

March 18, 2004

John Barnes
Environmental Assessment Group
University of California
515 Swift Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the UCSC Marine Science
Campus Coastal Long Range Development Plan (CLRDP)

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Thank for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the UCSC Marine Science Campus Coastal Long Range Development Plan (CLRDP). The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) serves as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Santa Cruz County. Staff would like to offer the following comments for your consideration:

1. Staff supports the proposal to construct support housing for residential and visitor accommodations to serve the Marine Science Campus. Providing housing with the other development at the project location would support policies in the *2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* to reduce auto-dependent development by increasing urban density and encouraging infill projects in urban areas (RTP 3.2)
2. Staff agrees that the University should contribute its “fair share” to the City of Santa Cruz for the Mission Street (Route 1)/Chestnut Street. However, a feasible improvement for this intersection has not yet been agreed upon. Staff recommends that prior to the implementation of any mitigation measures at this location, the University, City of Santa Cruz, Caltrans and the Regional Transportation Commission analyze the options and agree upon the proposed improvement project.
3. It would be helpful if the University could identify a potential rail platform location on the property for possible future expansion of passenger rail service as identified in the Major Transportation Investment Study (MTIS). Please refer to the Preliminary Project Report – Passenger Platforms and Related Improvements for the Santa Cruz Branch Line for Recreational Rail Service (<http://www.sccrtc.org/packet/2003/0309/w0309-05a.pdf>) for platform and station information.

4. Staff supports the goal of at least 30 percent of all person-trips to the Marine

Science Campus made using alternatives to the single-occupant automobile.
Please work with staff of our Commute Solutions Program towards this goal.
This is consistent with RTP goals and policies 2.3, 2.7 and 2.5.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Linda Wilshusen
Executive Director

cc: SCCRTC, District 5 Development Review Branch, Nick Papadakis AMBAG
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