



April 1, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Funding for a Cultural and Educational Facility in Mission Viejo

Dear Senator Padilla and Senator Feinstein,

I write to request **\$1,800,000** for a cultural and educational facility in Mission Viejo. This project is part of an economic development project occurring in the Civic Core of the community and would help provide direct resources to our area.

The Mission Viejo Vision Plan was developed by a collaborative effort with the local community through a series of workshops, outreach events, and surveys. The visioning process has explored how the heart of Mission Viejo can best serve and enrich the community, including the next generation. Together, with the community, a group of planners, economic advisors, and public outreach strategists came together to create a plan that will spur economic development and connect the common heritage and culture of Mission Viejo to the community.

As part of the Vision Plan, the City, in partnership with the Santa Margarita Water District, would like to build a venue barn as part of the Civic Core project that will serve as a cultural and educational facility space for the community. The space will be used for nature interpretative talks, environmental and nature displays and small exhibits, and cultural and educational gatherings for 300-500 children and their families. This center would be a key entertainment core of our community while also providing educational content to our community.

This funding would be used to create this new facility for the community and provide a new cultural resource for the residents to enjoy, while exploring the history and the natural environment of Mission Viejo.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Hernandez".

Victoria Hernandez
Executive Director, South Orange County Economic Coalition