



To: Dr. Leticia P. López, San Diego City College, Dean of MSNE  
Prof. Lisa Chaddock, Dept. of Physical Sciences, Geography/Geology/GIS

From: Travis Kemnitz, Executive Director, San Diego Bird Alliance

Date: 4 November 2024

Re: Letter of Support

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I, Travis Kemnitz, representative of the San Diego Bird Alliance, enthusiastically support the Sustainable Mining Practices Degree proposal led by Dr. Leticia P. López and Prof. Lisa Chaddock of San Diego City College Dept. of Physical Sciences, Geology.

We are committed to providing advisory support and mentoring for the students in this program and to Dr. López and Prof. Chaddock as leads of this project. We welcome the opportunities we can provide to students taking coursework in all facets of this degree at San Diego City College.

We believe that Sustainable Mining Practices degree program can and will play a significant role in improving student outcomes and reducing equity gaps when deployed with a focus on student agency and employment prospects in the Green Economy. Sustainable Mining Practices degree emphasizes focus on designing learning activities and mentorship opportunities to improve student engagement and in the context of coursework that is innovative project-based experience and shows a great deal of promise. The focus on sustainable and responsible mining is particularly important to the issues surrounding habitat protection, as well as creating recycling opportunities as bird's habitats are cleaned up and restored.

This program covers environmental justice and how mining is changing throughout the world to see the impacts on people who have little power or voice. We see a great deal of promise in focusing on environmental justice for both better lives for people and better migration pathways for birds.

We also support the focus on sustainability and creating a way forward for industry and environmental organizations to work together on projects that will restore habitat and create mining opportunities that include recycling/mining our current dumps and closing the loop on minerals. We are prepared to support the project in multiple ways while students are in the

major as well as sustaining mentoring and support as students graduate and move into the workforce, including offering habitat maintenance projects that will educate students in the complexity of sustainability and learning how to address the needs of migratory bird species specifically in restoration projects.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a cursive 'K' and 'emnitz'.

Travis Kemnitz, Executive Directory

San Diego Bird Alliance