

**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Lancaster, California**

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Date: March 24, 2009

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Kelvin Tainatongo, Assistant to the City Manager

Subject: High Desert/Mountain Higher Education Authority Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

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**Recommendation:**

Adopt **Resolution No. 09-13**, a resolution of the City Council of the City Lancaster, CA approving the High Desert/Mountain Higher Education Authority (HDMHEA), authorizing City's membership in the High Desert/Mountain Higher Education Authority. Authorize City Manager, or designee, to execute the Joint Power Agreement for the HDMHEA.

**Fiscal Impact:**

None at this time

**Background:**

For the past several years, entities from the High Desert/Mountain area have desired to initiate a process to establish a four-year university or college in the High Desert/Mountain area. In November 2006 the Antelope Valley College Board of Trustees approved its participation as lead agency in coordinating efforts to form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to address the region's higher education needs, including the need to attract a comprehensive four-year institution to the area.

Through the efforts of AVC President, Dr. Jackie Fisher, a JPA planning group was formed. The JPA planning group includes representatives from the Antelope Valley Union High School District, Los Angeles and Kern counties, and the cities of California City, Lancaster, Palmdale and Tehachapi. The JPA planning group has been working to develop the attached draft Joint Powers Agreement.

**Summary:**

The JPA for the HDMHEA establishes an organization with the High Desert/Mountain area to provide a forum to study, plan for, promote and support the establishment of a four-year university or college. Furthermore, the HDMHEA will officially represent the area before the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) and other interested agencies regarding the establishment of a four-year university or college.

The Authority membership will consist of any public entity located within the High Desert Mountain area and each member shall be entitled to appoint one director and alternate director to the Board.

The JPA is set up so that no financial commitments will be required of participating Member Cities until such time that the newly established Board of Directors adopts a funding plan identifying short and long term capital and operations & maintenance requirements. Up until that time, each member in the Authority will be asked to provide in-kind services to support the Authority. The JPA enables the Authority to apply for and receive grants from governmental or private sources.

**Attachment:**

Resolution No. 09-13

Joint Powers Agreement (Available for review in the City Clerk's Office)