

John Barnes
2005 LRDP EIR Comment
UCSC Physical Planning and Construction
1156 High Street, Barn G
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

January 11, 2006

RE: Comments on the Draft EIR for the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) Long-Range Development Plan

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I am writing on behalf of the Bicycle Committee of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the UCSC Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP). As you know, the Bicycle Committee is an advisory body to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) which serves as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Santa Cruz County.

The Bicycle Committee is in agreement with SCCRTC staff's concerns submitted in respect to the following issues:

- The Draft EIR discusses Off-Campus Transportation System Improvements. The Bay Street/Escalona Traffic Signal Project and the Mission Street/Bay Street Improvements are included as planned improvements. These are two of several unfunded local and regional transportation projects in Santa Cruz County. Please provide a funding and construction timeline for these projects as part of this discussion in the Draft EIR to explain why these improvements are assumed in the traffic analysis. Also, if the City identifies funding participation by UCSC, it should be included as a mitigation measure.
- RTC staff supports that new bicycle lanes be included on all new roads and existing campus roadways. RTC staff recommends that UCSC's financial contribution to the addition of bicycle lanes on new and existing roads be added as a mitigation measure for impact TRA-4. (2005 RTP Policy 1.6.2)
- The Draft EIR notes that 3% of trips to and from the campus are bicycle trips. This mode split combined with an increase in alternative

mode trips stated in mitigation measures TRA-2B will create a greater demand for bicycling facilities within a reasonable bicycle distance of campus and transit routes serving campus. RTC staff recommends that the Draft EIR add “partnering with local agencies to fund bicycle infrastructure improvements that fill gaps and enhance the regional bicycle network serving campus and transit routes” to mitigation measures TRA-4B. (2005 RTP Policy 2.7)

- RTC staff requests the Draft EIR note that the Eastern Access discussed in the Draft EIR is not included in the 2005 RTP.

Additionally, the Bicycle Committee urges UCSC to:

- Implement a neighborhood parking program for UCSC students wishing to buy permits and park in neighborhoods in order to take the bus or ride bicycles to campus.
- Develop a Bicycle Plan for the campus that includes bike parking and other bike amenities as part of any new building design, construction or improvements.
- Improve bike access for cyclists traveling to the campus via High Street, Spring Street and Coolidge Drive.
- The Bicycle Committee prefers that the corporation yard not be moved to a location off Empire Grade which would increase truck traffic on Empire Grade. However, if the corporation yard is moved to the proposed location, the Bicycle Committee recommends that the shoulders on Empire Grade be improved for bicycling traffic.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter, for ensuring safety to all users of the transportation network and for the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR for the UCSC LRDP. If you have any questions, please contact Cory Caletti, SCCRTC staff, at (831) 460-3201.

Sincerely,

Daniel Kostelec,
Chair, SCCRTC Bicycle Committee

cc: SCCRTC

\\Rtcserv1\Shared\Bike\Committee\CORR\DEIRUCSCLRDP.doc