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THE PRESIDENT

October 11, 2006

The Honorable Jim Madaffer  
Councilmember, Seventh District  
City of San Diego  
202 C Street  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Councilmember Madaffer,

Thank you for your letter of October 3 regarding San Diego State University's Campus Master Plan Revision and related community issues. I appreciate the opportunity to share the facts of the situation with you. Your letter is quite timely, as we also have been seeking important information about the status of the EIR from the California State University. I will share the latest information we have with you below. Open and honest communication with you and the community about these subjects is essential so that no one will need to make or rely on assumptions.

First, let me address the "big picture" about the Campus Master Plan Revision and its EIR. In light of the California Supreme Court's July decision in *City of Marina*, SDSU and the CSU determined it was necessary to set aside the CSU Board of Trustees' prior actions certifying SDSU's 2005 Campus Master Plan Revision EIR and approving the SDSU 2005 Campus Master Plan Revision. The San Diego Superior Court issued a judgment and writ on September 1, consistent with SDSU's determination to set aside the master plan revision and EIR. We are seeking a determination from CSU General Counsel as to whether these steps have decertified the EIR and set aside the project approval as a matter of law, or if additional actions to decertify the EIR and set aside the project approval are needed.

We also are working with counsel and the CSU Chancellor's Office to evaluate the whole scope of the ruling. As you are aware, the *City of Marina* decision applies to the entire CSU system. Given the ruling's significance, it will take some time for the Chancellor's Office and the Board of Trustees to fully understand its impact and consequences; they will then need to draft appropriate policy for the system. San Diego State will participate in those discussions; when they are complete, SDSU will be able to make further decisions regarding the EIR.

We remain committed to our mission of providing access to quality higher education; consequently, the Campus Master Plan Revision remains a top priority. This, of course, will require a new EIR and subsequent approval by the CSU Board of Trustees. At this point, it is possible a revised EIR could be brought back to the Board for consideration as early as next fall. Consistent with CEQA requirements, the university will make a timely and thorough effort leading up to and during the required public comment and response periods to communicate with (and get input from) neighboring residents and other important groups in San Diego.

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San Diego State has been conducting traffic counts around campus-owned property. This data could be used in a revised EIR. The counts are being conducted now because the best time to do them is in the early fall, which traditionally is our heaviest traffic period. The new counts also are being made to help measure the effect trolley service to campus is having on local traffic conditions. The preliminary data is encouraging news; it indicates the trolley is helping reduce traffic levels around campus.

SDSU is also very concerned about the number of single-family homes in surrounding neighborhoods that have been enlarged or modified, rented to groups of young people, and not kept in the best condition. It affects the university's relationship with our neighbors and causes the university to expend precious resources mitigating the effects of the sometimes incongruous mix of students and residents. As you know, there are many young people living in local mini-dorms who are not San Diego State students. More importantly, the university is not the authority regulating or approving permits to modify homes or parking conditions – issues that have caused significant frustration to SDSU and among area citizens. The university wants to help make positive change. However, these concerns can be effectively addressed only through a comprehensive approach by the city, local leaders, residents, and other regulatory or planning authorities, as well as the university. I hope your leadership will be a key factor in making such positive change.

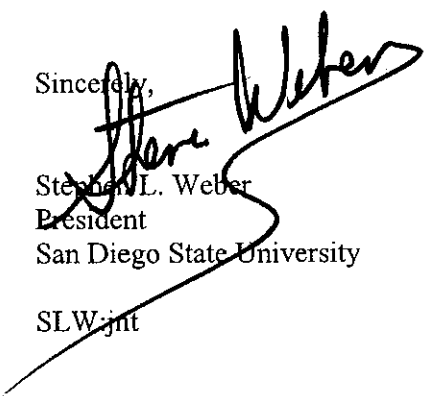
As you know, University Police, in addition to securing the campus, patrols the surrounding neighborhoods as its resources permit. It also holds periodic enforcement actions specifically intended to curb disruptive or risky behavior. In addition, pursuant to a recent CSU Trustee policy, this fall SDSU expanded the jurisdiction of the student conduct code to certain areas adjacent to campus to reinforce the message to students that disruptive or risky behavior is unacceptable.

It is also important for the university to do its part to help more students find appropriate housing. That is why we are exploring the feasibility of adding significantly more on-campus student housing than previously planned.

Building more student housing will not alleviate the situation overnight, and much work remains before this idea can become reality. I am sure when we are ready to proceed, the local community will appreciate your help and support to San Diego State University in achieving its goal of increasing student housing on or close to campus.

Please let me know if you'd like to meet to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Weber  
President  
San Diego State University

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