

December 29, 2004

UCSC Chancellor Martin Chemers
University of California at Santa Cruz
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

RE: UCSC Corporation Yard Move to Cave Gulch

Dear Mr. Chemers:

I am writing on behalf of the Bicycle Committee of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission to comment on the planned move of the UCSC Corporation yard to a location up Empire Grade, at the top of Cave Gulch.

The Bicycle Committee is concerned about UCSC's construction and maintenance vehicles adding an estimated 300-900 additional vehicle trips per day to a road that is dangerous, curvy and has steep grades. The increased traffic of slow moving, loaded vehicles will cause delays and potential safety hazards. Bicycle travel will be especially impacted since no bike lanes currently exist on the segment in question.

The Bicycle Committee urges you to consider working with the County of Santa Cruz to add bicycle lanes on Empire Grade to mitigate the danger this move will expose bicycle traffic to, particularly in the uphill direction where cyclists travel slowly.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter and to ensuring safety to all users of the transportation network.

Sincerely,

Kem Akol,
Chair, SCCRTC Bicycle Committee

cc: SCCRTC
Supervisor Mardi Wormhoudt
Thomas Vani, Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Service
J. Barnes, UCSC Principal Planner
T. Burns, Santa Cruz County Planning Dept
Jack Sohriakoff, Santa Cruz County Traffic Engineer