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June 24, 2020

Mr. Dana Gartzke
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Letter in Support of Inland Valley Development Agency's Sterling Avenue Upgrade Project Application

Dear Assistant Secretary Gartzke:

I am writing to express my support for the Sterling Avenue Upgrade Project application submitted by the Inland Valley Development Agency (IVDA) and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for the fiscal year (FY) 2020 EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program included in the CARES Act. If approved, the project will install roadway improvements and provide a critical access point to the north end of the San Bernardino (SBD) International Airport. These upgrades are essential to continuing growth and economic development of the airport and our region.

SBD International Airport is located at the center of a multi-modal transportation corridor and covers 1,329 acres. The airport is home to a network of air cargo facilities and emergency response aviation teams that serve our region, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Aviation Unit. The new access point will be of immense value to future occupants such as the U.S. Forest Service Air Tanker Base, County of San Bernardino Fire Training Center, KSBD Fuel Farm, and tenants that occupy hangars for maintenance, repair and storage of aircraft. Air cargo operators UPS, Fed Ex, and Amazon Air will also benefit from the proposed project's improvements. As these facilities grow, the airport will have the potential to add thousands of jobs to the local economy.

SBD International Airport accommodates over 30 weekly cargo arrivals and works with partners to support flights carrying essential medical supplies requiring timely delivery to COVID-19 hotspots. Under Project Air Bridge, a federal and airport operation, SBD International Airport has facilitated the delivery of nearly 86 million masks and N-95 respirators and over 10,000 ventilators to health care facilities, state and local governments.

The Sterling Avenue Project will upgrade a severely economically distressed neighborhood located in an Opportunity Zone adjacent to the SBD International Airport. The project will include the construction of a new curb, gutter, storm drain, stripping and sidewalk with

streetlights. The roadway will be widened for truck traffic and roadway surfaces, traffic signals and turn lanes will be upgraded. The project will also construct one bridge that will cross over a part of the City Creek Bypass Channel to provide an additional access point to the airport.

The SBD International Airport is home of the former Norton Air Force Base. Since its closure in 1988, our community has been searching for new ways to utilize the airport's potential to bring good-paying jobs back to the San Bernardino community. I strongly encourage you to give IVDA's Sterling Avenue Upgrade Project your full and fair consideration, consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. If you have any questions, please contact Curt Lewis, Grant Program Director at my office at Curt.Lewis@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Aguilar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress