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Re: LRDP NOP Comments

We are writing in response to the Notice of Preparation issued February 25, 2020.

For the past two years the campus and its legions of supporters in the larger community have been torn by concern that the campus administration, or at least a key portion of it, fails to understand, appreciate, and value the extraordinary asset UCSC has in the sweeping vistas of its iconic Great Meadow and East Meadow. The Notice of Preparation (NOP) is an unwelcome sign that that failure was not a one-time mistake, but is ongoing.

We offer the following observations, in the hope that a course correction is still possible:

- (1) The NOP shows a portion of Student Housing West project as a *fait accompli* sprawled across the southern portion of the East Meadow. In fact, it is still an open question as to whether that project will be built at that location. The land use plan should at this point therefore show the southern portion of the East Meadow either as Natural Space (in the proposed system of land use designations) or as Campus Resource Land (as in the current system).
- (2) The “Potential Primary Roadway” shown as extending right across the middle of both the Great Meadow and the East Meadow, from the Music Center/Recital Hall, across Hagar Drive, to Coolidge Drive, should be removed entirely.
- (3) There should be no development in the East Meadow, by OPERS or otherwise, south of the existing East Remote Parking. The “temporary” corporation yard on the south side of that parking should be removed entirely and the land restored. It has been a “temporary” facility for more than a decade, has never been indicated on any LRDP, and is an eyesore.
- (4) There should be no development in the Great Meadow south of the existing development at the north end of the Meadow. The Great Meadow from the southeast edges of University House, the Music Center/Recital Hall, and the Academic Resources Center to the north edge of the corporation yard should entirely be designated Natural Space except where designated Natural Reserve.
- (5) Development of the Westside Research Park at Delaware Avenue should be maximized.
- (6) The US Fish and Wildlife Service has long urged the administration to do a campus-wide Habitat Conservation Plan, so that habitat conservation issues

do not arise at the last minute, in the push to get a project built, as happened to the detriment of the Student Housing West project. And for just as long the administration has refused to do so. A campus-wide HCP would avoid wasted time and unnecessary controversy whenever a specific project is being planned, and would thereby facilitate the timely completion of future projects. The creation of a new LRDP is the perfect time to undertake that campus-wide HCP, and that HCP and the new LRDP should be concurrent efforts.

We encourage the University to recognize the value of what it has.

Yours truly,

The East Meadow Action Committee
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