND OPPORTUNITY GROWS

February __, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Palo Verde College has been invited to participate in the San Bernardino County Desert Trails Promise Zone with the Desert Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council, the communities of Newberry Springs, Barstow, Needles, Hinkley, and Lucerne Valley as well as the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe in applying to the United States Department of Agriculture for the 2016 Promise Zone Grant.

The Promise Zone designation provides the successful applicants with access to preferential points and special consideration for selected Federal grant programs, technical assistance, and other capacity building opportunities that will strengthen revitalization efforts for our community and those of our partner organizations.

Palo Verde College supports the overarching goals of the Promise Zone to attract private investment, increase affordable housing, improve educational opportunities, create jobs, reduce serious and violent crime, as well as promote health and access to healthcare in the region.

Palo Verde College is committed to being an active participant in the ongoing efforts of the Needles community to revitalize and spur economic development by providing our citizens with the educational resources to strive for success in our local schools leading to enhanced higher education opportunities and successful careers.

Given the tremendous opportunity the Promise Zone would afford our institution and our community, we the Board of Trustees of Palo Verde College are pleased to support this partnership, and approve the participation of our institution with the grant application for the Desert Trails Promise Zone – San Bernardino County.

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