



## Geology in the Public Interest

## Geología en el Interés Público

P. O. Box 1135  
Vashon, Washington 98070  
[www.publicgeology.org](http://www.publicgeology.org)

Dr. Leticia P. Lopez  
Dean, School of Mathematics, Sciences, and Nursing Education  
San Diego City College

Prof. Lisa Chaddock  
Department of Physical Sciences, Geography/Geology/GIS  
San Diego City College

November 2, 2024

Dear Dr. Lopez and Prof. Chaddock,

As part of Geology in the Public Interest and the Global Network for Geoscience and Society initiative (<https://www.publicgeology.org/gngs>), I wish to express our enthusiastic support for your Sustainable Mining Practices Degree proposal. Our experience has been that students today want to apply their learned skills for the benefit of society. Your program offers an opportunity for them to do that by advancing sustainability and playing a significant role in a keystone industry that has resisted change until recently.

We also believe that the Sustainable Mining Practices Degree program can and will play a significant role in improving student outcomes and opportunities in the growing Green Economy. As that economy continues to grow, students with a background in sustainable practices will find new career paths, and they will also be in a position to direct the expansion of that economy. Having an early start in the field, as your program will afford, will give your students an advantage.

It is also important to design learning activities and mentorship opportunities to improve student engagement, including innovative project-based experiences. Your program does that and shows a great deal of promise.

I recognize that there are other learning institutions providing programs on sustainability and mining, but all of those with which I am familiar are universities that provide limited access to a relatively small number of young people. Your program is, as far as I know, the only one addressing this topic at the community college level, which provides a valuable service to the San Diego community. True sustainability can only be accomplished through change at the grassroots, and you will be facilitating that.

We would be honored to provide advisory support moving forward, as well as mentoring opportunities for students and feedback for the program leads. We welcome a continuing association with the students and teachers at San Diego City College.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach me at [gwessel@publicgeology.org](mailto:gwessel@publicgeology.org).



Gregory R. Wessel, PhD, LG  
President, Geology in the Public Interest