

February 24, 2019

Dear _____ and to whom it may concern at the UCSC SUA:

I sincerely appreciate your interest in the “Student Housing West” project and its 17.3 acre East Meadow component. The attached timeline and links to source documents gives the information necessary to independently analyze this project.

The links within the timeline include the letters that we — an ad-hoc group of alumni, trustees, donors, emeriti and current faculty, and emeriti UC Regents — have respectfully sent to University leadership.

While we support the need to build 3,000+ beds of new housing to accommodate students and alleviate the low vacancy and high cost housing crisis in Santa Cruz, portions of this proposed project are poorly conceived, grossly inefficient in their use of scarce buildable land (57% of the project land would be occupied by less than 5% of the beds), and contrary to all prior UC Santa Cruz architectural and planning standards. Unfortunately, this project has been characterized by:

1. Lack of appropriate process, including disregard of historical planning and architectural standards, and ignoring the campus’ own Design Review Board, which twice voted unanimously against the project as presently conceived;
2. Keeping key constituencies in the dark, with calculated lack of disclosure that is evident from the attached timeline;
3. Lack of land value and opportunity cost assessments; and
4. A groundswell of considered opposition opinions from the campus Design Advisory Board, the Campus Architect Emeritus, the Campus Provost Emerita, the UC Santa Cruz Foundation Board Chair and Alumni Council President, and 50 of their Foundation and Alumni Council colleagues, and an unprecedented filing of more than 350 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report, and a petition that as of writing as exceeded 80,000 signatures . Links to these documents are included in the attached timeline.

Again, thank you for your concern and your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Process Timeline - UC Santa Cruz Student Housing West

Drafted by Matthew Waxman, November 27, 2018

All information is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

July 19, 2016

Chancellor Blumenthal gave a presentation to the Regents about Public-Private Partnership Student Housing West (SHW) project.

October 22, 2016

At the Alumni Council meeting Chancellor Blumenthal mentions the existence of "SHW" for the first time.

November 4, 2016

Presentation made to UC Santa Cruz Foundation regarding P3 proposal and student housing project.

August 17, 2017

A letter was sent on August 17, 2017 by Alumni Council President and Foundation Chair Alec Webster to the Chancellor requesting a meeting with the Administration to discuss questions and observations about the "SHW" project and the process thus far. Letter:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/bhe6s63g9p3tscy/Letter1_drafted_by_subcommittee_Aug_17_2017.pdf

August 30, 2017

Following from the letter, Council President Mercado and Foundation Chair Webster have a meeting on August 30, 2017 with Chancellor Blumenthal, EVC Tromp, VC Keith Brant, VC Sarah Latham, Chancellor's Chief of Staff Linda Rhoads, and AVC Sue Matthews. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Foundation and Alumni Council questions and observations about "SHW". Mr. Mercado and Mr. Webster also sent another letter to the Chancellor in advance of this meeting, stating in advance their overall remarks for the meeting, specifically requesting a partnership between the University and the Foundation Board / Alumni Council:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/rdtbvxi051j4xms/Mercado_Webster_statement_sent_advance_of_Aug_30_2017_mtg.pdf

September 28, 2018

UCSC posts a press release about a Notice of Preparation for the draft EIR of "SHW". ***The project is identified for the west campus only.*** NOP: <https://ppc.ucsc.edu/planning/nop-final-8-31-17.pdf>

Late September or early October, 2018:

Campus administration and the developer decide on a pivot away from only the West Meadow to add Family Student Housing (FSH) to the East Meadow.

October 22, 2017

UC Santa Cruz Foundation regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting, at which the Chancellor makes a report on the state of the campus. The "SHW" pivot away from only West Meadow Heller site to add "FSH" to the East Meadow is NOT mentioned by the Chancellor nor anyone else from the administration.

October 31, 2017

In an issue of the University Relations blast email "Tuesday Newsday," with multiple articles, VC Sarah Latham published an article titled "Progress Made On **Student Housing West.**" (emphasis added) In the middle of the fourth paragraph, not under any separate header or notation, was a single sentence stating that "FSH" would be relocated from the Heller site to the Hagar site. NO ONE in the Faculty, Foundation, Alumni Council or other campus stakeholders noticed this calculatedly inconspicuous sentence, which the later March 6, 2018 actual and clear disclosure falsely cross-referenced as a purported prior announcement. Link:

https://news.ucsc.edu/2017/10/update-student-housing-west.html?utm_source=10-31-2017&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tuesday-newsday

November 3, 2017

Letter with an appendix of suggestions for "SHW" is sent on official Alumni Council letterhead to Chancellor Blumenthal, EVC Tromp, VC Latham and AVC Matthews. Signed by Council President Mercado, and copied to list of campus stakeholders including administrators, Trustees, Council of College Provosts, Academic Senate, and Undergraduate and Graduate Student Governments. UCSC responded to this letter five months later on April 10, 2018. Letter:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/nrkzazcmjuztqfq/Council Letter regarding Student Housing West 11.3.17.pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/s/nrkzazcmjuztqfq/Council_Letter_regarding_Student_Housing_West_11.3.17.pdf)

November 6, 2017

In an issue of the University Relations blast email "Tuesday Newsday," with multiple articles, the Public Affairs office publishes an article giving notice to a Revised Notice of Preparation for the draft EIR of "SHW" that includes another vague and inconspicuous statement. The Revised NOP provided no clear representation of the added site's scope of development. Quoting the Revised NOP: "*UC Santa Cruz is now proposing to develop a portion of the project on a different location on the main campus... The development of housing at this location would require an amendment to the 2005 LRDP to change the land use designation of the site from Campus Resource Land to Colleges and Student Housing.*" Link:

https://news.ucsc.edu/2017/11/scoping-student-housing.html?utm_source=11-07-2017&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tuesday-newsday

However, in many later communications, the campus administration stated the decision to build prefabricated housing in the East Meadow was made in late September or early October, 2017.

February 3, 2018

UC Santa Cruz Foundation regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting, at which the Chancellor makes a report on the state of the campus. The "SHW" pivot away from only West Meadow Heller site to add "FSH" to the East Meadow is NOT mentioned by the Chancellor nor anyone else from the campus administration.

February 26, 2018

The official UCSC Design Advisory Board meets and is presented "SHW" by UCSC and Capstone developers. The Board records in their minutes that they are "unanimously opposed" to the East Meadow site selection for "FSH" development. Quote from their minutes, page 2: "*In conclusion, the Board wanted to be recorded that they are unanimously opposed to the selection of this site for the FSH development. They questioned what alternative sites had been evaluated and expressed concerns that the low-density program, located at such an iconic gateway intersection, undermines the careful approach and purposefulness of campus planning, and were alarmed by the potentially inhospitable*

interruption to the visual character of the open meadow in that specific location.” Link:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5aa8064bb98a7807c929fbed/t/5bdbcd7188251bdc1090d1d9/1541131641709/4+RDEIR+Zwart+Comments.pdf#page=14>

March 4, 2018

UC Santa Cruz Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Alec Webster learns for the first time of the “SHW” pivot away from only West Meadow to add “FSH” to the East Meadow. Mr. Webster does NOT learn this from the campus Administration, but, rather, learns it at a public event in Santa Cruz on an unrelated arts subject from fellow alumnus, Tom Killion, the noted artist.

March 6, 2018

In an issue of the University Relations blast email “Tuesday Newsday,” with multiple articles, the AVC Sue Matthews publishes an article widely received as the first public announcement about “SHW” building on the East Meadow. The article and its links to prior messages give mixed messages and a lack of clarity.

https://news.ucsc.edu/2018/03/update-student-housing-west.html?utm_source=03-06-2018&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tuesday-newsday

Early March 2018

In response to discovering the move to develop the East Meadow, current and emeriti faculty form the “East Meadow Action Committee” community group within Santa Cruz. Their website:

<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/>

March 26, 2018

The official UCSC Design Advisory Board meets again and is presented an update on “SHW” by UCSC and Capstone. The Board records in their minutes that they are “still opposed to the selected site and felt that the campus was ‘making a big mistake.’” and “strongly urged for an analysis of alternative sites.” Quote from their minutes, page 2: *“The Board disagreed with Capstone that the buildings have been sited appropriately to remain hidden.”* And quote page 3: *“the Board reiterated that they were still opposed to the selected site and felt that the campus was ‘making a big mistake.’ They also strongly urged for an analysis of alternative sites... The Board felt the need to reiterate that the enduring quality of the open meadow was well understood by all and underscored that there was a storied sequence into the campus. They emphasized that ‘we need to start and end our discussion with those points.’”* Link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5aa8064bb98a7807c929fbed/t/5bdbcd7188251bdc1090d1d9/1541131641709/4+RDEIR+Zwart+Comments.pdf#page=17>

March 27, 2018

Draft EIR is released.

First time project information, views, and plans are made available online. Public comment review period was March 27 - May 11, 2018. Draft EIR Link:

https://mediafiles.ucsc.edu/ppc/envdoc/SHW_DEIR_Vol%20I-reduced-better.pdf

April 10, 2018

AVC Sue Matthews sends Alumni Council President Mercado a response to the letter that he sent to the Administration on November 3, 2017. Link to the UCSC response:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/0znbe1bwrxomtgo/April_10_2018_UCSC_Response_to_November_3_2017_Alumni_Council_Letter.pdf

Starting in April, 2018

An online petition is started about saving the East Meadow. By June it had over 63,000 signatures. As of writing it is over 75,000. <https://www.thepetitionsite.com/815/978/027/save-east-meadow/>

May 1, 2018

UC Regents Emeriti and Alumni Ken Feingold, Gary Novack (via conference call), and Paul Hall meet with Chancellor Blumenthal and EVC Tromp to discuss University position on "SHW." They send the Chancellor a letter in advance.

May 11, 2018

Because UCSC had not issued a specific email announcement about the "SHW" Draft EIR deadline to the entire alumni community, the Alumni Council sends an email to approximately 70,000 alumni in the University Relations system alerting them to the Draft EIR deadline.

May 11, 2018

Deadline for Draft EIR public comments.

First Joint Letter co-authored and signed by an ad-hoc coalition of current Trustees, Alumni Councilors, former UC Alumni Regents, emeriti administrators and faculty, notable donors, alumni and friends of the campus including the current Chairperson of the UC Santa Cruz Foundation and the current President of the UC Santa Cruz Alumni Council. Letter submitted as a public comment for the Draft EIR. Signed by 44 individuals.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/lgycvbf2s1px82a/JointLetter1_051018_DEIR1_Webster_et_al_letter.pdf

Other comments of note submitted:

- Campus Provost Emerita / Executive Vice Chancellor Emerita Allison Galloway:
https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/DEIR10_Galloway-DEIR-comment.pdf
- Campus Architect Emeritus Frank Zwart:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/DEIR8-Zwart-SHW-Draft-EIR-Comments-FINAL.pdf>
- Emeritus Professor and former Cowell Provost John Dizikes:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/7onvc2l3rf54i8c/JOHNDIZIKES_DraftEIR_SHWComments.pdf
- Emerita Professor and former Cowell Provost Faye Crosby:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/dq4dvt9iwe4d317/FAYECROSBY_DraftEIR_SHWComments.pdf
- Emeritus Professor of Environmental Studies James Pepper:
https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/DEIR7_PepperSHWDEIScomments-51118.pdf
- Sierra Club Santa Cruz County:
https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/DEIR4_Sierra-Club-DEIR-comments-SHW.pdf
- Comment by the Attorney for the East Meadow Action Committee:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/DEIR3-Parkin-Letter-on-DEIR-re-Student-Housing-West.pdf>
- More comments were archived at East Meadow Action Committee website:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/deir-comments/>

May 15, 2018

UCSC announces extension of deadline for Draft EIR public comments.

Chancellor Blumenthal and EVC Tromp issue statement on extension of public comment period till June 27, 2018 and that they will hold two more information sessions and two more scoping meetings. Link:

<https://news.ucsc.edu/2018/05/shw-eir-extension.html>

June 2, 2018

At June 2 UCSC Foundation meeting, the Foundation passes a Resolution about “SHW”, which Chancellor Blumenthal does not oppose. Foundation at meeting holds a discussion about “SHW” with Chancellor Blumenthal, VC Sarah Latham, and VC Peggy Delaney. The Foundation Resolution: https://www.dropbox.com/s/85lps5dxfwvkhnu/UCSCFoundation_Resolution_on_SHW_6_2_18.pdf

June 11 and 22, 2018

Two meetings between Foundation and Alumni representatives and UCSC Administration and P3 developer representatives to more fully discuss project alternatives. Before these meetings, VC Keith Brant informed the Foundation and Alumni group in writing that, on the advice of legal counsel, financial information about the project and the cost of alternatives would NOT be provided. Thus, several alternatives/variations to the proposed project were discussed in concept, but without the ability to examine the Administration’s claims about alleged costs of alternatives.

June 27, 2018

Extended Deadline for Draft EIR public comments.

Second Joint Letter co-authored and signed by an ad-hoc coalition of current Trustees, Alumni Councilors, former UC Alumni Regents, emeriti administrators and faculty, notable donors, alumni and friends of the campus, including the current Chairperson of the UC Santa Cruz Foundation and the current President of the UC Santa Cruz Alumni Council. Given brevity of time of the deadline after the two prior meetings, one should not draw the inference that fewer signatures reflect less broad support for the views in the letter. Letter submitted as public comment for the Draft EIR under extended deadline. Signed by 37 individuals.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/jcog66cb46glmdl/JointLetter2_062718_TrusteesTrusteesAlumniEMAC_final_DEIR_comment.pdf

July 24, 2018

Follow-up letter to Chancellor Blumenthal and EVC Tromp on July 24, 2018 sent by Ken Feingold, Regent Emeritus and Foundation Past President. Includes cover letter and sharing with them the UCSC Foundation Resolution passed about “SHW”. Link: https://www.dropbox.com/s/vugjh6y63822013/Blumenthal_Tromp_Corr_7_24_18.pdf

August 12, 2018

LA Times publishes an article that misrepresents the alumni and faculty concerns with the design and site planning of “SHW”. Wrongly characterized people as anti-growth and out of touch. Also includes quotes by Chancellor Blumenthal that seem counter-productive given the meetings: Link: <https://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-edu-uc-santa-cruz-housing-squeeze-20180812-story.html>

Chancellor quoted on the East Meadow: *“A nice view. But, it isn’t imbued with some mystical character. In fact what it is is a cow patch”* and *“Maybe somebody will have a suggestion for us, but at a certain point, we have students who need housing and we can’t futz around forever in making the decision.”*

August 20, 2018

Follow-up letter to Chancellor Blumenthal and EVC Tromp sent on August 20, 2018 re-stating concerns, noting the problems with the Chancellor’s comments in the LA Times article, and re-stating the opportunity to collaborate and improve “SHW”. Signed by Regent Emeritus and Foundation Past

President Ken Feingold, Trustee and Foundation Chair Alec Webster, Alumni Council Past President Adolfo Mercado, and Chair Arts Champions UCSC Arts Division Arts and Trustee UC Santa Barbara Foundation Claudia Webster. Letter:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/rzsocwomdbti81w/Blumenthal_Corr_8_20_18.pdf

September 6, 2018

UCSC Foundation Chair Webster issues a Report to Trustees about the progress of the “SHW” process. Report also comments on the August 12, 2018 LA Times article. VC Keith Brant responds. Link:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/d0qskt2qr3d6fba/20180906_Webster-Report_to_Trustees.pdf

September 17, 2018

Revised Draft EIR is released.

Public comment period is September 17, 2018 - November 1, 2018. Link to Revised Draft EIR chapters:

<https://mediafiles.ucsc.edu/news/pdf/shw/09-2018-rdeir/volume-i/>

September 17, 2018

UCSC posts a Press Release about the Revised Draft EIR. ***This Press Release also mentions UCSC received over 350 comments in response to the first Draft EIR.***

<https://news.ucsc.edu/2018/09/student-housing-update.html>

September 17, 2018

Chancellor Blumenthal is quoted in the Santa Cruz Sentinel acknowledging the cost to the campus. Link:

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2018/09/17/uc-santa-cruz-meadow-development-forging-ahead-reigniting-opposition/>

Chancellor quoted: *“In a sense the entrance to the campus and the viewshed there have been such a major part of this campus since its inception,” he said. “I can understand how someone would feel that putting a project there really undermines the basic essence of the UC Santa Cruz campus — I can understand that and I even sympathize with it to some extent. But I think like any controversy, this one will have to play out.”*

September 30, 2018

Letter is sent to Chancellor Blumenthal and EVC Tromp requesting the placement of storey poles at the East Meadow site. Letter signed by UC Regent Emeritus and Foundation Past President and current Trustee and Past President Alumni Association Paul Hall, UC Regent Emeritus and Foundation Past President and Past President Alumni Association Gary D. Novack, Ph.D., UC Regent Emeritus and Foundation Past President Ken Feingold, Foundation Chairperson Alec Webster, Chairperson Arts Division Arts Champions Claudia Webster, Pioneer Alumnus and East Meadow Action Committee co-organizer Paul Schoellhamer, and Professor of History Gail Hershatter. Link:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/av1sshgqrx4k7ns/Sept_30_2018_Letter_to_University_about_Storey_Poles.pdf

No response is received.

November 1, 2018

Deadline for Revised Draft EIR public comments.

Third Joint Letter co-authored and signed by an ad-hoc coalition of current Trustees, Alumni Councilors, former UC Alumni Regents, emeriti administrators and faculty, notable donors, alumni and friends of the campus, including the current Chairperson of the UC Santa Cruz Foundation and the immediate past

President of the UC Santa Cruz Alumni Council. Letter submitted as a public comment for the Revised Draft EIR. Signed by 50 individuals.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/jdt1cyuda66vm8n/JointLetter3_110118_RDEIR_WebsterMercadoFeinglod_et_al_Comments.pdf

The below are other comments of note shared with the East Meadow Action Committee by the authors and posted to that website:

- UCSC Campus Architect Emeritus Frank Zwart:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/4-RDEIR-Zwart-Comments.pdf>
- Foundation Chair Alec Webster and Claudia Webster:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/14-RDEIR-Websters-Comments.pdf>

Professors:

- Environmental Studies Professor Karen Holl: Karen Holl writes about the 2020-2040 LRDP Committee not being allowed to discuss the change in land-use designation for the East Meadow. I have also heard this from the Alumni Council representative and student representatives, that they have not been permitted to discuss “SHW”. See page 1:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/7-RDEIR-Karen-Holl-Comments.pdf>
- Emerita Professor and former Cowell Provost, Faye Crosby
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/13-RDEIR-Crosby-comments.pdf>
- Chair and Professor, Film and Digital Media Department, Warren Sack:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/11-RDEIR-Sack-comment.pdf>
- Associate Professor Politics and Legal Studies, Mark Massoud:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/5-RDEIR-Marc-Massoud-comment.pdf>
- Professor Emeritus English Literature, Michael Warren:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/18-RDEIR-MichaelWarren-Comments.pdf>

Organizations:

- Attorney for the East Meadow Action Committee:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/2-RDEIR-EMAC-Attorneys-letter.pdf>
- East Meadow Action Committee:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/1-RDEIR-EMAC-comments-11012018.pdf>
- Sierra Club Santa Cruz County:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/15-RDEIR-Sierra-Club-UCSC-Housing.pdf>
- Habitat and Watershed Caretakers (HAWC) organization:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/16-RDEIR-HAWC-comments.pdf>

Local Residents:

- Environmental attorney and noted prior elected official of Santa Cruz, Gary Patton:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/GAP-Comments-on-Student-Housing-West-DEIR.pdf>
- Geoffrey Fleissner, CA Registered Civil Engineer:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/10-RDEIR-Fleissner-Commentary.pdf>
- Lee Jaffe, retired UCSC staff that lives on-campus near the proposed East Meadow site:
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/8-RDEIR-Lee-Jaffe-comment.pdf>
- Kate Warren, Cowell alumna 93, conservation professional, and daughter of faculty and staff.
<https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/17-RDEIR-KateWarren-comments.pdf>

Students and Parents:

- Joanne Brown, parent of a student who lives in current Family Student Housing on campus: <https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/6-RDEIR-Joanne-Brown-Comments.pdf>
- Maria Borges, current UCSC student who lives in current Family Student Housing with her children: <https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/FSH1-Borges-Family-Student-Housing.pdf>
- Joint Letter with concerns on the proposed “SHW” private Bright Horizons Child Care Center. Signed by 27 Student-Parents that currently use or plan to use the Child Care facility for their children. These are undergraduate and graduate students: <https://www.eastmeadowaction.org/s/FSH2-StudentParentGroup-CommentLetter.pdf>

November 16, 2018

2020-2040 LRDP Committee co-chairs VC Sarah Latham and Academic Senate Chair Kim Lau post a campus message requesting feedback on three land-use scenarios diagrams for UCSC at 2040. While the LRDP Committee was not allowed to discuss SHW and the East Meadow land-use change, as noted above, “SHW” and its East Meadow development are included in the 2040 diagrams. **Also the diagrams notably do not use the word “colleges” in the descriptions of student housing -- this is not trivial because the similar diagrams in the 2005 LRDP specifically included that language.** (For the comparable 2005 LRDP diagram see Figure 19, page 65, of the 2005 LRDP.) Furthermore, it has been noted to me by the Alumni Council representative that while this message describes the existence of “expert working groups”, there are in fact no known expert working groups as part of the LRDP Committee. Link to the three land-use scenarios: <https://news.ucsc.edu/2018/11/pa-11-16-lrdp.html>