

Dear President Drake, Chancellor Larive, and Board of UC Regents,

The proposed UC Santa Cruz (UCSC) Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) for 2021-2040 presents a critical opportunity for the University to take seriously the on and off-campus issues caused by irresponsible growth.

UCSC is planning for a 44% increase in enrollment by 2040. However, without the necessary investments necessary to address the needs of their students, the off-campus community, and to protect the environment, the proposed enrollment growth will have devastating consequences for everyone who calls Santa Cruz home, whether they live on or off-campus. UCSC must make substantive and legally enforceable commitments to provide the housing and infrastructure that will be essential for future UCSC students, faculty, and staff to succeed, and for the well-being of the community-at-large over the next 20 years.

Specifically, we are concerned that:

1. Despite the growing intensity of our local housing crisis, UCSC is planning to enroll 28,000 students and 5,000 faculty and staff on-campus by 2040 without a legally binding commitment to provide additional housing or to tie enrollment growth to the production of housing and infrastructure.
2. Despite the catastrophic fires the Santa Cruz community experienced just a year ago, UCSC is planning for 43% of the additional student housing and 8% of the additional academic and support space to be developed within a CalFire designated High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and to do so without updating emergency or evacuation plans.
3. Despite the ambitious climate action goals set by the UC, UCSC is still planning to increase campus greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on natural gas. Emissions from construction are expected to exceed regional air quality standards by 11%.
4. Despite the unparalleled educational, research, and environmental benefits for students, faculty, staff, and wildlife, UCSC will not designate the Campus Natural Reserve as a permanent reserve, ineligible for development (except for educational and preservation uses) in perpetuity.

Our strong local coalition of community members, students, alumni, faculty and staff, and local elected officials are calling for UC Santa Cruz to make the following legally binding commitments:

1. To house 100% of additional students, faculty, and staff beyond 19,500 on campus;
2. To tie the increase of the campus population to additional housing and infrastructure, which will be provided prior to or concurrent with enrollment increases;
3. To designate the UCSC Campus Natural Reserve as a permanent reserve, ineligible for development in perpetuity, except to support the uses of recreation, research, environmental conservation, and scientific education;
4. To adhere to or exceed the strictest greenhouse gas emission targets and air quality standards, whether they be statewide, regional, and/or UC-specific.
5. To refrain from development in North Campus, which is in a CalFire designated High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and curtail enrollment accordingly.

Sincerely,
[Names]