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For Immediate Release

SANTA CRUZ - The Santa Cruz City-County Task Force on UCSC Growth Plans is disappointed by UC Santa Cruz's recent decision to release the 2021 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and submit the plan for UC Regent approval on September 29th and 30th.

"The City of Santa Cruz continues to meet and discuss the impacts associated with campus growth with UCSC. The quick turn around necessary with the Regents meeting coming in such a short time frame is problematic for the City at this time." says City of Santa Cruz Mayor and Task Force Member Donna Meyers.

UC Santa Cruz has proposed a 44% increase in enrollment by 2040 without committing to tie growth to the provision of infrastructure, the most critical of which is on-campus housing. Although their plans include an objective to house 100% of additional students and up to 25% of additional faculty and staff on-campus, UCSC is not required to meet these goals. And historically, without legally-enforceable commitments to house additional students, UC Santa Cruz has met their enrollment caps but failed to develop the accompanying infrastructure. This practice is irresponsible and has contributed significantly to our local housing crisis as well as had direct and profound psychological, financial, and quality of life impacts on their students.

"Adding thousands of students to an already crowded housing market without a binding commitment to create housing is a disservice to both the students and community. I look forward to working with UCSC and the City to move from aspirations to legally binding commitments," says 3rd District Supervisor and Task Force member Ryan Coonerty.

Furthermore, UCSC excluded critical information from public review regarding numerous potential environmental effects and failed to analyze the impacts of thousands of additional students, faculty, and staff on-campus should projected housing not be developed. We are deeply concerned that the resulting effects on traffic and local transportation infrastructure, our water supply, greenhouse gas emissions, etc., will be significant should UCSC not meet proposed housing objectives.

Additionally, UC Santa Cruz refused to evaluate the impact of additional development on tribal cultural resources, despite new information provided by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band that

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indicates eight previously unidentified sites with archaeological and historical significance. Furthermore, UC Santa Cruz does not grant Tribal sites the same level of protection as other, non-tribal, historical sites located on the campus. UC Santa Cruz's treatment of tribal resources continues the practice of irreversible harm and erasure of cherished community artifacts and history.

Finally, UC Santa Cruz proposes that 43% of additional student housing and 8% of academic and support space is located within a high fire hazard severity zone. Decades of research indicate that wildfire risk increases inherently when development and human activity push further and further into the Wildland Urban Interface. Given the severity of the 2020 CZU Complex fires, the consequences of which residents are still reeling from, UCSC should not make land-use decisions that have the potential to risk thousands of lives and jeopardize our public health and natural resources.

The Task Force urges members of the public to submit their concerns regarding UCSC's growth plans to the UC Regents by **September 26th**. Email regentsoffice@ucop.edu with your testimony.

The Santa Cruz City-County Task Force on UCSC Growth Plans is a coalition of local elected officials dedicated to achieving a responsible UCSC 2021 LRDP. Members of the Task Force include Santa Cruz County 3rd District Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, City of Santa Cruz Mayor Donna Meyers, City of Santa Cruz Councilmember Sandy Brown, and City of Santa Cruz Councilmember Justin Cummings. You can learn more about our efforts on our website www.actonucscgrowth.org.