

APPENDIX A

Notice of Preparation and Scoping Comments



PHYSICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
A & E BUILDING, # 1382

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-1382

April 7, 2020

State of California
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Project Title: University of California, Berkeley Long Range Development Plan Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2

Lead Agency: The Regents of the University of California (University of California)

Project Location: University of California, Berkeley Campus and Planning Area (see Attachment A, Figure 1)

Counties: Alameda County and Contra Costa County

Notice is hereby given that the University of California, Berkeley will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Update ("LRDP Update" or "proposed project"). The University of California, acting as the Lead Agency, has determined that the proposed project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts and that an EIR is required.

Each University of California campus periodically prepares an LRDP, which provides a high-level planning framework to guide land use and capital investment in line with the campus's mission, priorities, strategic goals, and enrollment projections. The most recent LRDP for UC Berkeley forecasted development through the year 2020. The LRDP Update would replace the current LRDP and include projections of student, faculty and staff populations, bed spaces, building square footage, and potential development areas.

UC Berkeley is the Lead Agency for the proposed project and will prepare an EIR as required by Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080.09. The LRDP Update EIR will function as a Program EIR (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15168) that can be used in the environmental review of subsequent campus development projects during implementation of the LRDP Update. In addition to analyzing the environmental effects of campus growth under the LRDP Update at a programmatic level, the EIR will also provide a project-specific analysis of the environmental effects associated with the development of two off-campus housing projects (i.e., Housing Projects #1 and #2) with up to 2,050 beds for UC Berkeley students. These two projects would likely be some of the first projects developed under the LRDP Update.

Project Description

The UC Regents adopted the previous LRDP and associated EIR on January 20, 2005. The previous LRDP

requires updating to reflect new growth projections and plans. LRDPs do not expire, but remain in effect until updated or replaced. The planning area for the LRDP Update and associated EIR is shown in Attachment A, Figure 1 and includes properties owned by the UC Regents located within the City of Berkeley, as well as areas of the Hill Campus located within the City of Oakland and a portion of land located in unincorporated Contra Costa County. Specifically, the LRDP Update Planning Area includes the Campus Park, which is bounded by the hills to the east, Hearst Avenue to the north, Oxford Street to the west, and Bancroft Way to the south; the Hill Campus, which extends east from the Campus Park; campus environs north of the Campus Park to Ridge Road, west of the Campus Park to Shattuck Avenue, and south of the Campus Park to Dwight Way; the Clark Kerr Campus southeast of the Campus Park; and several satellite properties located within the City of Berkeley.

For the LRDP Update, the university has conducted a robust engagement process with the campus community and the public, including a combination of in-person and online outreach. In-person outreach has included individual meetings with stakeholder groups, regular meetings with project governance groups including an LRDP Community Advisory Group, public town halls, briefings to City officials, and informal drop-in sessions. Online outreach has included an [LRDP Update website](#) providing relevant news, project documents, and forms to provide feedback; and an online survey to provide feedback about the campus, which ran from April through October 2019. An engagement process document has also been posted to the [LRDP Update website](#), comprising engagement principles, potential engagement tools, project governance structure, and contact information. To date, the engagement process comprises more than 200 actual events/meetings, and the university will continue to engage stakeholders and the public at key LRDP Update milestones.

The purpose of an LRDP is to provide adequate planning capacity for potential campus population growth and physical infrastructure that may be needed to support future population levels. The LRDP does not mandate ongoing growth or the provision of new facilities. Varying factors affect whether campus population levels may increase, decrease, or remain unchanged and the provision of new facilities may or may not occur with the increased population. In the event that population growth does occur, the LRDP provides a guide to the land development patterns and associated physical infrastructure that could be built to support a forecasted level of enrollment and growth. The LRDP Update does not set a future population capacity for the campus and does not indicate whether a future LRDP or LRDP update will be undertaken prior to or after the forecast horizon year in the EIR. The LRDP Update EIR will use the 2018-19 academic year as a key baseline year to reflect existing environmental conditions and will use the 2036-37 academic year to forecast the potential environmental impacts of the LRDP Update.

The LRDP will enhance the physical development of the campus, and strengthen supporting systems to improve connectivity and efficiency. Preliminary objectives of the LRDP Update are included below, and will be further developed for the LRDP document:

- Provide additional campus life spaces and services to create a memorable, robust experience for campus constituents.
- Build on the Chancellor's Housing Initiative to better serve current and projected student, faculty, and staff housing needs.
- Provide modern academic and research space that accommodates the campus community and supports the university's mission.
- Upgrade and modernize infrastructure to address changing environmental trends, carbon neutrality goals, growth, and deferred maintenance.
- Plan for a more diverse, resilient campus relative to both natural systems and infrastructure, in order to mitigate power outages, climate change, and severe weather.
- Enhance the wayfinding system to make navigation more intuitive and accessible, and promote multi-modal transportation to campus.
- Plan every new project to represent the optimal investment of land and capital to meet space needs, address deferred maintenance, reduce seismic risks, and incorporate flexibility and multi-purpose spaces.

- Maintain and enhance the image and experience of the campus, and preserve the campus's historic legacy of landscape and architecture.

The LRDP Update planning assumption for the campus population is 48,200 students and 19,000 faculty and staff in the 2036-37 academic year compared to 39,300 students and 15,400 faculty and staff in the 2018-19 academic year. Population assumptions included in the LRDP Update provide a foundation for understanding the campus's long-term space needs. The LRDP Update proposes to add up to 11,700 student housing beds, 385 employee housing units, and approximately 4,000,000 gross square feet (GSF) of academic and administrative facilities. The university anticipates that approximately 3,000,000 GSF of academic, research, and support space will be needed, including a significant increase in instructional space. To enhance the campus experience, the university projects that approximately 1,000,000 GSF of campus life space will be needed, comprising social spaces, recreation and wellness space, dining, and assembly spaces. A substantial proportion of the overall development program is needed to meet the needs of the current campus population.

The draft LRDP Update land use plan supports potential growth on the Campus Park and adjacent university property, Hill Campus, Clark Kerr Campus, and satellite properties within the City of Berkeley. The draft LRDP Update land use plan, shown in Attachment A, Figure 4, identifies the following land use categories to support potential growth:

- Academic, Research, and Support (Approximately 180-200 acres)
The LRDP Update continues to prioritize academic, research, and support uses for Campus Park locations, particularly programs that directly engage students and promote student-faculty interaction. The majority of the identified program needs in this category will be accommodated on the Campus Park. The intention of the LRDP Update is to preserve the existing proportion of open space within the Campus Park.
- Mixed Use – Other Programs (Approximately 150-175 acres)
It is not possible to accommodate all projected future space demand on Campus Park sites. Other program needs, including housing, will need to be accommodated outside Campus Park sites. Some academic, research, and support uses that do not require proximity to the Campus Park will also be accommodated in this category. Specific program locations will be prioritized based on the need for proximity to the Campus Park.
 - Potential Housing Redevelopment (Approximately 35-55 acres)
The draft land use plan identifies potential housing sites under consideration to achieve the university's substantial housing goals, within the mixed use category. Some of the identified potential housing sites involve redevelopment and renewal of existing housing facilities. Student housing would be prioritized for sites in closer proximity to the Campus Park. Additional student and faculty housing is under consideration for the Clark Kerr Campus in order to meet the university's housing goals, along with student life facilities to support both existing and new housing facilities. The LRDP Update does not include existing or future housing located at University Village or Richmond Field Station, which are outside of the planning area.
- Hill Campus (Approximately 800 acres)
Limited development, focusing primarily on expansion and renewal of existing academic, research, and public-facing uses, is expected in the Hill Campus. The remaining Hill Campus area, comprising the majority of its acreage, will continue to be used for purposes of recreation and managed to reduce wildfire risks and enhance biodiversity.

Specific Projects

UC Berkeley has the lowest percentage of undergraduate and graduate student beds out of any campus in the

University of California system, and the high cost of housing in the San Francisco Bay Area limits the availability of housing options near campus. When the UC Berkeley chancellor established the goals of the university's Housing Initiative in 2017, only 23 percent of undergraduate students and 8 percent of graduate students lived in university housing.

Since there is significant need to provide more student housing at UC Berkeley, the LRDP Update EIR evaluates the physical environmental effects of the LRDP Update proposed development program that includes two specific student housing projects located off of the Campus Park. Housing Project #1 would include up to 850 beds for UC Berkeley students, with ground floor retail, and commercial office, events, and student-serving space. The site for Housing Project #1 is located west across Oxford Street from the UC Berkeley Campus Park, and is bounded by Oxford Street, University Avenue, Walnut Street, and Berkeley Way, as illustrated in Attachment A, Figure 2.

Housing Project #2 would consist of three components to be constructed on the roughly 2.8-acre site known as People's Park. It would include up to 1,200 beds for UC Berkeley students with associated amenities; permanent supportive housing with on-site services and up to 125 apartments for lower-income (non-university affiliated) individuals; and open space. The supportive housing would be included on-site in a building separate from the student housing and would be developed and managed by one or more non-profit organizations partnering with the University of California. The site for Housing Project #2 is located at the southwestern corner of the intersection of Bowditch Street and Haste Street, roughly 0.2 miles south of the UC Berkeley Campus Park, as shown in Attachment A, Figure 3.

Environmental Review

UC Berkeley has determined that PRC Section 21080.09 requires that an EIR be prepared for the proposed project. Therefore, as allowed under Section 15060 of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 Cal. Code Regs.), UC Berkeley has not prepared an Initial Study and will instead begin work directly on the EIR process. Attachment B of this Notice, *Environmental Factors Not Affected*, describes the environmental topic areas that the proposed project would have no impact on, pursuant to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, and therefore, these issues will not be addressed in the EIR.

As required, the EIR for the LRDP Update will focus on the significant effects of the proposed project and will document the reasons for concluding that other effects will be less-than-significant. Where significant or potentially significant environmental impacts are identified, the EIR will also discuss feasible mitigation measures to avoid or reduce these impacts, and a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives. The EIR for the LRDP Update will evaluate the probable environmental effects, including cumulative effects, of the proposed project, in the following environmental issue areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

Project Comment and Scoping Session

UC Berkeley requests comments and guidance on the scope and content of the EIR from interested public agencies, organizations, and individuals. With respect to the views of Responsible and Trustee Agencies as to significant environmental issues, UC Berkeley needs to know the significant environmental issues and reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures that are germane to each agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

Due to time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than the close of the 39-day Notice of Preparation (NOP) review period at 5:00 p.m. on May 15, 2020. If you submit comments on the scope of the EIR, you will automatically be added to UC Berkeley's distribution list to receive future notices and announcements about the environmental review process for this and all other capital projects. If you do not wish to submit comments on the scope of the EIR but would like to be added to the university's [mailing list](#), you can subscribe here: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/about-us/subscribe-our-email-list>.

Responses to this NOP must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday May 15, 2020. Please e-mail or send your written response to:

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner
Physical & Environmental Planning
University of California, Berkeley
300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Email: planning@berkeley.edu

Please include "LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR" as the subject. Public agencies providing comments are asked to include a contact person for the agency.

As a result of the expanding outbreak of COVID-19 and restrictions placed on in-person gatherings throughout the State of California, in consultation with UC Office of the President and the Office of General Counsel, UC Berkeley will host an online public session to receive public comments on the scope of the EIR, rather than an in-person event. **The online public session will be hosted on the evening of April 27, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** and conducted via a live video feed; there will not be an in-person session. To participate in the online public session, please submit your comments in advance but no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2020, via email to planning@berkeley.edu, with your first and last name, and write in your email that you grant permission to UC Berkeley to read your comments aloud as part of the online public session. There is a 500 word limit for all comments read aloud. While all comments received will be included in the public record, if you would like your comments read aloud, please submit a condensed version that is no more than 500 words. Depending on the volume of comments received (as is typical with all public hearings) because of time constraints we may limit each person's comments read aloud on the live video stream to no more than two minutes to make sure all comments are heard.

On April 27, 2020, starting at 6:30 p.m., via live video feed, the university will provide a brief presentation of the proposed project at the following link: <https://lrdp.berkeley.edu/scoping-meeting>. Immediately following, staff will read aloud public comments received to date by persons granting permission to UC Berkeley to do so. If you would like to submit a comment to be read, please email planning@berkeley.edu and include your full name. Emailed comments received by 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2020, will be read out loud; depending on the number of emailed comments received by the cut-off time, university staff will read each letter up to 500 words. All written comments, whether emailed or sent via US Mail, received within the comment period will be equally considered.

The Online Public Scoping Session details are as follows:

Monday, April 27, 2020

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: <https://lrddp.berkeley.edu/scoping-meeting>

To participate, access the link above. To submit comments, email them to planning@berkeley.edu. If you would like your comments read via the live video feed, submit them by 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2020, and indicate that you grant permission for the letter to be read aloud. Comments should be no more than 500 words to allow all comments to be heard. Based on the number of comment letters received, up to two minutes of each comment will be read aloud.

If you need to review a paper copy of this notice or have questions regarding this project and associated environmental review, please contact Raphael Breines, Senior Planner, Physical & Environmental Planning, UC Berkeley, at 510-642-6796 or rbreines@berkeley.edu.

Sincerely,



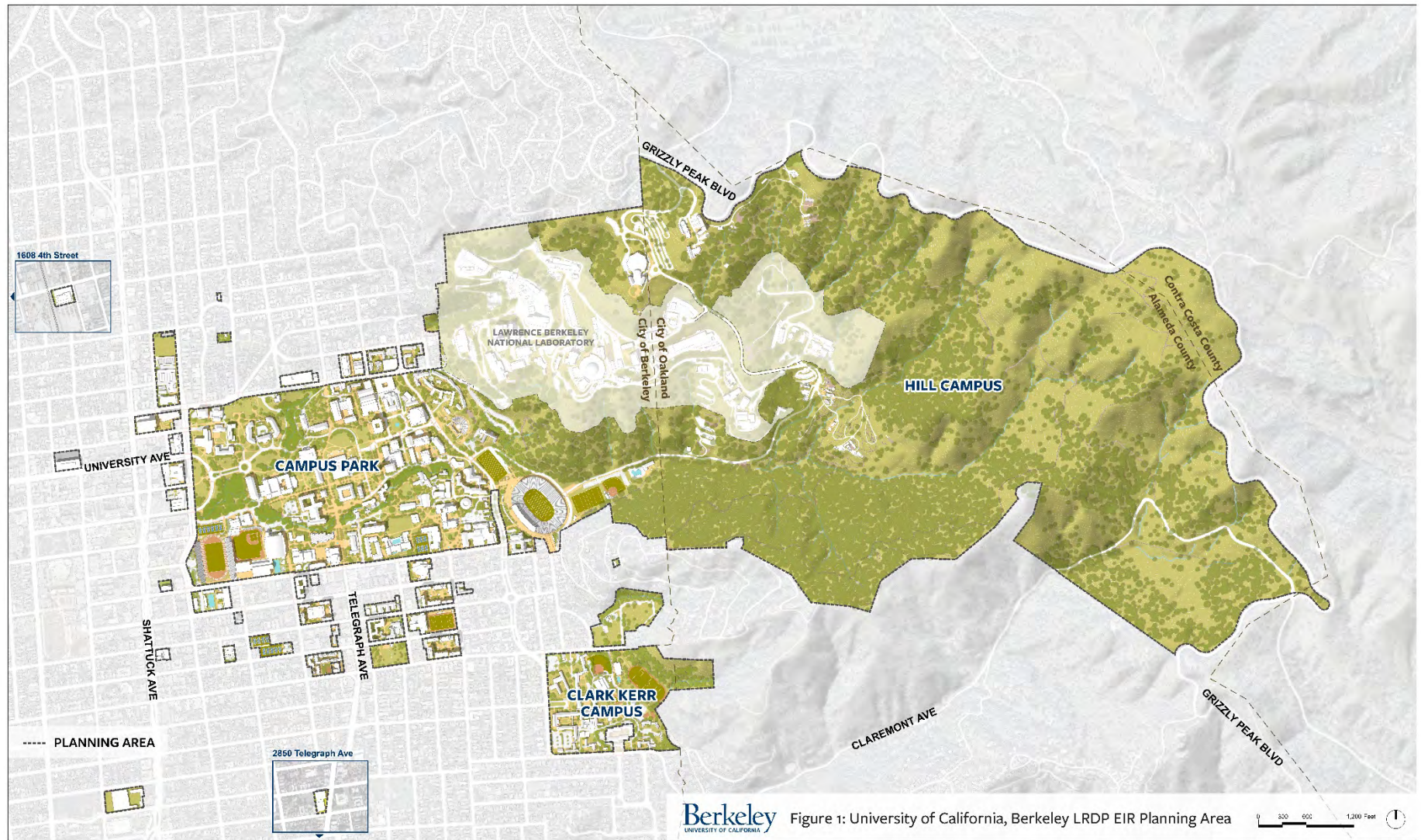
Wendy Hillis
Campus Architect, Assistant Vice Chancellor
University of California, Berkeley

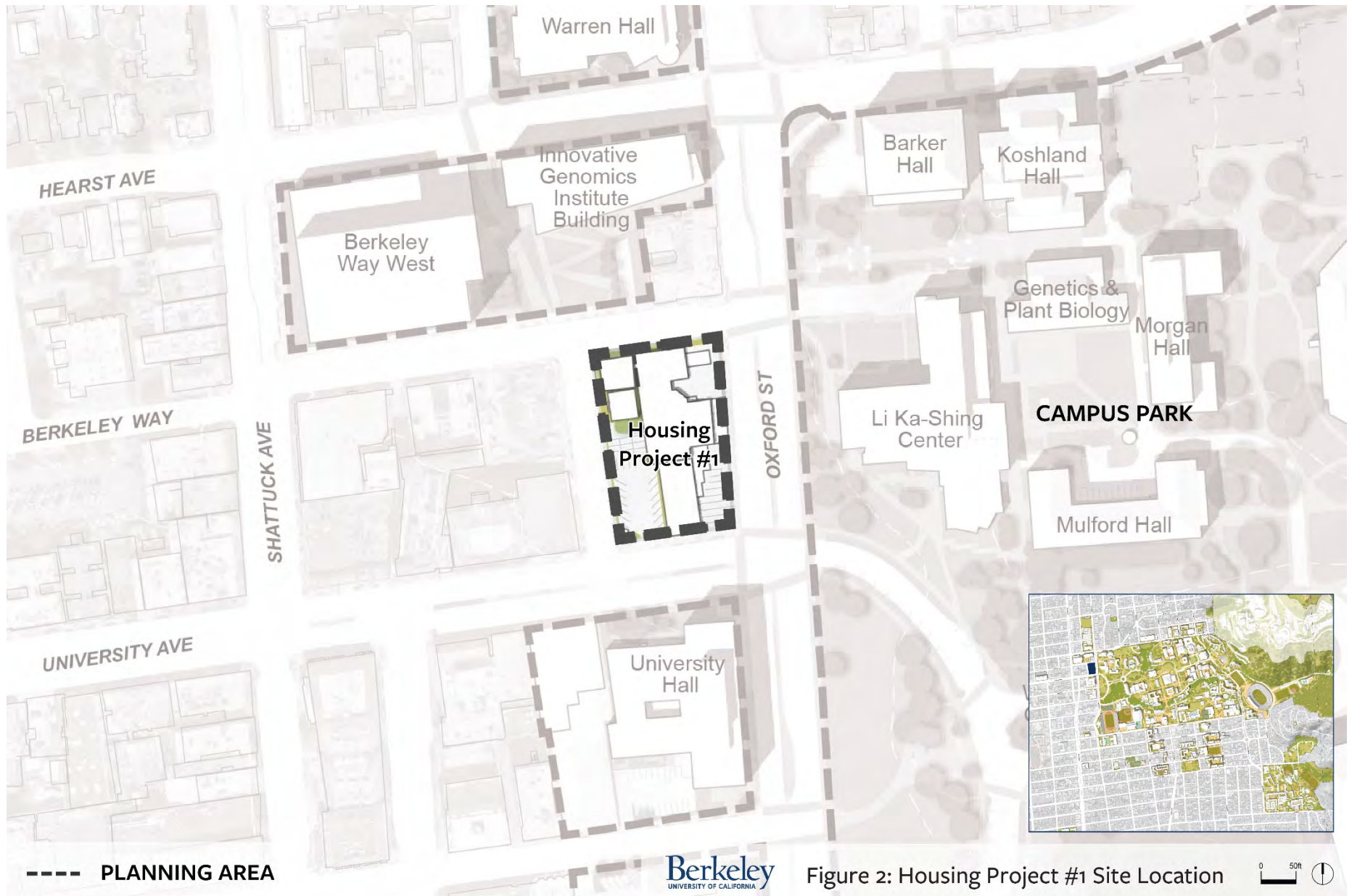
Attachments:

Attachment A: Figures

- Figure 1: LRDP EIR Planning Area
- Figure 2: Housing Project #1 Site Location
- Figure 3: Housing Project #2 Site Location
- Figure 4: LRDP Draft Land Use Map

Attachment B: Environmental Factors Not Affected







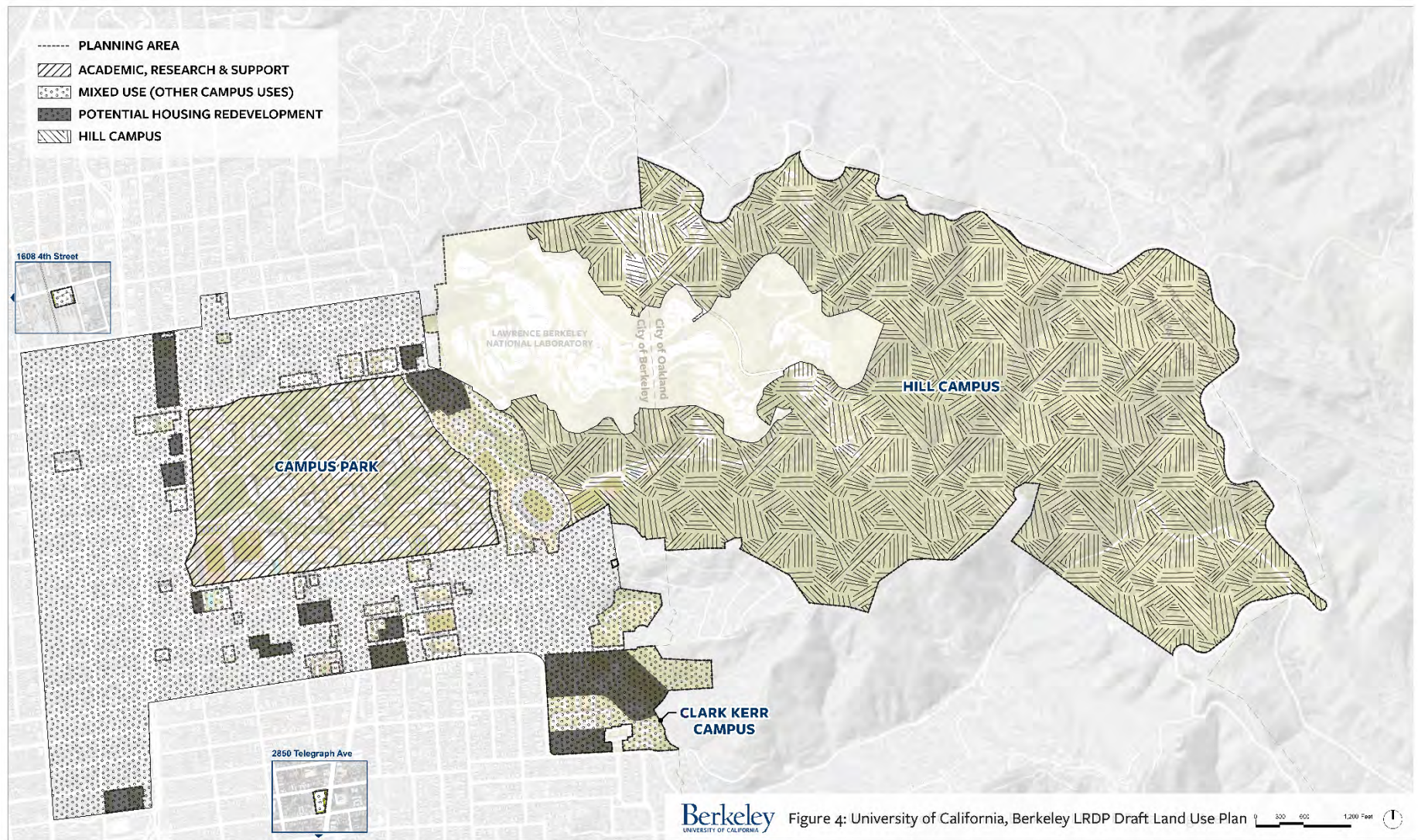


Figure 4: University of California, Berkeley LRDP Draft Land Use Plan

ATTACHMENT B

UC Berkley Long Range Development Plan Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR: Environmental Factors Not Affected

The EIR for the LRDP Update will determine whether the implementation of the proposed project may result in environmental impacts that require mitigation measures to offset potential impacts. As briefly described below, the proposed project would have no impact on the following criteria, listed by environmental topic area, pursuant to Appendix G of the 2019 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and these issues will not be addressed in the EIR.

AESTHETICS

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The planning area is not on or within the viewshed of a State scenic highway.¹ Regional access to UC Berkeley is provided by Interstate Highways 80 and 580, and State Routes 24 and 13. None is a designated or presently eligible scenic route. Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

As a result of the project's location in a primarily urbanized setting, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on Agriculture and Forestry Resources. Maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and

¹ California Department of Transportation California Scenic Highways Program, Scenic Highway System Lists, List of eligible and officially designated State Scenic Highways, <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>, accessed February 28, 2020.

Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency categorize land within the planning area as Urban and Built-Up Land, and “Other Land”; the LRDP Update Planning Area does not contain farmland or grazing land.² In addition, the cities of Berkeley and Oakland do not contain land zoned for farmland or timberland production.^{3, 4} Portions of the planning area contain land designated as Open Space, but do not contain State or national forest lands. Consequently, there would be no impacts regarding agriculture and forestry resources and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The planning area not located within any area designated for an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved conservation plan. Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
For a project within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard for people living or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

² California Resources Agency, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Alameda County Important Farmland 2016, and Contra Costa County Important Farmland 2016, accessed February 26, 2020.

³ City of Oakland, 2018. Zoning and Estuary Policy Plan Maps. https://cao-24612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Zoning_EPP_Map_20181211.pdf, accessed February 27, 2020.

⁴ City of Berkeley, 2014. Land Use Zoning Districts, https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/IT/Level_3_-_General/Zoning%20Map%2036x36%2020050120.pdf, accessed on accessed February 27, 2020.

The planning area is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of an airport^{5, 6} The nearest public airport is the Oakland International Airport roughly t10 miles south of the planning area.^{7, 8} Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The California Department of Conservation, Geological Survey (CGS) classifies lands into Aggregate and Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) based on guidelines adopted by the California State Mining and Geology Board, as mandated by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1974. These MRZs identify whether known or inferred significant mineral resources are present in areas. There are no areas in planning area with development potential that contain areas for mineral resources where there is adequate information indicating significant mineral deposits or the high likelihood of significant mineral deposits present.^{9,10,11} Therefore, there would be no impact with regard to the loss of a valuable mineral resource and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

NOISE

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

As stated in Section V, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, above, the planning area is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

⁵ Contra Costa County Airport Land Use Commission, 2000. Contra Costa County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/851/Cover-Introduction-and-County-wide-Policies?bidId=>, accessed February 27, 2020.

⁶ Alameda County, 2019. California Airport Land Use Commissions (ALUC). <https://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/generalplans/airportlandplans.htm>, accessed February 27, 2020.

⁷ AirNav, 2016. Browse Airports, United States of America, California. <http://www.airnav.com/airports/us/CA>, accessed February 27, 2020.

⁸ Google Map data, 2020. Airports near Berkeley, California. <https://www.google.com/maps/search/airport/@37.849113,-122.3818286,10.75z>, accessed February 27, 2020.

⁹ California Geological Survey, 2018. Aggregate Sustainability in California. https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/Documents/MS_052_California_Aggregates_Map_201807.pdf, accessed February 27, 2020.

¹⁰ California Department of Conservation, 2016. Mines Online. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html>, accessed February 27, 2020.

¹¹ California Department of Conservation, 1982. Mineral Land Classification Map Special Report 146 Plates 2.7, 2.19, 2.20.

University of California, Berkeley LRDP Update EIR Scoping Comment Matrix																										
Date	Commenter, Title	Agency/Organization	Summary of Comments	CEQA Topic																						
				General	Project Description	Cumulative Impacts	Aesthetics	Air Quality	Biological Resources	Cultural Resources/TCRs	Energy	Geology/Soils	Greenhouse Gases	Hazards	Hydrology	Land Use	Noise	Population/Housing	Public Services	Parks & Recreation	Transportation	Utilities	Wildfire	Alternatives		
4/7/2020	Alfred Twu	N/A	Commenter states 11,700 beds for student housing and 385 for employee housing is not enough due to a shortage of regular housing. Notes that two years ago the Housing Master Plan Task Force identified 15,600 beds for students were needed and only 8,700 were available, and that the current EIR estimates 8,900 additional students a year. Suggests that 15,800 student beds and 4,400 employee housing units should be added.	X													X									
4/7/2020	Nadesan Permaul	N/A	Concern that additional student population proposed does not have adequate additional teaching accommodations, staffing to support academic missions, and faculty. Suggests COVID-19 will result in staff reductions and hiring freezes. Commenter inquires where the campus will add new square footage.	X										X		X										
4/7/2020	Jordan Burns	N/A	Commenter expresses support for building of new housing.																							
4/8/2020	Soumaya Lhamous	N/A	Opposes the building of housing at People’s Park due to the space it currently provides for the homeless population, and historical significance.							X							X									
4/9/2020	Sylvia Santillanez-Robson	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to the two housing project components.							X																
4/9/2020	Shelly Mandel	N/A	Inquires as to exact location of the two potential housing sites.																							
4/10/2020	Ben Eversole	N/A	Commenter expresses support for the two housing projects components.																							
4/10/2020	Joan Barnett (President, Dwight-Hillside Neighborhood Assoc.); George Beier (President, Willard Neighborhood Assoc.); Phil Bokovoy (President, Save Berkeley’s Neighborhoods); Lesley Emmigton (President, Make UC a Good Neighbor); Mike Kelly (President, Panoramic Hill Assoc.); Mark Humbert (President, Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Assoc.); Gianna Ranuzzi (President, Le Conte Neighborhood Assoc.); Andrew Johnson (Bateman Neighborhood Assoc.); Dean Metzger (President, Berkeley Neighborhoods Council); David Shiver (Stuart Street/Willard)	Southside Neighborhood Consortium	Requests NOP be delayed.																							
4/10/2020	Wendy Haven	N/A	Requests NOP be delayed.																							
4/10/2020	Hawley Holmes	N/A	Requests delay in action regarding the two housing project components.																							
4/10/2020	Christopher and Suzanne McKee	N/A	Commenters support campus efforts to provide student housing.																							
4/10/2020	Lynn Sherrell, Attorney at Law	N/A	Requests presentation of two housing project components be delayed until in-person community input can resume.																							
4/10/2020	Daniella Thompson	N/A	Requests NOP be delayed. Expresses concern that the two proposed housing project components do away with City of Berkeley historical landmarks.	X						X																
4/14/2020	Joel Ben Izzy	N/A	Requests NOP be delayed.																							
4/14/2020	Tom McMillan	N/A	Commenter expresses support for the proposed project.																							
4/16/2020	Ray Pacheco	N/A	Commenter asks when the planning department estimates both housing project components will be completed and livable, and when construction would begin. Asks what the plan is for displaced homeless people currently residing at People’s Park.														X									

[illegible]

University of California, Berkeley LRDP Update EIR Scoping Comment Matrix

[illegible]

[illegible]

University of California, Berkeley LRDP Update EIR Scoping Comment Matrix																								
Date	Commenter, Title	Agency/Organization	Summary of Comments	CEQA Topic																				
				General	Project Description	Cumulative Impacts	Aesthetics	Air Quality	Biological Resources	Cultural Resources/TCRs	Energy	Geology/Soils	Greenhouse Gases	Hazards	Hydrology	Land Use	Noise	Population/Housing	Public Services	Parks & Recreation	Transportation	Utilities	Wildfire	Alternatives
4/27/2020	Gianna Ranuzzi, President	Le Conte Neighborhood Association	Suggests EIR be separated into three separate EIRs. States that the LRDP Update is premature due to concurrency with City of Berkeley's Southside Zoning Ordinance Updates Project, which is where Housing Project #2 is located, and future plans for densifications are in flux with the current pandemic. Emphasizes importance of well managed open space.	X												X		X		X				
4/27/2020	Joe Liesner	N/A	Commenter notes impacts to historic resources from development on People's Park.							X														
4/27/2020	Melinda Lopez	N/A	Commenter expresses concern over increased enrollment rates' impact on existing populations in the city, particularly regarding Housing Project #1. Suggests that UC Berkeley focus on online learning. Asks about upcoming student educational planning of diverse subjects that are not offered at UC Berkeley, and if there are other areas of large land to be developed outside of the city to create more campuses instead of within Berkeley.	X													X							
4/27/2020	Megan March	N/A	Commenter expresses concern regarding affordability and neighborhood impact from student housing. Suggests placing student housing in affordable areas near BART/transit such as El Cerrito, and expanding virtually. Expresses concern regarding added pressures on neighborhood infrastructure such as utilities, parking, and traffic, and questions how this will be mitigated. Commenter asks about guarantees that the proposed housing units will be affordable and rented out, and suggests buildings be required to have a zero occupancy rate. Suggests that off campus housing should not just be for students.	X														X			X	X		X
4/27/2020	Rachel McGinley	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to holding public comment period during shelter in place orders.																					
4/27/2020	Sheila Mitra Sarkar (1 of 2 emails sent on 4/27)	N/A	Commenter notes that People's Park is a part of the city's first green infrastructure to sustain the Derby and Potter watershed, and provides financial and water quality gains to the city by reducing and managing stormwater. Commenter expresses concern over reduction of open space and development of a 16-story building at People's Park in light of pandemic. Commenter expresses concern that the high-rise buildings will exacerbate street canyons and increase pollution.					X						X		X			X					
4/27/2020	Sheila Mitra-Sarkar (2 of 2 emails sent on 4/27)	N/A	Commenter expresses concerns regarding gentrification and People's Park's status as a living green infrastructure part of a watershed.													X								
4/27/2020	Leila Moncharsh	N/A	Commenter requests EIR evaluate the following: - Proposed enrollment increase with availability of city services such as fire response, evacuations, police availability, etc., with and without a baseline limit, and proposed mitigations. - Include under alternatives whether future student housing can be constructed further away from the campus near public transportation which may reduce need to evacuate a tightly compacted area and reduce load on city and emergency services. - Whether the city sewer system can adequately accomodate enrollment increase. - Indicate condition of the UC garage landmark and under alternatives whether the student housing proposed for here could be moved to the People's Park location, with the landmarked garage repurposed for the non-residential piece of the project currently proposed at People's Park. - Discuss whether remediation from the 1988 leak in the UC garage tank is adequate for residential uses. - Under aesthetics, whether the People's Park project component design will conflict with surrounding landmarked structures, and if landscaping can improve this. - Discuss height of the buildings under aesthetics and if lowering the buildings would mitigate impacts, and if not, if alternatives would reduce negative visual impacts on surrounding structures.				X								X				X			X	X	X
4/27/2020	Andrea Prichett	N/A	Commenter requests People's Park remain as is.																					
4/27/2020	Ursula Schulz	N/A	Commenter objects to the increased size of project numbers of students and faculty, and suggests other UC universities absorb these numbers. Commenter expresses opposition to future development of Oxford Tract, due to current density and neighborhood ambience, and as it serves as open space and space for agricultural studies. Commenter suggests removal of Tolman Hall provides space for installation of dorms. Also objects to holding of scoping session during the current shelter in place guidelines.	X														X		X				

University of California, Berkeley LRDP Update EIR Scoping Comment Matrix																								
Date	Commenter, Title	Agency/Organization	Summary of Comments	CEQA Topic																				
				General	Project Description	Cumulative Impacts	Aesthetics	Air Quality	Biological Resources	Cultural Resources/TCRs	Energy	Geology/Soils	Greenhouse Gases	Hazards	Hydrology	Land Use	Noise	Population/Housing	Public Services	Parks & Recreation	Transportation	Utilities	Wildfire	Alternatives
4/27/2020	Julia Sherman	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to the proposed development at People's Park due to historical significance, and concern that development will put strain on current housing and dining facilities on campus, result in gentrification, displace homeless population, result in inequity, and reduce green/open spaces.							X							X		X					
4/27/2020	Elisa Smith	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to the proposed development of People's Park due to historical significance.							X														
4/27/2020	Harvey Smith	People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group	Letter opposes online scoping meeting during the pandemic and suggests EIR process be extended to allow in person public comment. Letter also suggests project be separated into multiple EIRs. Expresses concerns that the project will negatively impact People's Park regarding aesthetics, cultural and historic resources, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, population and housings, public services, and recreation.	X			X			X					X	X		X	X	X				
4/27/2020	Lisa Teague	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to development of People's Park.																					
4/27/2020	Marguerite Tompkins	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to the placement of a 16-story building on People's Park.				X																	
4/27/2020	Mikayla Tran	N/A	Commenter opposes development at People's Park, and expresses that doing so results in negative social, political, and economic impacts. Commenter expresses concern over displacement of vulnerable community members and increased strain on current housing and dining facilities.															X						
4/27/2020	Pallop Wilairat	N/A	Commenter expresses that the public should be able to provide input on parameters such as height, size, and density of buildings.				X																	
4/27/2020	Maxina Ventura	N/A	Letter requests LRDP EIR not be programmatic, and requests information regarding the participants of the meetings noted in the NOP. Letter expresses concern over increased student body, and desire that UC Berkeley does not pursue out-of-country or out-of-state students. Letter expresses concern over designation of Hill Campus as non-forested, and notes People's Park as providing trees for wildlife such as falcons.						X									X						
4/27/2020	Russell Bates, Lisa Teague, Jessie Mcginley, Michael Delacour, Max Ventura, Erick Morales, Andrea Prichett, Aidan Hill, Paul Prosseda, Ivar Diehl, Siobhan Lettow, Dawn Goldwasser, Tom Luce, Hali Hammer, Sheila Mitra-Sarkar, Charles Gary	People's Park Committee	Letter requests LRDP EIR not be programmatic, and requests information regarding the participants of the meetings noted in the NOP. Letters requests specific numbers of beds planned and who the nonprofits managing housing will be. Letter comments on removal of trees at the Hill Campus and People's Park, and on People's Park's status as a Berkeley Historic Landmark.						X	X								X						
4/27/2020	Tom Luce	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to the proposed development at People's Park.																					
4/27/2020	Samuel Siegel	N/A	Commenter provides alternative site plan and opinions on layout and design for the People's Park project component.																					
4/29/2020	Deron Cavaletti	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to development of People's Park.																					
4/29/2020	Mark Leong, District Branch Chief, Local Development-Intergovernmental Review	California Department of Transportation	Letter notes that the EIR should include: - Evaluation of primary and secondary effects on pedestrians, bicyclists, travelers with disabilities, and transit users, including countermeasures and trade-offs resulting from mitigating VMT increases. Access for pedestrians and bicyclists to transit facilities must be maintained. - Robust Transportation Demand Management Program to reduce VMT and GHG emissions. The letter includes potential measures and requirements. - Identification of project-generated travel demand and estimated costs of transit and active transportation improvements necessitated by the proposed project, and viable funding sources such as development and/or transportation impact fees. The letter also notes to ensure a capital improvement plan identifying the cost of needed improvements, funding sources, and scheduled plan for implementation is prepared along with the LRDP.											X							X			

University of California, Berkeley LRDP Update EIR Scoping Comment Matrix																									
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				General	Project Description	Cumulative Impacts	Aesthetics	Air Quality	Biological Resources	Cultural Resources/TCRs	Energy	Geology/Soils	Greenhouse Gases	Hazards	Hydrology	Land Use	Noise	Population/Housing	Public Services	Parks & Recreation	Transportation	Utilities	Wildfire	Alternatives	
5/13/2020	Kevin Burke	N/A	Commenter supports building of student housing, and denser, taller structures for cost/benefit.																						
5/14/2020	Arlene Silk, Vice President	Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association	Letter requests extension of response period. Requests analysis of difference between former LRDP projections and current student population. Claims incomplete student/staff data, and requests information on part-time, volunteer, tutor, visiting, FTE employees. Requests clarification on non- office /recreation /housing /education uses, and housing for number of students/faculty not included in amount of beds in Housing Projects #1 and #2, and specific development of other properties listed as potential for future development. Requests analysis of aesthetics impacts from Housing Project #2, and potential of project impacts on long range views, particularly with historical significance (Campanile). Expresses concern regarding cultural impacts on People's Park, 1952 Oxford Street, and Anna Head School. Mentions land covenants and restrictions from the 1980s between the university, neighbors, and City. Discusses cumulative impacts. Questions if remediation is needed to allow residential use at Housing Project #1 location. Requests analysis of impact on community health systems, from infectious disease mitigation perspective, on community disaster preparedness planning, and on public services (and response to wildfire).	X		X	X			X				X				X	X	X			X		
5/14/2020	Ivar Diehl	N/A	Letter requests EIR to not be programmatic, and to extend public comment period. Requests details about meetings and events with stakeholders, and about the proposed nonprofits to manage the proposed supportive housing at People's Park. Suggests using resources for seismic retrofitting instead of expansion, and notes present lawsuit between the City and the university regarding student enrollment increase, and questions the design of the housing projects in light of infectious diseases. Objects to development at People's Park due to open space, disaster mitigation, homeless population, and historical significance, and suggests developing Clark Kerr campus for housing instead. Objects to removing trees in parks and Hill Campus for wildfire management due to habitat impacts. Objects to development on People's Park, Oxford Tract, and Gill Tract as agricultural resources.	X					X	X		X		X				X		X			X		
5/14/2020	Natalie Logusch	N/A	Resident of property at Housing Project #1 location. Expresses concern regarding removal of existing housing.															X							
5/14/2020	Norma Harrison	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to development at People's Park and Hill Campus.																						
5/14/2020	Ethan Mitchell	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to development at People's Park.																						
5/15/2020	Jennifer Pearson	N/A	(email & letter sent) Opposes further densification in light of pandemic.	X																					
5/15/2020	Sheila Mitra-Sarkar	N/A	Lists environmental criteria for which commenter suggests 51 years of benefits provided by People's Park should be quantified: Micro-climate provided by trees; heat island reduction; carbon sequestration; wastewater recycling and stormwater retention; groundwater recharge; food security; shelter-in-place; recreation & GHG reduction; landmark; importance of Derby Creek daylighting.							X			X		X				X						

University of California, Berkeley LRDP Update EIR Scoping Comment Matrix																					
Date	Commenter, Title	Agency/Organization	Summary of Comments	CEQA Topic																	
				General	Project Description	Cumulative Impacts	Aesthetics	Air Quality	Biological Resources	Cultural Resources/TCRs	Energy	Geology/Soils	Greenhouse Gases	Hazards	Hydrology	Land Use	Noise	Population/Housing	Public Services	Parks & Recreation	Transportation
5/15/2020	Joan Barnett (President, Dwight-Hillside Neighborhood Assoc.); George Beier (President, Willard Neighborhood Assoc.); Phil Bokovoy (President, Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods); Lesley Emmigton (President, Make UC a Good Neighbor); Mike Kelly (President, Panoramic Hill Association); Mark Humbert (President, Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association); Gianna Ranuzzi (President, Le Conte Neighborhood Association); Andrew Johnson (Bateman Neighborhood Association); Dean Metzger (President, Berkeley Neighborhoods Council); David Shiver (Stuart Street/Willard)	Southside Neighborhood Consortium	Letter objects to NOP deadline due to pandemic. Refers to previous letter dated 4/10/20 (listed above). Notes two pending lawsuits between the Regents of the University of California and Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods. Requests the EIR do a study of the impacts of all enrollment increases above 33,450, noted as the level studied in the 2005 EIR for the 2020 LRDP.	X														X			
5/15/2020	Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager	City of Berkeley	Letter requests the new LRDP account for the environmental impacts of unanticipated enrollment growth as well as of future growth proposed. Identifies primary impacts for evaluation and mitigation as: public services, hazards and hazardous materials, transportation, GHGs, population and housing, utilities, aesthetics, land use, and cultural resources.	X			X			X			X	X		X		X	X		X
5/15/2020	Isis Feral	N/A	Requests EIR not be programmatic. Opposes development of People's Park, removal of trees from Hill Campus, and expansion of the university. Concerns regarding impacts on population/housing, wildlife habitat at People's Park and Hill Campus, cumulative effects of tree removal, seismic safety, air pollution from construction, aesthetics (particularly to People's Park historic neighborhood), and cumulative impacts with proposed Hill Campus Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan EIR. Objections to no impacts to forestry. Opposes development of Oxford Tract or other green spaces.	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X							X	
5/15/2020	Karen and Virgus Streets	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to construction of student housing on Oxford Tract, with concerns regarding parking, pollution, noise, traffic, trash, safety issues, drainage from underwater creeks, public services, and the property's current function of providing open space, community garden, and research/education.				X	X							X		X	X	X	X	
5/15/2020	Harvey Smith	People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group	Suggests project components be split into separate EIRs. Concerns regarding People's Park project component regarding impacts to aesthetics (impacts on surrounding area; size of proposed development. Also concerns regarding biological resources (removal of trees and plants), hydrology/water quality (impacts to Derby Creek, permeable surfaces), recreation space, cultural resources (mentions 1987 Superior Court order designating People's Park as quintessential public forum; impacts to surrounding neighborhood; Berkeley General Plan Policy UD-10), hazards (disaster response, notably People's Park as emergency response area), hydrology (stormwater runoff from development). Proposes alternative by preserving the park as part of a historic district with an Institute to sponsor/promote, or transferring park to City; also suggests no student/faculty increase alternative. Also expresses concern regarding loss of historic resources with Housing Project #1. Concerns regarding land use and planning, population/housing (displacement of local residents), recreation/open space, wildfire (proximity to fire hazard severity zone), public services. Suggests putting housing project components on hold in light of pandemic.	X			X		X	X				X	X	X		X	X	X	X

Date	Commenter, Title	Agency/Organization	Summary of Comments	CEQA Topic																			
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5/15/2020	Maxina Ventura	East Bay Pesticide Alert	Opposes moving forward with NOP process during pandemic. Reiterates comments from 4/27/20 letter from People's Park Committee (listed above). Opposes development of People's Park due to open space and historical significance. Requests EIR analyze lack of maintenance for People's Park bathroom and tree removal on People's Park and Hill Campus (also regarding wildfire) and opposes removal of non-native plants. Discusses daylighting Derby Creek and removal of People's Park as place of gathering for homeless population. Opposes development of other green spaces (Oxford Tract, Gill Tract). Suggests alternatives to People's Park development (Durant Ave, Chancellor's mansion, Clark Kerr campus). Concerns regarding seismic safety of existing campus buildings, affordable housing, development of Housing Project #1, wildlife reliance on People's Park.						X	X		X			X			X		X			
5/15/2020	Jessica McGinley and Austine Peng	N/A	Opposes development of People's Park. Requests extension of NOP comment period. Notes other sites for potential student housing instead. Requests information regarding cost of proposed housing for each student, which students will be eligible to live in the proposed housing, what will happen to Food Not Bombs services currently provided at the park, input by current park residents, what involvement has been made to include students and community in this conversation, and if the current on-site public restroom will be replaced. Expresses concern regarding loss of open space, historical significance, use of the park as space for emergency evacuation, loss of garden, and displacement of existing on-site community and services.							X				X			X		X				
5/15/2020	Steven Chainey	N/A	Concern of elevated risk of wildfire within and adjacent to Hill Campus by increased development and population with no corresponding increase in transportation network that will serve as an evacuation corridor and wildfire fighting access route, particular with high-density events in Strawberry Canyon and on Clark Kerr Campus. Expresses concern regarding cumulative effect of projects under a wildfire disaster.	X																		X	
5/15/2020	David Axelrod	N/A	Cites comments submitted by People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group. In addition, raises concerns around the proposed development on People's Park regarding free speech and assembly (1987 establishment of People's Park as quintessential public forum); loss of native plants, community garden, and open space; urban creeks and drainage (Derby Creek); and public commitments and duties (Letters of Agreement and Understanding between UC and representatives of People's Park Council).						X					X				X					
5/15/2020	Samuel Siegel	N/A	Provides design suggestions for existing College Plaza, Barrows Hall property, Oxford-Fulton corridor, and Class of 1925 Plaza, and suggests remodeling of other areas on campus to improve aesthetics with broad focus on historic restoration. Suggests restoration and repurposing of historic structures on Clark Kerr Campus.	X		X				X													
5/15/2020	Tom Luce	N/A	Opposes development of People's Park due to historical significance, open space, and as a resource for homeless. Cites resources including community gatherings, food service and clothes donations, community garden, recreation, carbon offsets, emergency gathering site, water drainage, and public bathrooms. Includes copy of content from East Bay Pesticide Alert (Maxina Ventura) letter from 5/15/20 (included above).						X	X		X	X	X	X			X		X			
5/15/2020	Dawn Goldwasser	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to the proposed project component at People's Park, primarily due to the open space that the park provides.																X				
5/15/2020	Sandra Morey	N/A	Commenter expresses opposition to development at People's Park due to historical significance and open space, as well as removal of trees on the hill campus with concern for recreation and wildlife support.						X										X				
5/15/2020	Siobhan Lettow	N/A	Expresses opposition to the NOP comment period during pandemic, as well as opposition to increased population and in-person education. Notes the current lawsuit between the City and the university. Asks who the nonprofits managing the proposed supportive housing for Housing Project #2 will be, and specifically how many beds are planned for students. Notes a backlog of earthquake retrofitting for existing campus buildings. Also expresses opposition to development at People's Park due to open space provided, use by homeless population, and community garden.	X								X					X		X				

[illegible]



Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Public Notice: Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report - UC Berkeley Long Range Development Plan Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2

1 message

Jordan Burns [REDACTED]
To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 4:39 PM

Hello,

I am fully in support of building new housing. Housing project 1 and housing project 2 sound great. I would support even more housing. I would support the college adding 30,000 new units for undergraduate and graduate students. I love that the projects are mixed use with amenities on bottom. I love that there's going to be services for our unhoused population and that there is also affordable housing for the community in general. This stuff is great. Please do more of it. And tell me when to show up to yell at the city council to let you all do more of it.

Best,

Jordan Burns



Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Update of the LRDP

1 message

Nadesan Permaul [REDACTED]

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 6:49 PM

To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

The notion of planning for an expansion of the LRDP to accommodate 48,200 students without dramatic staffing and infrastructure improvements makes no sense. The Berkeley campus, proper, is already over-crowded with oversize buildings, many of which add nothing to the ambience of the place. We cannot afford to build housing for a student population as it is, though the campus has looked into innovative options and partnerships. More importantly, the cost of living in that housing is among the highest in the nation, and creates ongoing issues for student affordability at Berkeley. Adding a student population without adequate teaching accommodations, staffing to support the academic mission, and faculty at all levels to provide class coverage is worse than maintaining our current status quo. For the next two budget cycles, the Covid-19 pandemic will substantially affect the campus finances. Teaching positions will be at a premium, and there will be both staff reductions and hiring freezes. Finally, if these staffing and infrastructure issues are addressed, where will the campus add 4 million square feet?

Nadesan Permaul

--

Nadesan Permaul

Lecturer in Rhetoric and Political Science, U.C. Berkeley

Academic Sponsor for Rhetoric 98/198- History, Spirit & Traditions at Cal Decal Class
Retired Director of the Associated Students of the University of California

*Room 7412 Dwinelle Hall**Office Hours, Fall Semester 2019--Tues from 1:00 to 1:50 p.m., Fri from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in Rm. 7412 Dwinelle**Web Page: nadesanpermaul.com/*



Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Public Comment on UCB LRDP Update EIR

1 message

Alfred Twu [REDACTED]
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM

I am glad to see that UC is planning to build more student housing, but 11,700 beds is not enough.

Two years ago, the Housing Master Plan Task Force identified that 15,600 beds were needed, and only 8,700 available, for a shortage of 6,900 beds.

The current EIR estimates 8,900 additional students a year. To house these students and make up the current 6,900 bed shortage, 15,800 beds are needed. We should not rely on private housing to make up this difference, since Berkeley and the Bay Area as a whole also has a shortage of regular housing, especially since the plan also expects the number of faculty and staff to go up from 15,400 to 19,000, while only providing 385 employee housing units.

Let there be enough housing. Please plan for at least 15,800 student beds and 4,400 employee housing units.

UC Berkeley has permission to read my comment.

Thanks!
Alfred Twu
Berkeley neighbor and class of 2006

On Tue, Apr 7, 2020 at 3:00 PM Capital Strategies, UC Berkeley <capitalstrategies@berkeley.edu> wrote:

**PUBLIC NOTICE****Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report: University of California, Berkeley Long Range Development Plan Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2**

UC Berkeley will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Update ("LRDP Update" or "proposed project"). The EIR will function as a Program EIR that can be used in the environmental review of subsequent campus development projects during implementation of the LRDP Update. In addition to analyzing the environmental effects of campus growth under the LRDP Update at a programmatic level, the EIR will also provide a project-specific analysis of the environmental effects associated with the development of two off-campus housing projects (i.e., Housing Projects #1 and #2), which would likely be some of the first projects developed under the LRDP Update.

Project Description: The purpose of an LRDP is to provide adequate planning capacity for potential campus population growth. An LRDP does not mandate on-going growth or the provision of new facilities. Varying factors affect whether campus population levels may

increase, decrease, or remain unchanged and the provision of new facilities may or may not occur with the increased population. In the event that population growth does occur, an LRDP provides a guide to the land development patterns and associated physical infrastructure that could be built to support a forecasted level of enrollment and growth. The LRDP Update does not set a future population capacity for the campus and does not indicate whether a future LRDP or LRDP update will be undertaken prior to or after the forecast horizon year in the EIR. The LRDP Update EIR will use the 2018-19 academic year as a key baseline year to reflect existing environmental conditions and will use the 2036-37 academic year to forecast the potential environmental impacts of the LRDP Update. This corresponds to 39,300 students and 15,400 faculty and staff for the baseline year, and 48,200 students and 19,000 faculty and staff for the potential future population. To support the future population, the LRDP Update proposes to add up to 11,700 student housing beds, 385 employee housing units, and approximately 4 million gross square feet (GSF) of academic and campus life space, comprising approximately 3 million GSF of academic, research, and support space and approximately 1 million GSF of campus life space.

Since there is significant need to provide more student housing at UC Berkeley, the LRDP Update EIR evaluates the physical environmental effects of the LRDP Update proposed development program that includes two specific student housing projects located off of the Campus Park. Housing Project #1 would include up to 850 beds for UC Berkeley students, with ground floor retail, and commercial office, events, and student-serving space. Housing Project #2 would consist of three components to be constructed on the roughly 2.8-acre site known as People's Park. It would include up to 1,200 beds for UC Berkeley students with associated amenities; permanent supportive housing with on-site services and up to 125 apartments for lower-income (non-university affiliated) individuals; and open space. The supportive housing would be included on-site in a building separate from the student housing and would be developed and managed by one or more non-profit organizations partnering with the University of California.

Environmental Review: UC Berkeley has determined that an EIR will be prepared for the proposed project. Attachment B of the Notice of Preparation includes a description of the environmental topic areas in which the proposed project would have no impact, and therefore, will not be addressed in the EIR. As required, the EIR for the LRDP Update will focus on the significant effects of the proposed project and will document the reasons for concluding that other effects will be less-than-significant. Where significant or potentially significant environmental impacts are identified, the EIR will also discuss feasible mitigation measures to avoid or reduce these impacts, and a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives.

Public Comment: UC Berkeley requests comments and guidance on the scope and content of the EIR from interested public agencies, organizations, and individuals. With respect to the views of Responsible and Trustee Agencies as to significant environmental issues, UC Berkeley needs to know the significant environmental issues and reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures that are germane to each agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

Due to time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than the close of the 39-day Notice of Preparation (NOP) review period at 5:00 p.m. on May 15, 2020. Please e-mail or send your written response to: Raphael Breines, Senior Planner, Physical & Environmental Planning, University of California, Berkeley, 300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382 or email: planning@berkeley.edu

Scoping Meeting: As a result of the expanding outbreak of COVID-19 and restrictions

placed on in-person gatherings throughout the State of California, UC Berkeley will host an online public session to receive public comments on the scope of the EIR, rather than an in-person event. The online public session will be hosted on the evening of April 27, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and conducted via a live video feed; there will not be an in-person session.

On April 27, 2020, starting at 6:30 p.m., via live video feed, the university will provide a brief presentation of the proposed project at the following link: <https://lrddp.berkeley.edu/scoping-meeting>. Immediately following, staff will read aloud public comments received to date by persons granting permission to UC Berkeley to do so. **If you would like to submit a comment to be read, please email planning@berkeley.edu, include your full name, and write that UC Berkeley has permission to read your comment. Emailed comments received by 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2020, will be read out loud;** depending on the number of emailed comments received by the cut-off time, university staff will read each letter up to 500 words. All written comments, whether emailed or sent via US Mail, received within the comment period will be equally considered.

Download (PDF): [Notice of Preparation](#)

Inquiries: (510) 643-4793 or planning@berkeley.edu

About UC Berkeley Capital Strategies

Under the direction of the Vice Chancellor of Administration, the integrated teams of Capital Strategies work together to bring planning, design, real estate, construction and development services to the UC Berkeley campus. We are architects, landscape architects, planners, engineers, construction specialists and administrative personnel, all of whom work together to serve the campus community.

Inquiries:

Kyle Gibson
Director of Communications, Capital Strategies
Email address: capitalstrategies@berkeley.edu



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Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**people's park**

1 message

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**soumaya lhamous** [REDACTED]  
To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 12:33 PM

Hello,

My name is Soumaya Lhamous, you have permission to read my comment out loud during the project proposal.

I was recently accepted into UC Berkeley and only days after committing I heard about the University's plan to bulldoze over People's Park to build new student housing. I was honestly disgusted. My mother grew up in Berkeley and I've spent a lot of time in the city. People's park is home to a massive homeless community that are part of Berkeley culture and need a place to stay and live together, the way they want to, on their own terms. Two of my uncles suffer from severe paranoid schizophrenia and lived homeless in Berkeley for years. One of the few places they felt safe was at People's Park.

But People's Park isn't just a safe space for the homeless, it's also a historic Berkeley monument. Home to protests and progress and free speech. A place where activists and students have pushed for a better future and present and fought for the ideas and issues that mattered to them. It's more than a park. It is a fixture. It's history. And UC Berkeley wants to bury it.

One of Berkeley's biggest attractions is its spirit of activism, its reputation for being woke and promoting social progress, etc. And yet here it is, pushing to remove one of the hearts of Berkeley, People's Park, to build overpriced student housing. Housing that is not affordable or available to Berkeley citizens. It's ridiculous. It's hypocritical.

You guys recognize the park's importance, its history, its significance to the Berkeley community, and you are choosing to ignore it and deface it. You are choosing a plan that will make you money over the spirit of Berkeley and your institution. You are behaving like money hungry colonists, willing to sacrifice history, land, and spirit for power.

Do not go through with this.

Soumaya Lhamous



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**exact locations of two potential sites for housing**1 message

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**Shelly Mandel**

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Thu, Apr 9, 2020 at 3:57 PM

exactly where are the two potential sites ?

#1 looks like the where the Brailian food truck was parked  
across the street going east from the old Ace Hardware  
yes ?

#2 looks like People's Park  
yes ?





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## Comments for LRDP Update EIR

1 message

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sylvia [REDACTED]

Thu, Apr 9, 2020 at 8:21 PM

To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Hello,

I am submitting these comments for the EIR. UCB has permission to read my comments aloud, as long as they read them in full since they are under 500 words. My name is Sylvia Santillanez-Robson.

UCB should stop entering long-term public-private partnerships to build expensive student housing. Public lands, occupied places on unceded Chochenyo Ohlone territory, are being given away to corporate developers. Unfortunately, the Capital Strategies department has chosen to be an agent of modern colonialism and a perpetrator of the housing crisis by aligning with the developers and the police, who charge and enforce outrageous rents and carry out evictions.

Project #2 must be cancelled; student dormitories should not be built on People's Park. The vision for this land was already decided well before the first open house, and the vision has been to build. Community input has been equivalent to choosing bathroom tiles when they've already decided to build a house.

The proposed Project #1 includes building retail space and commercial offices where they easily could put some of the planned low-income housing. They're only planning to put it on the People's Park they want to destroy (Project #2) in order to cloak themselves in the guises of social justice.

They could have put affordable units at David Blackwell Hall, which was recently built by American Campus Communities, a for-profit corporation whose top 5 executives combined make almost \$12 million dollars a year. But instead, they gave ACC a 99-year ground lease to build upscale dorm rooms (which cost well over a thousand dollars a month) and ground-floor retail space that ACC can profit from.

Aligning with private developers will never alleviate the housing crisis, because they are the ones who create it. There is a long and ongoing history of the collaboration of capital with the government for anti-poor, often anti-Black, "slum removal" programs which destroy public space. (See for example, the book *Yerba Buena: Land Grab & Community Resistance in San Francisco* by former UC Berkeley faculty member Chester Hartman.)

At best, such projects often replace community and community organizations with corporate-funded non-profits. One such organization appears to be RCD, who wants to build the supportive housing units at People's Park. RCD's top funders include the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (the agency that carries out evictions), Union Bank and Wells Fargo (who finance corporate developers, fossil fuels, private prisons; are implicated in redlining and racist housing practices, the 2008 financial crisis...), and Home Depot. RCD's top 5 executives combined make almost \$700k per year, salaries mostly funded by rents paid by the low-income people living in their properties (at least 60% of RCD's revenue in 2017) according to IRS data. This is nothing out of the ordinary, but just an example of the crazy status-quo system that exists today. UCB Capital Strategies has chosen to align with it by filing this particular EIR.



Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

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## Comment on UC Berkeley Housing Projects #1 and #2

1 message

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**Ben Eversole**

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Fri, Apr 10, 2020 at 3:25 PM

Dear UC Berkeley,

I am a student at Berkeley Law writing to express my strong support for the Housing Projects #1 and #2 described in the email sent to students on April 7, 2020. UC Berkeley is in desperate need of more student housing and these projects are the kinds of large-scale projects that the school should be building every year. I support a focus on maximizing the number of units in any project built so as to maximize the benefits to students and increase the local supply of housing. I also strongly support the inclusion of supportive housing at Housing Project #2 to provide assistance to Berkeley's homeless population. The current state of People's Park is untenable and cannot continue. The park operates as an open air drug market that attracts drug dealers and violent criminals who prey on the local homeless population.

UC Berkeley has permission to read my comment out loud.

Regards,  
Ben Eversole



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**wendy haven** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Fri, Apr 10, 2020 at 1:37 PM

Mr. Breines,

I respectfully request that the notice of preparation be delayed until we can \*all\* give this the time and attention it deserves.

We only have one Berkeley, a place that highlights the best in Civic engagement. Please don't stifle that engagement for the sake of efficiency in a time when all components of a sound plan cannot possibly be gathered.

Thanks for reading.

Wendy Haven  
Whitaker Ave  
Berkeley  
[REDACTED]



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Delay Action**

1 message

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**Hawley Holmes** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Fri, Apr 10, 2020 at 11:21 AM

dear Planners.....please delay any action on your long range plan regarding the 2 proposed student housing sites (Oxford and Peoples Park).With the Covid 19 virus out there I feel the community needs an opportunity to speak about these two sites whivk is currently not available to the public as long as we are in a shelter in place mode! Please delay action.....thank you.....Hawley Holmes - [REDACTED] Spruce St,Berkeley,CA



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**UCB plans for new housing**

1 message

**Christopher F. MCKEE** [REDACTED]

Fri, Apr 10, 2020 at 1:26 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Dear Mr Breines,

Some of our neighbors are planning on objecting to the process the campus has developed for developing new housing. We are writing to say that we strongly support the campus's efforts to provide housing for its students.

Sincerely,

Christopher and Suzanne McKee  
[REDACTED] Virginia St, Berkeley CA 94709



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Postpone Development Plan**

1 message

**LYNN SHERRELL** [REDACTED]

Fri, Apr 10, 2020 at 12:04 PM

Reply-To: LYNN SHERRELL [REDACTED]

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

Dear Mr. Bienes

We are asking the University to postpone its presentation of its new development plan for 2 new student housing complexes until the community can participate, and at least until the normal community input (in person) is resumed. It is presumptuous to push this through while most citizens are sheltered indoors.

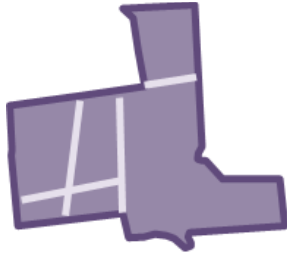
thank you

Lynn Sherrell Attorney at Law  
[REDACTED]

Certified Specialist Estate Planning Trust and Probate Law, Board of Legal Specialization, State Bar of California

*There is no attorney-client relationship absent an executed agreement.*

lynnsherrellattorneyatlaw.com



## SOUTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSORTIUM

10 April, 2020

President Janet Napolitano  
Office of the President  
University of California  
1111 Franklin St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

**Re: Request to Withdraw Notice of Preparation dated April 7, 2020**

Dear President Napolitano,

We are asking the University of California to withdraw the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for UC Berkeley's next Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP), which was filed with the Office of Planning and Research by the Berkeley Campus on April 7, 2020. The state of California is currently operating under a State of Emergency, and the Bay Area counties are under mandatory orders that permit only Essential Activities or Minimum Basic Operations.

The NOP will require numerous public agencies, local governments and community organizations to devote thousands of hours of time to respond---time diverted from essential life-saving activities---during the State of Emergency. The LRDP is a large, complex undertaking that requires many hours of work by many people and would require our public safety officials to spend hundreds of hours to review and comment. We would all better served if the NOP were withdrawn until we are past the State of Emergency.

Our requested postponement is only a matter of a few weeks, and we note that the two housing projects included in the NOP could move forward under the 2005 LRDP EIR if it were necessary. UC has not used the capacity to build several hundred units provided in that programmatic EIR.

Chancellor Carol Christ's decision to file the NOP and to move forward with a scoping session later this month is extremely ill-advised. It may violate both Governor Newsom's executive

orders and the local public health orders that allow only Essential Activities or Minimum Basic Operations.

Please help us all responsibly address the current State of Emergency and save lives by withdrawing the NOP.

We look forward to your prompt action on this matter.

Best regards,

**Southside Neighborhood Consortium:**

Joan Barnett, President, Dwight-Hillside Neighborhood Association  
George Beier, President, Willard Neighborhood Association  
Phil Bokovoy, President, Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods  
Lesley Emmington, President, Make UC a Good Neighbor  
Mike Kelly, President, Panoramic Hill Association  
Mark Humbert, President, Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association  
Gianna Ranuzzi, President, Le Conte Neighborhood Association  
Andrew Johnson, Bateman Neighborhood Association  
Dean Metzger, President, Berkeley Neighborhoods Council  
David Shiver, Stuart Street/Willard

Cc: Governor Gavin Newsom  
UC Regents Chair John Perez  
Chancellor Carol Christ  
Dr. Erica Pan, Alameda County  
Dr. Lisa Hernandez, City of Berkeley





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR comments**

1 message

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**Daniella Thompson** [REDACTED]

Fri, Apr 10, 2020 at 1:21 PM

To: UC Berkeley Planning &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

Cc: [REDACTED] Susan Wengraf [REDACTED] "Hahn, Sophie"

[REDACTED] BAHA [REDACTED]

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning University of California, Berkeley  
300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Hello Raphael,

It can be taken as a truism that UC Berkeley will always choose the most inappropriate and inconvenient time to release a Notice of Preparation involving a controversial development project. The current case is no exception. Who else would take advantage of community vulnerability to push its development agenda while a pandemic is raging on?

No doubt UCB is aware that the California League of Cities on 22 March 2020 requested of Governor Newsom relief to extend a number of deadlines, including the deadline in the Permit Streamlining Act. Yet your Notice of Preparation, released more than two weeks later, cites the Permit Streamlining Act deadline as immutable.

Furthermore, the only public session allowing community members to speak would be via a live webcast on April 27. Clearly, a single two-hour scoping session, of which a good part would be taken up by UC's own presentation, is grossly insufficient for the community to express its views on a subject so complex.

UCB must withdraw the Notice of Preparation for the duration of the current COVID-19 crisis.

As for the proposed housing projects, both portend highly undesirable outcomes.

Housing Project #1 will do away with the University Garage (Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr., architect, 1930), a City of Berkeley Landmark.

Housing Project #2 will be on People's Park, also a City of Berkeley Landmark, and surrounded by 16 other designated City of Berkeley landmarks, constituting a de facto historic district.

Please see all of them in the map attached below and in this photo exhibit: [http://berkeleyheritage.com/essays/around\\_people's\\_park.html](http://berkeleyheritage.com/essays/around_people's_park.html)

It's time for UCB to show us that it has a human side. Table the Notice of Preparation until the COVID-19 crisis is over.

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Daniella Thompson





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Please delay this planning session**1 message

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**Joel ben Izzy** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Tue, Apr 14, 2020 at 10:56 AM

Dear Raphael Breines,

I understand from the recently received Notice of Preparation as well as a follow-up email that the University is planning on addressing public input involving two huge, complicated, and controversial projects in a short webcast on April 27.

As a concerned neighbor and citizen of Berkeley, this reeks of taking advantage of a pandemic to push a development agenda through. This is the sort of approach I expect from the Trump Administration and Mitch McConnell approving unqualified judges, not from the University I live near and in which I take such pride.

In light of this, I ask that you withdraw this notice of preparation and make plans more fitting for this time, our community, and UC Berkeley.

Sincerely,

Joel ben Izzy

JOEL BEN IZZY  
STORY TELLING  
WRITING  
CONSULTING

[STORYPAGE.COM](http://STORYPAGE.COM)



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Peoples Park letter / edited, SENT AGAIN with apology**

1 message

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**Tom McMillan** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Tue, Apr 14, 2020 at 3:48 PM

Dear Mr. Breines,

My apologies for having mistakenly sent you a draft of my letter to you. I had forwarded it to my wife to edit, which she had done in Word as an attachment. I had asked her to send me the Word file, which, rather than attaching it to a separate email, attached to the draft of my letter. Please ignore the attachment; my original draft will have to do.

Tom McMillan

*Earlier email:**Dear Mr. Breines,*

*My wife Inger and I moved into our present home about two blocks east of Peoples Park in Berkeley in 1969 when we were both seniors at UC Berkeley. We had actually lived at 2520 Haste St. (in what is now Peoples Park) in the Fall of 1966 and Winter and Spring of 1967 before moving to the house at [REDACTED] Dwight Way. After UC Berkeley demolished the houses on the Peoples Park site they left a total mess behind. I remember writing a letter to the University at the time complaining about their poor behavior, but received no reply. The "park" has changed over the intervening 53 years, but it's still a mess. We eventually purchased our landlady's property where we were living including her larger historic house at [REDACTED] Dwight Way. We converted the building into a student rooming house for about 20 students in the 90's which we manage from our separate house behind it. We and our student tenants are close neighbors to Peoples Park; none of us consider it an asset; none of us would ever set foot on it.*

*When the effort began by the public to turn the derelict site into a park, I was in architecture school and really excited by its possibilities. I took a lot of photographs that idealized the spontaneous movement, which I still have. But it quickly got ugly; and honestly, it has never really recovered. It's become what I would characterize a terrible blight on the Southside neighborhood. We avoid walking from our house to Telegraph by way of the Peoples Park block to avoid it. The characters who congregate along the sidewalks on either side of it are often menacing, and it's an ugly display, along with the homeless encampments always clustered around the block of what's wrong with this town. It's an open wound.*

*We are excited by the plans for development that the University has developed. If it were our choice, we would prefer to leave the park component of the plan out since that element will continue to attract the same idle, non-resident population, but we realize that it is probably a political necessity to include it. We strongly support what you're doing, and only wish you'd done it years ago.*

*I'm an architect, formerly with SOM, San Francisco. If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.*

Best,  
TomTom McMillan AIA  
[REDACTED] Dwight Way  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
[REDACTED]



**In the summer of 1969.docx**

15K



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Re: Housing Projects 1 & 2**

1 message

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**raymond.pacheco** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 at 8:40 AM

Hello,

I just read the Notice of EIR and I have a couple questions:

1- When does the planning dept estimate that both buildings will be completed and will be livable. When should construction begin?

2-What is the plan for all of the displaced homeless people who current reside at People's Park?

Thank you,

Ray Pacheco

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

April 17, 2020

To: Raphael Breines, Senior Planner Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Via: Email, [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

From: Shirley Dean. Berkeley Resident  
Former Berkeley Planning Commissioner, City Council Member, and Mayor  
Currently, Member, LRDP Community Advisory Group

Subject: LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR  
Comments under 500 words (457) which may be read aloud

Concerns:

1. This EIR process must be postponed until Covid-19 requirements are rescinded and we are all back to some normalcy when everyone can participate with no 500-word limits on comments. During this pandemic, people are distracted because of personal concerns associated with their daily lives – concerns that range from worry about getting sick themselves and taking care of partners, children and elderly parents, keeping their business open, wondering whether they will have a job tomorrow, getting a paycheck, and how they will pay the rent and even get food on the table. Also, the NOP itself is not easy to find on either the President's Office or UCB website. It's a complex issue and the notice provided only a short period of time to respond.
2. Since UCB:
  - a). admittedly cannot house the number of students (lowest number of student beds on any UC campus) and faculty it currently has;
  - b). is located in a small – 8.5 x 8.5 square miles - already dense, built-up community with no way to expand current boundaries;
  - c). is in an USGS identified earthquake zone (Alquist-Priolo) that is overdue and predicted to be in line for a major disastrous event, and additionally is in an identified severe high fire risk area; and
  - d). pays little or nothing for the complete range of City services that are needed and provided to the campus,LRDP planning must begin from a position that fully describes these current conditions *before* it even begins discussing growth for the future.
3. The above items are major considerations, not just mere amendments to the current LRDP that allow the establishment of a new baseline for future growth. Enrollment and related numbers have exceeded the present LRDP and how, when and why that happened must be explained and in reaching agreement on a future LRDP, a mechanism must be included so that such major breaches cannot occur again.
4. Any planning must specifically look at the amount of open space being planned for all new students, faculty and staff. The south and west areas adjacent to and including the Campus Park itself are park poor for all our residents. Roof top gardens and small

balconies are simply not sufficient to provide the mental and physical benefits that open park space provide.

5. In establishing current and future enrollment and staff populations, the EIR must include consideration of mobile and stationary green-house gas emissions, energy, land use and transportation of population increases for special events including athletic, concert, lectures and the like. The Campus Park is an esteemed academic and research facility but it also provides an important social and intellectual function for the people of Berkeley and the whole State. This, too, must be recognized and appropriately considered.

Thank you for consideration of these comments,  
Shirley Dean



# LRDP Feedback

Email address \*

[REDACTED]

Would you like to receive emails about the LRDP update process? \*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Name (first and last) \*

Charles Siegel

Affiliation

Neighbor that lives within the City of Berkeley

Comments, ideas, or questions:

Can you tell me whether the EIR for the LRDP is using Level of Service (LOS) or Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) to measure the impact of traffic that the LRDP will generate?

It is not clear to me because the state is shifting from LOS to VMT starting July 1, so the EIR is beginning before the shift, but most of the work will be done after the shift.

This form was created inside of UC Berkeley.

Google Forms



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR**

3 messages

**Charles Siegel** [REDACTED]

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 at 10:53 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu), [lrpd@berkeley.edu](mailto:lrpd@berkeley.edu)

Cc: [REDACTED]

To Raphael Breines, Senior Planner:

The EIR for UC's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) should study the impacts of making the block of Walnut St. between Berkeley Way and University Ave. into a pedestrian street as part of the Gateway student housing project, as shown in the attached PDF.

There are obvious advantages to creating a pedestrian street here:

- It would provide open space for the residents of this dense housing and for others in downtown.
- It would improve downtown's economy by making downtown a more attractive destination.
- It would provide a possible new site for the Brasil Café, which will be displaced by the Gateway project.
- It would give this area a character that is consistent with the pedestrian-oriented character of campus.
- It would be relatively inexpensive, because the street will have to be rebuilt anyway after construction.

UC has done similar things in this area by widening the sidewalk of Berkeley Way and by adding a pedestrian-only Walnut St. between Hearst Ave. and Berkeley Way. This block would be a continuation of that existing pedestrian-only block of Walnut St.

To make make it possible, the EIR should study the following impacts of making this block pedestrian-only as part of its study of the impacts of the Gateway Project.

- **Transportation:** The change would have a minor impact on local traffic circulation, since this is just a one-block-long street. The impact could be mitigated by providing access to the Gateway housing on Berkeley Way rather than on Walnut St. and possible by providing driveways on Walnut St. if needed.
- **Aesthetics:** There would obviously be a positive aesthetic impact.
- **Noise:** There would be a positive impact, reducing noise for the people who live in the Gateway housing and in the Acheson Commons project on the other side of Walnut St.
- **Recreation/Open space:** There would be a positive impact, providing usable open space for people living in the Gateway project and for people in downtown generally.

I believe there would be strong support for pedestrianizing Walnut St. in Berkeley City government, so please study this possibility in the EIR for the LRDP.

Thanks,

Charles Siegel

**Pedestrian Walnut St.pdf**

93K

**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Thu, Apr 23, 2020 at 5:24 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Hi Charles,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing on April 27th. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner

[Quoted text hidden]

--

++++  
Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)

phone: (510) 643-4793

email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)**Charles Siegel** [REDACTED]

Thu, Apr 23, 2020 at 5:32 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Hi, Timothy:  
Yes, please do read it at the hearing.  
Thanks,  
Charles

[Quoted text hidden]



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

---

**UCB plans for new housing**

3 messages

**Christopher F. MCKEE** [REDACTED]

Fri, Apr 10, 2020 at 1:26 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Dear Mr Breines,

Some of our neighbors are planning on objecting to the process the campus has developed for developing new housing. We are writing to say that we strongly support the campus's efforts to provide housing for its students.

Sincerely,

Christopher and Suzanne McKee  
[REDACTED] Virginia St, Berkeley CA 94709

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Thu, Apr 23, 2020 at 5:21 PM

To: "Christopher F. MCKEE" [REDACTED]

Hi Christopher,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing on April 27th. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner

[Quoted text hidden]

--

+++++  
Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)  
phone: (510) 643-4793  
email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

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**Christopher F. MCKEE** [REDACTED]

Thu, Apr 23, 2020 at 9:35 PM

To: UC Berkeley Planning &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

Dear Tim,

Please do NOT make our last comment public. Instead, you can make this public:

We believe that the housing crisis is one of the most important issues facing California. Berkeley should do its job in providing more housing, particularly for students. The campus's plans for providing more housing at People's Park and on Oxford St are an important step in this direction.

Chris and Suzanne McKee

[Quoted text hidden]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, Apr 24, 2020 at 1:47 PM  
Subject: PLEASE CANCEL UCB LRDP EIR SCOPING SESSION & FREEZE LRDP PROCESS UNTIL PANDEMIC ENDS  
To: <[chancellor@berkeley.edu](mailto:chancellor@berkeley.edu)>

April 24, 2020  
Clifford Fred  
[REDACTED] [Peralta Avenue](#)  
Berkeley, Calif. 94702

Carol Christ  
Office of the Chancellor  
University of California, Berkeley  
200 California Hall # 1500  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1500

April 24, 2020

PLEASE CANCEL UCB LRDP EIR SCOPING SESSION & FREEZE LRDP PROCESS UNTIL PANDEMIC ENDS

Hello Chancellor Christ,

I urge you to cancel the April 27, UCB Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) EIR Notice of Preparation and Scoping Session, until such time that the Corona Virus Pandemic is clearly over, and the LRDP EIR Scoping Session can be held with actual attendees.

I urge the University of California to impose an immediate freeze on any increase in UC Berkeley's enrollment, and to impose an immediate moratorium on all of UCB's development projects in the City of Berkeley until a new UCB Long Range Development Plan has been prepared and adopted. UCB's current enrollment is over 10,000 more than the maximum allowed in the UCB LRDP currently in effect, and any additional UCB development and/or enrollment increase would only exacerbate that violation.

UCB's reckless over-enrollment is the main cause of the City of Berkeley's homeless situation, lack of affordable housing, gridlock traffic, poor air quality, lack of open space, excessive noise levels, and dramatic decline in civility.

2020 CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

All work on the UCB LRDP and EIR should be put on hold until the Corona Virus Pandemic is determined to be unquestionably over.

The maximum number of students that can safely be enrolled at UCB needs to carefully be reassessed based on the Corona Virus Pandemic. Experts say a second wave could occur later in the year. How can social distancing be safely practiced if there are over 40,000 students enrolled at UCB?

#### POPULATION DECLINE AND REDUCTIONS IN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION LEVELS

The University of Virginia Magazine, Winter 2018 edition, reports the following,

"A major source of change will come through demographics. Analysis by the Western Interstate Commission for higher Education indicates that the number of high school graduates will begin declining in the mid-2020s, owing to today's falling fertility rates, which began dropping in 2008. By the early 2020s, high school graduation rates are expected to dip as much as 5 percent below today's levels. With these changes, universities across the country will be choosing from a shrinking pool of prospective students."

"Nathan Grawe, an economics professor at Carleton College, says the news for colleges is even worse than is suggested by the coming drop in the number of high school graduates. After digging into demographic data to account for predictors of college attendance, he predicts 'an unprecedented reduction in post secondary demand about a decade ahead,' by as much as 15%."

Please note that the above was written two years ago.

The April 2020 issue of Oakland Magazine, "A Market Softening," reports that California's population is declining. "California lost an estimated 190,000 residents in 2018, according to the 2019 U.S. Census. That number is based on state to state migration and takes into account the births that happened in the state in 2018."

Since California's population is declining, and since the number of young people graduating from high school is declining, and since Berkeley is the most densely populated of all the cities hosting University of California campuses (other than San Francisco), why is UCB's enrollment 10,000 more than the maximum agreed to in the current LRDP, and increasing more and more every year?

#### LRDP & EIR REVIEW PROCESS; SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

It is very disrespectful to the citizens of Berkeley for UCB to only schedule 2 hours for the on-line EIR Scoping Session on April 27, with much of that time taking up with UCB presentations and almost no time left for questions and comments from the public.

And it is very disrespectful to the citizens of Berkeley for UCB to insist with going ahead with an on-line Scoping Session, and not waiting for the Corona Virus Pandemic to end so that a public Scoping Session can be held, as normally would occur. Many people who would otherwise want to participate, might be ill with the Corona Virus, or taking care of someone who is.

The University officials responsible for advocating and approving the LRDP project should be in attendance at each CEQA meeting concerning the plans, including at the Scoping Session, the hearings on the Draft EIR and at hearings on any revised Draft or Final EIR.

The University should schedule ample time at each CEQA meeting – a minimum of four hours, for members of the public to make comments and pose questions to the EIR's preparers and to pose questions to any University representatives who are present.

UC staff and consultants should make arrangements to stay at the hearing for at least 4 hours. UC's practice of scheduling only two hours for their EIR public hearings - including the lengthy remarks made by staff and UC consultants prior to the start of public comment, are designed to minimize public input.

#### PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

A Draft EIR must describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project, or to its location, that could feasibly attain the project's basic objective, and must evaluate the comparative merits of each alternative. (CEQA



Guidelines section 15126 & section 21100.)

The discussion must focus on alternatives capable of either eliminating any significant adverse environmental effects or reducing them to a level of insignificance, even if such alternatives would be more costly or to some degree would impede the project's objectives. (CEQA Guidelines section 15126.) If the lead agency prefers the project as specifically proposed or one of the suggested alternatives, the EIR must explain why the agency chooses to reject the other alternatives. (CEQA Guidelines section 15126.)

The EIR should examine 3 or more alternative plans, giving each plan equal weight. The EIR preparation, review and revision process should then be used to arrive at a Preferred Alternative Plan.

The First Project Alternative analyzed should immediately freeze the current level of enrollment at UCB, and steadily reduce enrollment to no more than the maximum allowed in the UCB Long Range Development Plan that was in effect prior to the adoption of the Long Range Development Plan that is now in effect. In this Plan, Peoples Park in its entirety would remain as public open space. (What year was the previous LRDP adopted & what was its maximum student enrollment?)

The Second Project Alternative analyzed should immediately freeze the current level of enrollment at UCB, and steadily reduce enrollment to no more than the maximum allowed in the currently in effect Long Range Development Plan. In this Plan, Peoples Park in its entirety would remain as public open space. (What year was the currently in effect LRDP adopted & what is its maximum student enrollment?)

The Third Project Alternative analyzed should immediately freeze the current level of enrollment at UCB and keep this level of enrollment as the maximum enrollment allowed for the duration of the LRDP now being prepared. In this Third Plan, equal weight would be given to preserving Peoples Park in its entirety as public open space versus developing no more than 50% of the Park for housing, with the remaining 50% or more continuing to be public open space. In this plan, housing would be developed on Peoples Park only as a last resort, if there are absolutely no other alternative sites to provide needed housing, and housing is still absolutely needed.

#### PEOPLES PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

All Projects and Project Alternatives identified in the Draft EIR and subsequent EIRs should give careful consideration to complying with the proposed Peoples Park Historic District, and should provide a detailed rationale if in any project alternative it is deemed impossible to comply with the proposed Peoples Park Historic District.

#### PROJECT ALTERNATIVES AND THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

For each project alternative, there should be an analysis as to how well "social distancing" would succeed in limiting the spread of infectious diseases in the event that the current Corona Virus continues into the foreseeable future. This analysis is also needed in the event that the current Pandemic wanes but it is still advised or required to practicing "social distancing" to make sure it does not reemerge, or if the Corona Virus Pandemic has a second wave, or if another pandemic materializes.

For each project alternative, there should be an analysis as to how important Peoples Park, the Oxford Tract and the other remaining UC controlled open space areas in the City of Berkeley would be for being people being able to be outside and breathe fresh air while still "social distancing" in the event that current Corona Virus continues into the foreseeable future. This analysis is also needed in the event that the current Pandemic wanes but it is still advised or required to practicing "social distancing" to make sure it does not reemerge, or if the Corona Virus Pandemic has a second wave, or if another pandemic materializes.

Each Project Alternative should be analyzed into how the reliance of public transit for college students and staff to get to and from the campus will be effected assuming that "social distancing" will continue to be practiced into the foreseeable future. This would occur if the current Corona Virus continues into the foreseeable future.

This analysis is also needed in the event that the current Pandemic wanes but it is still advised or required to practicing "social distancing" to make sure it does not reemerge, or if the Corona Virus Pandemic has a second wave, or if another pandemic materializes.

People have been avoiding public transit in droves since social distancing began in the second week of March

2020, and continues even though AC transit is no longer collecting fares.

#### UC SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MOST NEW APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT IN CITY OF BERKELEY IS RESERVED FOR CAL STUDENTS ONLY

The EIR should provide details of all arrangements and contracts made between UCB and developers in the City of Berkeley since 2010, as to how many units in each new multi-unit building constructed and occupied, constructed but not yet occupied, under construction, approved but not yet under construction, or currently pending approval are contractually obligated to or reserved for UCB students.

The EIR needs to include a thorough analysis of all the impacts on the City of Berkeley as a result of UCB exceeding the maximum enrollment in its current LRDP.

The EIR should chart the annual increase in UCB enrollment annually from 1990 to the present.

Adjacent to the above should be charts showing the annual increases in enrollment at all other UC campuses from 1990 to the present.

And adjacent to the above chart should be a chart showing the annual increase (or decrease) in the estimated population of the State of California from 1990 to the present.

The EIR should reveal what percentage of the UCB student enrollment is from out of state, and what percentage is our foreign students.

The EIR should reveal what percentage of the UCB student enrollment was from out of state and were from other countries 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years ago.

The EIR should also reveal the percentage of out of state and of foreign students at all other UC campuses at the present, and at five year intervals from 1990 to the present.

The EIR should reveal what rationale – if any – UCB is using justify it's steady increase in the percentage of out of state students and of foreign students.

#### PENDING CLOSURE OF ALTA BATES HOSPITAL

The Cumulative Impact analysis in the EIR should consider the likely closure of Alta Bates Hospital and its emergency room – the last emergency room in Berkeley, and the additional time it will take to get to an emergency room in Oakland.

All the new apartments and dormitories now being constructed, and that are now pending approval in Berkeley will be increasing the City's population by over 15,000 people. And the population of Berkeley is aging. Yet all the new development now occurring and likely to occur over the next several years is significantly worsening traffic congestion in Berkeley, and will dramatically add to the time it will take to reach an emergency room several miles south of Berkeley in Oakland.

The proposed projects in the new LRDP and the proposed high-rise development of Peoples Park will add to the cumulative traffic congestion in Berkeley and thus add to the time it will take to reach an emergency room, especially after Alta Bates Hospital closes.

The EIR needs to discuss how this project will (along with nearby recently built and soon to be built projects) make evacuation after a major earthquake more difficult, and exacerbated by the fact that there will likely not be an emergency room left in Berkeley when a major quake on the Hayward Fault inevitably occurs.

The EIR needs to analyze how the new LRDP, the proposed high-rise Peoples Park development, and all the various Southside pending development projects and pending and reasonably foreseeable projects throughout the City of Berkeley will cumulatively effect traffic in the Southside neighborhood and throughout Berkeley. This analysis should include the increased traffic gridlock that will occur, the longer waits to get through intersections that will occur, and how this will contribute to the worsening of air quality. Air quality is already very bad in Berkeley.

UCB has thus far done a very poor job in informing the residents of the City of Berkeley as to its planning for a

new Long Range Development Plan and for its potential development at Peoples Park. The LRDP, Baptist Seminary & Peoples Park planning processes should be frozen until the residents of the City of Berkeley are fully brought up to date as to exactly what is in the draft Long Range Development Plan, and what is proposed for the Baptist Seminary and Peoples Park.

#### TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

The traffic analysis, studies and base level readings should only be done on week days during the AM and PM rush hours when the University of California is in session and people are at work.

The base level traffic readings and studies should not be done in the summer, on weekends, on holidays, at night, nor during the present or any future Corona Virus shelter in place orders, nor outside of the fall or spring UCB sessions, nor during any UCB student breaks.

The base line traffic readings and studies should not be done on any City of Berkeley holidays, including Malcolm X day, nor other holidays observed by the City of Berkeley but not the University of California. Nor should the base line traffic studies be done on any Friday on which the City of Berkeley government is not in full operation. The City government will often partially shut down on Fridays.

All traffic analysis should also include any traffic data that can be found in prior City of Berkeley or UCB EIRs going back to 1990, so as to see how traffic has increased in the past 30 years.

#### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

A Draft EIR must discuss "cumulative impacts" when they are significant (CEQA Guidelines, section 15130. subd. (a).) When "cumulative impacts" are not deemed significant, the EIR must explain the basis for that conclusion. (Citizens to Preserve the Ojai v. County of Ventura 1985)

All traffic level projections and analysis should include the cumulative impact all recently approved but not yet built, recently built but not yet occupied, and all reasonably foreseeable development in the City of Berkeley. According to the City of Berkeley's Current Zoning Applications web site, there are at least 35 multi-story, new multi-unit residential buildings pending approval. All of the projects listed on this web site are hereby incorporated into these comments by reference. See the City of Berkeley Current Zoning Applications web site -

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Land\\_Use\\_Division/Current\\_Zoning\\_Applications\\_Log.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning_and_Development/Land_Use_Division/Current_Zoning_Applications_Log.aspx) – for a list of all pending development projects in Berkeley.

Based on the dramatic weakening of local control over development by the various Weiner-Skinner bills in the state legislature, it should be assumed that all of the proposed housing developments in the pipeline in Berkeley will be approved.

The Draft EIR should also analyze the cumulative impact on all already approved and reasonably foreseeable development in Berkeley (see above) in regards to noise, air pollution, financial impact, loss of open space, impact on birds and other urban wildlife, loss of views and loss of sunlight.

The EIR should clearly spell out the size of the UCB student body that UCB expects to exist at the time that the new Long Range Development Plan Projects are all built and in use. How many UCB students will there be when these Projects are all built and in use? How many UCB instructors, administrators and non-faculty staff will there be?

There should be a minimum 90 day comment period on the Draft EIR, and a minimum 60 comment period on any Revised Draft EIR, Draft Final EIR, and/or any Final EIR.

I urge UCB to hold at least two hearings on the Draft EIR, one during the work day, and one in the evening, so that a maximum number of residents will be able to comment on the EIR.

The hearing, or hearings, on the Draft EIR should be held in a large, comfortable and easily accessible room, without noisy vending machines or other distractions.

Chancellor Christ, do not use the Pandemic to run roughshod over the Berkeley community. Please suspend the LRDP process until the Pandemic is over and public meetings can be held again. And please freeze all UCB development in the City of Berkeley until a new LRDP is adopted.

thank you,  
Clifford Fred  
[REDACTED] [Peralta Avenue](#)  
Former Berkeley Planning Commissioner  
Berkeley, Calif. 94702  
[REDACTED]

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*Office of the Chancellor  
University of California, Berkeley  
200 California Hall #1500  
Berkeley, CA 94720  
[510-642-7464](#)*

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Khira Griscavage  
Associate Chancellor  
Chief of Staff to Chancellor Carol T. Christ  
Chief Ethics, Risk, and Compliance Officer



<Letter To Chancellor Christ.odt>



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park**

1 message

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**Dawn Goldwasser** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Fri, Apr 24, 2020 at 10:20 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Dawn Goldwasser. I am a Berkeley native and artist (having sold my work in a gallery on 4th street for many years as well as at the Telegraph street fair). I have also authored and published books which chronicle Berkeley's history during the time I was growing up there. I would like to read this letter aloud at the April 27th public scoping session.

I am writing you to voice my opinion that People's Park, besides being a valuable green space is an important historical landmark in Berkeley. For many non-Berkeley people that I have spoken with through the years, People's Park appears to be the only world-famous landmark that Berkeley possess. The history of People's Park also appears to be of the utmost importance for students and alumni of UC Berkeley — it is part of the fabric of their alma mater.

And for the many people who have visited Berkeley as tourists, People's Park could be likened to other world-famous landmarks throughout our country: from the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles to the Statue of Liberty in New York City, these sites carry a relevance which the passing of time has only proved to increase the value of ports of sentiment and rich local histories. Removing Berkeley's only world-famous landmark in order to build yet another set of buildings in an era where zeal for development has often already over-ridden public concerns seems to be unnessacry and frankly, in my opinion, is in poor taste.

Another concern in regards to the rapid increase in development is the green spaces. I agree that Berkeley's new face is coming along nicely, and the downtown area now reminds one of modern day Santa Monica, but with one exception; Santa Monica has parks and green spaces alongside the entire beach — and the beach's quirky attraction is still the artists, craftspeople, and street- performers that fill the promenade and draw many tourists from around the world.

It's the juxtaposition of modern buildings and clean streets meshing nicely with the ambiance of colorful humans and plenty of green spaces that make Santa Monica a premier neighborhood for both visitors and residents alike. Just modern building are not enough, and without an abundance of green-spaces, Berkeley's south-side neighborhood will just become a maze of large buildings, it will, in my opinion, not only lose all it's charm, but will not be a pleasant place to visit or to live.

I understand the desire to clean up and modernize the city of Berkeley and the UC, I do not understand, nor approve of any plans that include destroying the only world-famous landmark located there, or the shrinking-down of green spaces, green spaces which are increasingly important for the future ambiance of a town filled with large impressive modern buildings.

Respectably yours,

Dawn Goldwasser

April 23, 2020

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner

Physical & Environmental Planning, University of California, Berkeley

300 A&E Building, Berkeley CA 94720-1382

planning@berkeley.edu

Comments on Long Range Development Plan (LRDP)

Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2

Many years ago, I was fortunate enough to be chosen to design Ho Chi Minh (Willard) Park and Shorebird Park for the City of Berkeley. Since then I have been amazed at the skill and dedication demonstrated by the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department in maintaining all of Berkeley's parks – The Rose Garden, Civic Center Park, etc. – for the 120,000 residents of Berkeley.

The University of California shows similar capability regarding the university grounds, for the total of 43,000 graduate and undergraduate students they serve. However, their indifferent maintenance of People's Park clearly shows that PRW would do a much better job.

A brief look comparing People's Park to Civic Center Park, less than a mile away, dramatically illustrates this. CC Park is trim, clean, and inviting, and is commonly enjoyed by picnicking families and other groups. People's Park has been allowed to devolve into little more than an eyesore, heavily frequented by indigents and petty criminals.

The single difference between them is management and maintenance.

UC has nine available housing sites. It makes sense for next week's EIR scoping to address a proposal that the university provides housing for for their projected enrollment of more than 48,000 students on eight of these available sites, and mitigate the impact on Berkeley's 120,000 residents by ceding ownership of People's Park to the City of Berkeley.

If properly managed, this neglected park, surrounded by almost a dozen designated landmark buildings, would provide much-needed open green space for the entire population of the city – a miniature version of Olmstead's Central Park in Manhattan.

Zach Stewart

██████ Virginia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94709

April 25, 2020

Chancellor Carol Christ  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA 94720

Review of EIR for the campus LRDP and proposed housing projects

Dear Chancellor Christ:

I am writing this letter to ask you personally to postpone the current CEQA review process while Berkeley and the Bay Area are subject to shelter-in-place orders. In writing this letter I bring several different levels of experience to the issues:

- First, I spent the majority of my professional life working for the UC Office of the President and the new UC Merced campus in the fields of planning, design and environmental compliance.
- Second, except for a three-year stint in a job abroad, I have lived in Berkeley for 50 years, two as a graduate student, 32 as an architect and city planner, and 16 as a retiree.
- Third, I serve on the City of Berkeley Landmark Preservation Commission and am currently its chair. This letter expresses my own opinions, not those of the Commission, but these opinions are colored by my experience as a commissioner.

Because others have commented on the LRDP, I will focus my comments on the proposed housing projects, particularly that to be built on the People's Park site. I was a graduate student in the College of Environmental Design when People's Park was created. Later when at UCOP I read studies about the University's plans to clear the land south of the campus for housing, and I listened to the University's real estate officer give me his backstory on the acquisition of the land where People's Park sits. Even later I worked closely with and got to know former Chancellor Heyns, on an unrelated issue at another campus.

The intellectual and political underpinnings for the south campus clearance and redevelopment were articulated in a University report called, as I recall, "Students at Berkeley." It was a classic example of 1950's slum clearance or "urban renewal," justifying wholesale destruction of old housing and its replacement with high-rise towers. Photos of the existing south campus brown shingles, taken with the maximum effort to show deterioration and decay, were juxtaposed with sketches of new dorms in the style of the French architect Le Corbusier.

Armed with this kind of intellectual underpinning the University moved to acquire entire blocks of south campus land. Then came a revolt by students to living in typical dorms—tiny rooms, one bathroom per floor, etc. (This revolt was not limited to UC; on a visit to the University of Maryland, I once toured a dorm complex that was being completely reconfigured into clusters of co-ed student apartments.) UC's dorm building slowed down, but the properties were already acquired. UC was not good at maintaining rental properties in old brown shingles. As my real estate officer colleague told me, they were old and



expensive to repair, and the tenants were smoking marijuana. “We had no choice but to tear them down.” The land remained vacant.

In 1969 the memories and passions of the Free Speech Movement were still strong and simmering. Activists began planting trees at what became People’s Park. Roger Heyns, forgetting or ignoring the experience of his predecessor Edward Strong five years earlier, ordered a 10-foot fence to be built around it. The fence was an irresistible attraction for Dan Siegel, the student body president, who perhaps dreamed of becoming another Mario Savio, and who urged students to tear it down. Alameda County deputies were called in, and one of them killed a protestor. The protests and the police reaction embroiled the campus. While studying in my apartment north of Hearst I was left choking in teargas fumes which were released by helicopters flying overhead.

I detail all this, not because you haven’t heard the story before, but to emphasize that these memories are still with us. Even though it was not an agenda item, People’s Park protestors appeared at a meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission last year. All of them were loud and strong, and all had very gray hair. I also want to emphasize that Chancellor Heyns over-reacted. This was not the only time. When the Wheeler Hall auditorium burned in the same year, which I remember well because I had a class in Wheeler, he immediately posted a letter blaming the fire on arson. Later it was determined to have been caused by an electrical malfunction, though the “arson” remains in some histories. In my much later encounter with Heyns, which involved investigation of the malfeasance of the Santa Barbara chancellor, he acted with wisdom and patience that were sadly lacking in 1969.

We live in a very different world now. The errors of urban renewal have been recognized. The California Environmental Quality Act requires public comment and technical review before projects can be approved. Sometimes, as I can personally attest from my experience at UC Merced, these processes can be frustrating and block things that should not be blocked. But we have these processes because of errors made in the past. Without reminding ourselves of these errors and learning from them we risk making new mistakes. That is precisely what the University is doing in forging ahead in this time of the coronavirus pandemic to get its projects approved.

Let me explain just one small part of the process that will not go on as it should. Because of the shelter-in-place order the Landmarks Preservation Commission’s meetings have been suspended; the Commission cannot meet in May and will only meet in June subject to pending approval of Berkeley’s Director of Emergency Services. The Commission has no jurisdiction over the University, but it does have some say over 16 designated landmarks which are in the vicinity of the People’s Park site. The First Church of Christ Scientist is a National Historic Landmark, one of only 2,500 buildings so designated in the entire United States. There is no way that the Commission or the Berkeley citizens whom it serves can learn about the University’s plans or discuss their impact on the adjacent landmarks under the current shelter-in-place rules. Every sort of University activity is stopped or slowed down by the current rules, so why must it charge forward with the LRDP and housing project EIR? In my 30 years working for the University in ordinary times I do not recall any project that was ever seriously damaged by a delay caused by compliance with CEQA. And these are not ordinary times.

In a small way the University’s intransigence is analogous to the recent decision by the Supreme Court to not allow a delay in Wisconsin state elections. Despite a situation of crisis caused by the pandemic the court ruled that the elections had to go ahead on schedule, many presume because the court majority thought it would be to the advantage of one political party. Here the University has decided it must go forward in the face of the same crisis, one presumes because the University thinks doing so will suppress

opposition to its plans. This reminds me too much of Roger Heyns. It is hubris and impatience combined. It will not ultimately benefit the University. It may likely harm it. And it undoubtedly will increase the mistrust and animosity of Berkeley citizens.

Make no mistake. I am not happy with the current People's Park. I served on a sub-committee of the Landmarks Preservation Commission to consider how to build a fence around the First Church of Christ Scientist in order to reduce vandalism from People's Park occupants and to prevent its use as a night-time toilet because the University won't maintain one on the Park. As it exists the Park is a blight. Under the right conditions I would support the University's use of the site for housing or other purposes. The right conditions would include:

- A design that respects the *low-rise* character of the adjacent historic landmarks and recalls the historic memory of the low-rise neighborhood which was destroyed. The University's sorry history of acquisition under threat of eminent domain and its destruction of existing housing does not justify construction of a high-rise tower currently proposed.
- An appropriate monument and plaques recording the history of People's Park.
- A permanent program to support homeless people for whom the Park has become a refuge.
- Delaying further action on the EIR until public meetings are again permitted.

I wish the University well in creating more student housing, but your current plans to forge ahead appear to be a cynical attempt to take advantage of the pandemic crisis and, once again, spit in the face of your host community.

Sincerely,

Christopher Adams

Copies: Mayor Arreguin  
Vice Mayor Hahn

Planning Departmental <[planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)>

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**Peoples' Park planned development**1 message

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**Ednah Friedman** [REDACTED]  
To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Sat, Apr 25, 2020 at 4:02 PM

UCB has my permission to read my comments aloud.

I have lived in Berkeley continuously since 1967.

I am a graduate of Cal with a BA in History. I agree with the development concept. I am, however, shocked by the scale of the 16-story building. It is far too tall; it massively over shadows the historic buildings; it is completely out of scale with the surrounding blocks, commercial and residential. I could support a building of up to eight stories high.

Ednah Beth Friedman

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail  
Get the new AOL app: [mail.mobile.aol.com](mailto:mail.mobile.aol.com)



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park Project**

2 messages

**Eric Haesloop** [REDACTED]

Sat, Apr 25, 2020 at 5:23 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

I fully support the proposed project. The current condition of People's Park is sad, a depressing use of urban space, at best a legacy to the failure of Berkeley's homeless policies. UC's proposed project will bring much needed student and support housing to Berkeley. It preserves open space and might even become an enjoyable community space.

Eric Haesloop  
Elmwood Ave.  
Berkeley u

Sent from my iPhone

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 9:56 AM

To: Eric Haesloop [REDACTED]

Hi Eric,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner

[Quoted text hidden]

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Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)  
phone: (510) 643-4793  
email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park Proposal**

1 message

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**jerri holan** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Sat, Apr 25, 2020 at 3:45 PM

To Staff and Planners (this letter may be read out loud at the public hearing)-

The University's current proposal for a 16- story housing complex in People's Park is misguided and detrimental to the immediate neighborhood as well as to the larger Berkeley community.

The historic neighborhood encompasses many historic landmarks including Berkeley's most famous, The Christian Science Church by Bernard Maybeck. This proposal overwhelms every building it is adjacent to, reflects none of the historic character of surrounding buildings and is out of context for the City of Berkeley. Your proposal is completely out of scale and insensitive to this neighborhood and, in its present form, should be abandoned altogether.

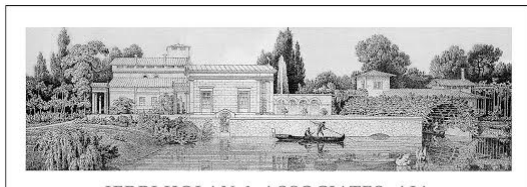
There are basic design and planning principles that need to be adhered to starting with the University's own planning guidelines. The City too has guidelines for how to sensitively add new buildings to older neighborhoods. Furthermore, there are hundreds of talented planners, designers, and architects in our community -- and at the University -- that can do a much better job of integrating much-needed student housing on this site. I strongly urge that you consult with them and discontinue this poorly thought out project that creates more problems than it solves.

Sincerely,

Jerri Holan, FAIA



[www.holanarchitects.com](http://www.holanarchitects.com)



JERRI HOLAN & ASSOCIATES, AIA  
Architects ♦ Engineers ♦ Planners



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Proposed People's Park development**

2 messages

**Glen Jarvis** [REDACTED]

Sat, Apr 25, 2020 at 9:13 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Cc: R Todd Kerr [REDACTED]

Comments on the proposed development:

1. This site is a City of Berkeley landmark, and is surrounded by landmarked buildings to essentially make a landmarked district. This site has a very significant history of the Berkeley community speaking out and acting to demand open space.
2. This is the only open space for many blocks in all directions in a dense residential neighborhood that needs more, not less usable open areas.
3. U.C. Berkeley should re-evaluate the density of all new developments in light of our current Coronavirus pandemic and social distancing as a public health requirement.
4. The U.C. Berkeley campus has more than a square mile of undeveloped land above the stadium, so there are alternate sites for U.C. housing.
5. Moving the homeless from this site will not make them go away, and they will still be camping on the same blocks. The finest public university in the world should be able to understand this and use their expertise to find real solutions.

Your neighbor,

Glen Jarvis  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 10:00 AM

To: Glen Jarvis [REDACTED]

Hi Glen,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner

[Quoted text hidden]

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Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](http://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)

phone: (510) 643-4793

email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park Development**

2 messages

**Marcus, Richard** [REDACTED]

Sat, Apr 25, 2020 at 4:25 PM

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

Dear Planning Department:

I'm writing about a matter that is scheduled for discussion next week, I believe -- the university's plans for developing the land called People's Park. I speak only about the argument that this open space is itself worthy of protection as "historic" and that this designation should limit development.

I distinctly remember the events surrounding the controversy about the university's plans for this land in 1968-69. I dearly wish the brown shingle and other structures the university demolished then were still there. I was not there on the day Dan Siegel reportedly shouted something like "Let's go take the Park." But I was there regularly over the subsequent few years and thought it was a desirable park-like place. For years I regarded it as somewhat sacred space.

But I am not blind to what it has become in recent decades. It is not hallowed space any more. To the contrary, to my mind it has almost become an eyesore, and I suspect it is a place many citizens of this city consciously avoid.

So I argue against treating this place as entitled to a pedigree of protest now in the 21st century. Don't stay your hands on that ground. The design of the buildings does indeed look overbearing to me. I can't say I enthuse about seeing them in place. But I certainly will not mourn if something else is put there in place of what's been there for the last several decades.

Richard Marcus

[REDACTED] Domingo Ave.

Berkeley, CA 94705

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 9:55 AM

To: "Marcus, Richard" [REDACTED]

Hi Richard,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner

[Quoted text hidden]

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Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)

phone: (510) 643-4793

email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)



Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

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## People's Park Housing and Memorial : Positive reaction to latest design

2 messages

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Peter Montgomery [REDACTED]

Sat, Apr 25, 2020 at 8:28 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu, [REDACTED]

Hello Cal Planning staff,

After reviewing the most recent rendering, these are my thoughts. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or need any additional advocacy.

Good about design:

The tall tower unit is positioned very well. Having the building on the north side of the lot is smart, allowing for sunlight to permeate the park area. Additionally the lower bar building along the West (Telegraph) side is smart. Very good use of the space and attention to sun and day-lighting. I good evolution of the design over the past couple years.

Areas that could use improvement:

The circular motif of the park element seems somewhat arbitrary. It seems to be a bit designed from the sky as a design element and not necessarily functional for access and traffic flow. Recommend looking a bit more at "why an oval"? Is this the best? Could be more rectilinear or even amorphous.

Additional comments:

As a Berkeley native, I was taken by my grandmother to People's Park during the initial phases in the late 60s. As a child I grew up playing on the park swing set. Later, I went to Berkeley Public Schools including Malcolm X, West Campus and Berkeley High. As a teenager I helped to construct barriers at People's Park, and my brother's girlfriend designed the stage. Later on I went to U.C. Berkeley and graduated. This is all to say, I am deeply invested in Berkeley both culturally and in my heart and soul. Now is the time to develop People's Park for housing. We need housing, and we certainly don't need to prolong the dual-management headaches of the People's Park of the past 20+ years. The most recent architectural and space planning of the latest design seems wise, smart and elegant. Compared to designs shown a couple years ago which had a building mass on the South side, effectively blocking the sun to any park or plaza on the North, the new design leaves a nice zone for direct sunlight on the South side. Overall the new design is a happy medium of moving forward with elegant and much needed housing, while also preserving some open-space and an opportunity to memorialize the important and meaningful history of People's Park. One last note: The visual language of the new buildings should ideally be modern clean and warm and of the 2020 and 30s and not get watered down with hackneyed historical motifs or brackets to attempt to match the adjacent Maybeck church or other Disneylandesque stage sets.

Please move forward with this design and implement the new structures.

Thanks, -Peter

=====

Peter Montgomery  
[REDACTED]

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 9:59 AM

To: Peter Montgomery [REDACTED]

Hi Peter,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner

[Quoted text hidden]

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Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**UC People's Park housing project**

2 messages

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**Nancy Pakter** [REDACTED]  
To: Nancy Pakter [REDACTED], planning@berkeley.edu

Sat, Apr 25, 2020 at 11:06 PM

I'm writing to voice my concern around the building of student housing on People 's Park. For me there are three issues.

1- keeping people's park as a historical place in Berkeley's history.

2-building a 16 story building in the middle of an area of low story historic buildings

3-continuing to change the nature of Berkeley with ever more high rise buildings thus filling all the open spaces

I know that changes will happen. Buildings will get bigger. Things will move faster. Countryside will disappear. But remembering some of our past is vitally important. As a student at the College of William and Mary I spent 4 years surrounded by that thought. Please consider this as you plan for Berkeley's future.

Nancy Pakter

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

To: Nancy Pakter [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 10:02 AM

Hi Nancy,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,

Timothy Green

Assistant Planner

[Quoted text hidden]

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Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park public comment**

1 message

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**Charles Shere** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Sat, Apr 25, 2020 at 3:49 PM

My name is Charles Shere; you have my permission to read my comment aloud.

If the present crisis being faced by the entire world teaches us nothing else it teaches the dangers of population density and societal inequality — that the course of Empire has run to its end.

The Athens of the West has sold off enough of her heritage, has too well neglected her history. The planned construction at People's Park shamelessly ignores good social practice by reaffirming the University's intent to compress far too many students into its ghetto, even while the adapting methods of higher education are questioning the utility of complexes of buildings and while the social value and function of the university education are being questioned.

The student population of UC Berkeley should be reduced; Merced, Riverside and Santa Cruz campuses should take their share of the burden. But until we know how the economy, public transportation, the energy sector, and the very viability of our State of California can recover from this moment, any commitment to a project like this is pure folly. Please stop it, now.

Sent from my iPhone



Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

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## The scale of the proposed building on People's Park is too BIG

2 messages

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**Joan Wilson** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Sat, Apr 25, 2020 at 7:07 PM

Hello, I don't mind the Universitys building something beautiful of smaller scale that would fit in with the scale and historic nature of the neighborhood—something like the BAMPFA building, but I hate the huge, dominating footprint of the proposed dorm complex which will eat up the neighborhood and offend the senses. People's Park is a BIG part of UCB's history. Tourists and aspiring students today want to see where IT happened—it being a lot of drama and social comment and human aspiration. PLEASE do not build a monster on People's Park.

Thank you. I am an UCB Alum. Joan Wilson, [REDACTED] [Woodmont Avenue, Berkeley 94708](#)

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>  
To: Joan Wilson [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 9:57 AM

Hi Joan,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner  
[Quoted text hidden]

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## An Alternative Vision for People's Park

### People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group

The most serious omission in UC Berkeley's proposal regarding the development of the People's Park site is the lack of a "no-build" alternative. CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act, assumes consideration of alternatives that do the least environmental harm. In this case, that would certainly be preservation and improvement of the only existing public open space in Berkeley's densely populated South Campus neighborhood. Instead, the university seeks to build highrise residency halls, including a 16-story building, on the site. Certainly Berkeley, like the entire Bay Area, is in great need of affordable housing, but only the University of California plans to destroy a public park to create it. The university has identified several other potential sites for student and faculty housing. How in the spirit of CEQA can it justify the destruction of 2.8 acres of public open space?

The People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group proposes the preservation and improvement of the park, already a registered historical landmark, as part of a historic district that includes the sixteen other registered historical landmarks that are in the immediate neighborhood. The district would commemorate the heritage of Berkeley's extraordinary role in the events of the 1960s, as well as the larger story of town/gown relationships in the South Campus area. This would be consistent with the university's commitment to public service and provide significant educational and research opportunities based on programs that involve close community relationships and cooperation. A model for such programs is the native plant garden that once existed in the park.

Perhaps the university and community could join in establishing a multi-discipline Bernard Maybeck Town/Gown Institute to sponsor and promote these efforts. The institute would be named for the distinguished architect of the Christian Science church that is the neighborhood's most famous architectural historical landmark. And the institute might be located in the former Anna Head School, now a university property that is another historical landmark and, like the Christian Science church, located across the street from the park.

It is inconceivable that the university, with its vast resources and talented students and faculty, should not be able to create a public open space that welcomes students, neighborhood residents, and visitors without displacing the poor and the homeless. Accomplishing this would be a noble work of public service, education, and scholarship. We urge the university to join with the city and the South Campus community to preserve and promote People's Park as the heart and soul of a vital historic district.

Charles Wollenberg



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Scoping Session Comment**

2 messages

Mail [REDACTED]

Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 12:32 PM

Reply-To: Mail [REDACTED]

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Comment to the UC Planning organizers of the Session:

A number of considerations have come your way on your plans for developing People's Park. Some of them may concern my personal issue or *stand*, if you'll excuse the pun.

I want more than due attention given to that remaining stand of trees populating the eastern area of the Park. The recent obscene removal of close-by healthy trees during quiet hours was typical of Cal's long-established tactic of early-morning traumatic rousting--of people, property or nature--while neighbors slumber.

For over fifty years, the geographic appellation 'park' has been tenuously bestowed upon this property, given its multiple ownerships and tugs. Yet a park it has remained, and the presence of grand green boughs overhead are both an essential reminder and a contributor to the very idea of what any park should be.

In any case, it would be the apex of Orwellian doublethink to develop the Park per its hopeful presentation by UC's planners, and then give the result a name with 'Park' in it ..

phil allen

Landmarks Preservation Commissioner

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 10:07 AM

To: Mail [REDACTED]

Hi Phil,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,

Timothy Green

Assistant Planner

[Quoted text hidden]

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Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park**

1 message

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**Stephen Born** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 10:08 AM

**UC Berkeley has permission to read my comment out loud at the People's Park meeting**

People's Park is a national landmark and must be protected. The park must serve all of the residents of Berkeley as a vitally need open space in a congested urban setting. The park can be improved in many ways and should be less hospitable to elements that make it undesirable for students and families with children. A lot can be accomplished with appropriate landscaping and removal of basketball courts.

I am a native of Berkeley, I was present on the People's Park march, I live in the neighborhood, I have a degree from UCB, I am a UC Professor Emeritus, and I am adamantly opposed to current People's Park redevelopment plans.

Stop! Consider this landmark seriously! I am also ready to get arrested on another march to save People's Park.

Sincerely,

Stephen C Born MD, MPH



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park Project Comments 4.25.2020**1 message

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**Fredrica Drotos** [REDACTED]

Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 12:58 PM

To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Cc: "Droste, Lori" [REDACTED]

UC Berkeley has permission to read my comments aloud:

Re: Peoples Park Project April 25, 2020

The Chancellor's vision is a laudable one and contains many aspects worthy of support. Nevertheless, times have changed since this planning process began and the notion of a 16 story densely inhabited building where today an open block of land exists, no longer seems like a vision worthy of pursuit.

While I applaud the engagement of Walter Hood to commemorate and integrate the long and complex history of People's Park as a defining feature of the development I cannot in any way shape or form, support a 16 story structure inserted into an already dense urban environment composed predominantly of single family dwellings, shops, restaurants and student living accommodations.

The dormitory complexes on Dwight at College, Durant at College and Durant at Telegraph are prime examples of buildings already out-of-scale with their environs. Therefore, I urge the Chancellor and the Planning Dept. to reimagine the height of the People's Park Project in order to enhance, rather than to destroy what is left of the already affronted neighboring dwellings and surrounding fragile neighborhoods.

Thank you.

Fredrica Drotos  
Southside Neighbor



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Peoples park**

2 messages

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**Sue Fernstrom** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 6:03 PM

Too big . Does not fit in with the neighborhood

Sent from my iPhone

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>  
To: Sue Fernstrom [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 10:12 AM

Hi Sue,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner  
[Quoted text hidden]

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+++++  
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email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

April 26, 2020  
Clifford Fred  
████ Peralta Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94702

## SCOPING & GENERAL COMMENTS FOR UCB LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN & PEOPLES PARK & SOUTHSIDE PLANS & FOR THE PLANS' DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT – DEIR

Thank you for the opportunity to make these Scoping Comments.

It is very disrespectful to the citizens of Berkeley for UCB to only schedule 2 hours for the EIR Scoping Session on April 27, with much of that time taking up with UCB presentations and little time left for questions and comments from the public.

And it is very disrespectful to the citizens of Berkeley for UCB to insist with going ahead with an “on-line” Scoping Session, and not waiting for the Corona Virus Pandemic to end so that a public Scoping Session can be held, as normally would occur. Many people who would otherwise want to participate, might be ill with the Corona Virus, or taking care of someone who is.

I, along with many civic organizations and citizens of Berkeley, ask the university to delay the EIR Scoping Session and the Notice of Preparation until the Covid-19 Pandemic is over, and the EIR Scoping Session can be held in public with members of the public attending.

I urge the University of California, Berkeley Campus to impose an immediate freeze on any increase in student enrollment, and an immediate moratorium on all of its development projects in the City of Berkeley until a new UCB Long Range Development Plan has been prepared and adopted. UCB's current enrollment is about 10,000 more than the maximum allowed in the UCB LRDP now in effect, and any additional UCB development and/or enrollment increase would only exacerbate that violation.

UCB's reckless over-enrollment is the main cause of the City of Berkeley's homeless situation, lack of affordable housing, gridlock traffic, poor air quality, lack of open space, excessive noise levels, lack of businesses offering basic services to Berkeley's long term residents, is also the main cause for a dramatic decline in civility in Berkeley and increased hostility to older Berkeley residents.

## INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

All documents, reports, studies, newspaper & magazine articles, ordinances, ballot measures including City of Berkeley Ballot Measures L & N, statutes, regulations, etc. cited in any way in these comments are hereby incorporated into these comments by reference.

## PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

A Draft EIR must describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project, or to its location, that could feasibly attain the project's basic objective, and must evaluate the comparative merits of each alternative. (CEQA Guidelines section 15126 & section 21100.) The discussion must focus on alternatives capable of either eliminating any significant adverse environmental effects or reducing

them to a level of insignificance, even if such alternatives would be more costly or to some degree would impede the project's objectives. (CEQA Guidelines section 15126.) If the lead agency prefers the project as specifically proposed or one of the suggested alternatives, the EIR must explain why the agency chooses to reject the other alternatives. (CEQA Guidelines section 15126.)

The EIR should examine 3 or more alternative plans, giving each plan equal weight. The EIR preparation, review and revision process should then be used to arrive at a Preferred Alternative Plan.

The First Project Alternative analyzed should immediately freeze the current level of enrollment at UCB, and steadily reduce enrollment to no more than the maximum allowed in the UCB Long Range Development Plan that was in effect prior to the adoption of the Long Range Development Plan that is now in effect. In this Plan, Peoples Park in its entirety would remain as public open space.

The Second Project Alternative analyzed should immediately freeze the current level of enrollment at UCB, and steadily reduce enrollment to no more than the maximum allowed in the currently in effect Long Range Development Plan. In this Plan, Peoples Park in its entirety would remain as public open space.

The Third Project Alternative analyzed should immediately freeze the current level of enrollment at UCB and keep this level of enrollment as the maximum enrollment allowed for the duration of the LRDP now being prepared. In this Third Plan, equal weight would be given to preserving Peoples Park in its entirety as public open space versus developing no more than 50% of the Park for housing, with the remaining 50% or more continuing to be public open space. In this plan, housing would be developed on Peoples Park only as a last resort, if there are absolutely no other alternative sites to provide needed housing, and housing is still absolutely needed.

#### PEOPLES PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

All Projects and Project Alternatives identified in the Draft EIR and subsequent EIRs should give careful consideration to complying with the proposed Peoples Park Historic District, and should provide a detailed rationale if in any project alternative it is deemed impossible to comply with the proposed Peoples Park Historic District.

#### PROJECT ALTERNATIVES AND THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

For each project alternative, there should be an analysis as to how well "social distancing" would succeed in limiting the spread of infectious diseases in the event that the current Corona Virus continues into the foreseeable future. This analysis is also needed in the event that the current Pandemic wanes but it is still advised or required to practicing "social distancing" to make sure it does not reemerge, or if the Corona Virus Pandemic has a second wave, or if another pandemic materializes.

For each project alternative, there should be an analysis as to how important Peoples Park, the Oxford Tract and the other remaining UC controlled open space areas in the City of Berkeley would be for being people being able to be outside and breathe fresh air while still "social distancing" in the event that current Corona Virus continues into the foreseeable future. This analysis is also needed in the event



that the current Pandemic wanes but it is still advised or required to practicing “social distancing” to make sure it does not reemerge, or if the Corona Virus Pandemic has a second wave, or if another pandemic materializes.

Each Project Alternative should be analyzed into how the reliance of public transit for college students and staff to get to and from the campus will be effected assuming that “social distancing” will continue to be practiced into the foreseeable future. This would occur if the current Corona Virus continues into the foreseeable future. This analysis is also needed in the event that the current Pandemic wanes but it is still advised or required to practicing “social distancing” to make sure it does not reemerge, or if the Corona Virus Pandemic has a second wave, or if another pandemic materializes.

People have been avoiding public transit in droves since social distancing began in the second week of March 2020, and continues even though AC transit is no longer collecting fares.

## 2020 CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

All work on the UCB LRDP and Peoples Park planning and EIR should be put on hold until the Corona Virus Pandemic is determined to be unquestionably over.

The maximum number of students that can safely be enrolled at UCB needs to carefully be reassessed base on the Corona Virus Pandemic. How can social distancing be safely practiced if there are over 40,000 students enrolled at UCB?

The EIR should thoroughly analyze the increase in UCB student enrollment with the increase in homeless in the City of Berkeley since 2010.

The EIR’s preparers should research and publish in the EIR all the agreements between the City of Berkeley and the University of California from 1969 to the present concerning Peoples Park. This includes the agreements between the University and the City that were adopted in conjunction with the adoption of a UCB Long Range Development Plan in 1990, and the City’s leasing of the park from the University in the 1990’s.

The EIR’s preparers should make every effort to identify and publish any and all agreements or declarations from 1969 to the present in which Peoples Park’s roll as open space is acknowledged.

## MEASURE N - THE PUBLIC AGENCY ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURE, ADOPTED BY BERKELEY VOTES IN NOVEMBER 1988

Measure N, which was placed on the November 1988 ballot by then Mayor Hancock and the entire City Council, and which was adopted by a 74% “Yes” vote, states in part,

“Where as currently, public agencies do not pay city fees or taxes and are not required to follow are city’s zoning and land use policies. Development and expansion by public agencies has a profound cumulative impact on traffic, parking, density, air quality and the character and livability of our city. Such development creates increased demand for municipal services including sewers, streets, police

and fire protection without accompanying increases in revenue. Public agencies should be as accountable to their civic responsibilities as other private citizens and businesses, and,”

“Whereas development by public agencies which disregards city policies shows a lack of respect for the future of city residents and businesses, disrupts cooperative relations with the city, and undermines the spirit of neighborliness and civic responsibility upon which public life depends,”

“Now therefor be it resolved by the people of the City of Berkeley, that in order to minimize or eliminate problems resulting from public agency expansion and development, we the citizens of Berkeley support the following policies;”

“1. It shall be the policy of the City of Berkeley that all land use plans, development and expansion by public agencies follow city law, the city’s General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, and the California Environmental Quality Act.

2. The City Manager and the elected representative of the City of Berkeley shall use all available lawful means to ensure that public agencies abide by the rules and laws of the city and that these agencies pay taxes and fees comparable to those paid by private citizens and businesses, to support their fair share of city services.”

Thus, the EIR needs to identify every and any aspect of the land use plans in the LRDP that are not in compliance with the City of Berkeley General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and other City policies. The EIR should give a compelling reason why the university believes it must pursue land use and development plans that conflict with the City of Berkeley’s plans and Zoning Ordinance, in each instant where a conflict is identified.

The Draft EIR should identify how much much money in property taxes the University of California would have paid to the City of Berkeley since 1990 as if it were taxed as a private property owner. This includes the basic property tax assessed by the County of Alameda, and all the various parcel taxes assessed by the City of Berkeley and Berkeley Unified School District since 1990.

The EIR should clearly identify the project applicants and decision makers concerning the adoption of the Long Range Development Plan and any Peoples Park development plans.

## WESTERN UNITED STATES MEGA-DROUGHT

According to a report in Science Daily, April 20, 2020, which cites material gathered by Earth Institute at Columbia University, the Western United States is likely entering a mega-drought, the worse drought in recorded history.

The UCB LRDP EIR should not assume an unlimited water supply for the University’s on-going growth. The LRDP EIR needs to do a thorough analysis of the likely worsening drought conditions in the SF Bay Area, and the resulting declining East Bay water supply. Based on these projections, UCB should be planning on steadily reducing it’s enrollment in coming years, not steadily increasing enrollment.

## LRDP & EIR REVIEW PROCESS; SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Project applicants and/or their representatives should be in attendance at each CEQA meeting concerning the plans, including at the Scoping Session, the hearings on the Draft EIR and hearing on any revised Draft or Final EIR.

The University should schedule ample time at each CEQA meeting – a minimum of four hours, for members of the public to make comments and pose question to the EIR's preparers and to pose questions to any University representatives who are present.

UC staff and consultants should make arrangements to stay at the hearing for at least 4 hours. UC's practice of scheduling only two hours for their EIR public hearings - including the lengthy remarks make by staff and UC consultants prior to the start of public comment, appears to be another attempt to minimize public input.

All written and oral Scoping Comments should be printed in the Draft EIR at full size. The public's scoping comments should not be printed in a reduced size.

In addition to being available on-line, the Draft EIR and all subsequent versions of the EIR, as well as the Draft Long Range Development Plan, Draft Peoples Park Plan and all subsequent versions of the LRDP and People Park Plan should be available in printed form to the public. A minimum of 250 copies of each of the above should be produced and made available to public (no more than one copy per person) free of charge.

There should be a minimum 90 day comment period on the Draft EIR, and a minimum 60 day comment period on any Revised Draft EIR, Draft Final EIR, and/or any Final EIR.

I urge UCB to hold at least two hearings on the Draft EIR, one during the work day, and one in the evening, so that a maximum number of residents will be able to comment on the EIR.

The hearing, or hearings, on the Draft EIR should be held in a large, comfortable and easily accessible room, without noisy vending machines or other distractions.

The public hearing(s) on the Draft EIR should be held at least 60 days after the EIR is made available. These are lengthy and complicated documents, and members of the public should be given ample time to review and prepare their comments on the Draft EIR.

There should be at least one additional comment period and public hearing on the revised version of the Draft EIR that is prepared.

Members of the public are entitled to see how the EIR's preparers responded to their comments on the Draft EIR, and to see what changes, if any, where made in the Draft LRDP and Draft Peoples Park Plan as a result of the public Draft EIR comments.

The public hearing(s) on the revised EIR that follows the Draft EIR should be held at least 45 days

after the revised EIR is made available.

Any member of the public who expressed interest in the LRDP and/or potential Peoples Park plans, or who make oral or written Scoping Comments, should be notified in writing of each phase of the process: when the EIR Scoping Session will be held.

They should also be notified when the Draft EIR and any subsequent EIRs are available; when hearings on the Draft EIR and any subsequent EIRs will be held; and also when any Draft, Revised Draft or Final LRDP is available, or when any Draft, Revised Draft or Final Peoples Park plan is available; and also when any UCB meetings on the LRDP and/or on any Peoples Park will be held; and when and where the UC Regents and their relevant committees will be discussing and voting the EIR, the LRDP and on any Peoples Park Plans.

Prior to any Final EIR, Final LRDP and/or Final Peoples Park Plan being scheduled for discussion and a vote by the UC Regents and their relevant committees, there should be a public hearing/meeting for members of the public to address the UCB Chancellor and/or other high ranking UCB officials about their concerns with these plans and documents. Ample time should be scheduled for this meeting so that anyone who wants to can address the Chancellor and/or other UCB official present, and for these UCB officials to respond.

Any Final EIR, Final LRDP and Final Peoples Park Plan should be made available to members of the public at least 45 days prior to these plans and document being discussed and voted on by the UC Regents and their relevant committees.

UCB's practice of sending the Final EIRs for development projects to the Regents for approval, without even first notifying members of the public who have commented on the Draft EIR, should be stopped. This practice is clearly in violation of the spirit, and likely the letter, of CEQA.

Any meetings at which the UC Regents and their relevant committees will be discussing and voting on the EIR, the LRDP and on any Peoples Park Plans should be held on the UCB campus or elsewhere in the City of Berkeley. Members of the public should be given ample time to address the UC Regents and their relevant committees when the EIR, the LRDP, and any Peoples Park Plans are scheduled for discussion and a vote.

The EIR should provide details of all arrangements and contracts made between UCB and developers in the City of Berkeley since 2010, as to how many units in each new multi-unit building constructed and occupied, constructed but not yet occupied, under construction, approved but not yet under construction, or currently pending approval are contractually obligated to or reserved for UCB students.

The EIR needs to include a thorough analysis of all the impacts on the City of Berkeley as a result of UCB exceeding the maximum enrollment in its current LRDP.

The EIR should chart the annual increase in UCB enrollment annually from 1990 to the present. Adjacent to the above should be charts showing the annual increases in enrollment at all other UC campuses from 1990 to the present.

Clifford Fred comments, page 7

And adjacent to the above chart should be a chart showing the annual increase (or decrease) in the estimated population of the State of California from 1990 to the present.

The EIR should reveal what percentage of the UCB student enrollment is from out of state, and what percentage is our foreign students.

The EIR should reveal what percentage of the UCB student enrollment was from out of state and were from other countries 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years ago.

The EIR should also reveal the percentage of out of state and of foreign students at all other UC campuses at the present, and at five year intervals from 1990 to the present.

The EIR should reveal what rationale – if any – UCB is using justify it's steady increase in the percentage of out of state students and of foreign students.

## POPULATION DECLINE AND REDUCTIONS IN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION LEVELS

The University of Virginia Magazine, Winter 2018 edition, reports the following,

“A major source of change will come through demographics. Analysis by the Western Interstate Commission for higher Education indicates that the number of high school graduates will begin declining in the mid-2020s, owing to today's falling fertility rates, which began dropping in 2008. By the early 2020s, high school graduation rates are expected to dip as much as 5 percent below today's levels. With these changes, universities across the country will be choosing from a shrinking pool of prospective students.”

“Nathan Grawe, an economics professor at Carleton College, says the news for colleges is even worse than is suggested by the coming drop in the number of high school graduates. After digging into demographic data to account for predictors of college attendance, he predicts ‘an unprecedented reduction in post secondary demand about a decade ahead,’ by as much as 15%.”

Please note that the above was written two years ago.

The April 2020 issue of Oakland Magazine, “A Market Softening,” reports that California's population is declining. “California lost an estimated 190,000 residents in 2018, according to the 2019 U.S. Census. That number is based on state to state migration and takes into account the births that happened in the state in 2018.”

Since California's population is declining, and since the number of young people graduating from high school is declining, and since Berkeley is the most densely populated of the all the cites hosting University of California campuses (other that San Francisco), UCB's planners and the Draft EIR need to answer why UCB's enrollment is 10,000 more than the maximum agreed to in the current LRDP, and increasing more and more every year?

## 2020 CENSUS

All work on the UCB LRDP and Peoples Park planning and EIR should be put on hold until the results of the 2020 US Census are available.

## PENDING CLOSURE OF ALTA BATES HOSPITAL

The Cumulative Impact analysis in the EIR should consider the likely closure of Alta Bates Hospital and its emergency room – the last emergency room in Berkeley, and the additional time it will take to get to an emergency room in Oakland.

All the new apartments and dormitories now being constructed, and that are now pending approval in Berkeley will be increasing the City's population by over 15,000 people. And the population of Berkeley is aging. Yet all the new development now occurring and likely to occur over the next several years is significantly worsening traffic congestion in Berkeley, and will dramatically add to the time it will take to reach an emergency room several miles south of Berkeley in Oakland. The proposed projects in the new LRDP and the possible development of Peoples Park will add to the cumulative traffic congestion in Berkeley and thus add to the time it will take to reach an emergency room, especially after Alta Bates Hospital closes.

The EIR needs to discuss how this project will (along with nearby recently built and soon to be built projects) will make evacuation after a major earthquake more difficult, and exacerbated by the fact that there will likely not be an emergency room left in Berkeley when a major quake on the Hayward Fault inevitably occurs.

The EIR needs to analyze how the new LRDP and possible Peoples Park development and all the various Southside pending development projects, and pending and reasonably foreseeable projects throughout the City of Berkeley will cumulatively effect traffic flow in the Southside neighborhood and throughout Berkeley.

This analysis should include the increased traffic gridlock that will occur, the longer waits to get through intersections that will occur, and how this will contribute to the worsening of air quality. Air quality is already very bad in Berkeley.

UCB has thus far done a very poor job in informing the residents of the City of Berkeley as to its planning for a new Long Range Development Plan and for its potential development at Peoples Park.

The LRDP and Peoples Park planning process should be frozen until the residents of the City of Berkeley are fully brought up to date as to exactly what is in the draft Long Range Development Plan, and what is proposed for Peoples Park.

## TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

The traffic analysis, studies and base level readings should only be done on week days during the AM and PM rush hours when the University of California is in session and people are at work.

The base level traffic readings and studies should not be done in the summer, on weekends, on holidays, at night, nor during the present or any future Corona Virus shelter in place orders, nor outside of the fall or spring UCB sessions, nor during any UCB student breaks.

Clifford Fred comments, page 9

The base line traffic readings and studies should not be done on any City of Berkeley holidays, including Malcolm X day, nor other holidays observed by the City of Berkeley but not the University of California.

Nor should the base line traffic studies be done on any Friday on which the City of Berkeley government is not in full operation. The City government will often partially shut down on Fridays.

All traffic analysis should also include any traffic data that can be found in prior City of Berkeley or UCB EIRs going back to 1990, so as to see how traffic has increased in the past 30 years.

## CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

A Draft EIR must discuss “cumulative impacts” when they are significant (CEQA Guidelines, section 15130. subd. (a).) When “cumulative impacts” are not deemed significant, the EIR must explain the basis for that conclusion. (Citizens to Preserve the Ojai v. County of Ventura 1985)

All traffic level projections and analysis should include the cumulative impact all recently approved but not yet built, recently built but not yet occupied, and all reasonably foreseeable development in the City of Berkeley. According to the City of Berkeley’s Current Zoning Applications web site, there are at least 35 multi-story, new multi-unit residential buildings pending approval. All of the projects listed on this web site are hereby incorporated into these comments by reference. See the City of Berkeley Current Zoning Applications web site -

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Land\\_Use\\_Division/Current\\_Zoning\\_Applications\\_Log.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning_and_Development/Land_Use_Division/Current_Zoning_Applications_Log.aspx) – for a list of all pending development projects in Berkeley.

Based on the dramatic weakening of local control over development by the various Weiner-Skinner bills in the state legislature, it should be assumed that all of the proposed housing developments in the pipeline in Berkeley will be approved.

The Draft EIR should also analyze the cumulative impact on all already approved and reasonably foreseeable development in Berkeley (see above) in regards to noise, air pollution, financial impact, loss of open space, impact on birds and other urban wildlife, loss of views and loss of sunlight.

The EIR should clearly spell out the size of the UCB student body that UCB expects to exist at the time that the new Long Range Development Plan Projects are all built and in use. How many UCB students will there be when these Projects are all built and in use? How many UCB instructors, administrators and non-faculty staff will there be?

Thank you for your careful review and response to these comments.

CFred

Clifford Fred  
Berkeley, California





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## Public Scoping Comment

1 message

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**Jessica McGinley** [REDACTED]

Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 5:11 PM

To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

My name is Jessie McGinley and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session.

As an undergraduate student at the University of California, Berkeley studying Society and Environment, I have many problems with the development on People's Park.

My first concern is the "supportive housing" that keeps being used as an avenue to excuse the displacement of current residents of the park. At the second open house held at Clark Kerr, I asked RCDC about the supportive housing, and they said that they are applying for financial support from the government to hopefully get a fraction of the affordable housing to be supportive housing, which they did not seem too hopeful about. So, supportive housing is only part of the plan AND it is not even guaranteed, however the University keeps publishing documents saying that there will be supportive housing. The University needs to be transparent and honest with the affordable housing development. Supportive housing does not equal affordable housing. Also, even if the developers did get support to build some supportive housing, I asked them if homeless individuals with little to no income would be able to even just apply to live there, and RCDC said no. This is unacceptable and the University can't keep using this lie of supportive housing acting as though the homeless people in the park will be housed.

I would also like to see a list of the 200+ meetings/events that were held as stated in the published NOP. I have only been aware of 2 public open houses this semester, not including the virtual open house in April. I would like to see a list of these meetings including dates, locations, and where these meetings were publicized for the public's knowledge. Also, the NOP states that the University engages stakeholders. Has the University engaged the homeless individuals currently residing in the park? These individuals need to be directly included in these discussions as they will be immediately displaced. I would like to see more involvement with the Berkeley community and students in discussions about development.

I strongly urge the University to consider building on land that does not contribute to food insecurity, displacement, the destruction of green space, the elimination of community gatherings, the demolition of a beautiful community garden, and numerous other problems. Please look at building on other sites such as Clark Kerr, which I know has some obstacles, but it will not destroy a beautiful, green park that has so much history and provides so much for the Berkeley community.



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park Committee NOP for LRDP EIR comments**

1 message

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 to: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 11:27 PM

**PEOPLE'S PARK COMMITTEE SCOPING COMMENTS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR UC BERKELEY LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE AND HOUSING PROJECTS AT PEOPLE'S PARK AND HILL CAMPUS submitted 4/26/20**

1. LRDP Update must not be a programmatic EIR that automatically gives the green light to future projects not explicitly listed in the EIR. All future projects must continue to be subject to public input under CEQA.
2. The NOP claims 200 meetings and events with stakeholder groups and the public, but not all stakeholders were contacted. Houseless residents of the park weren't included. There was a 1/24/20 invitation-only meeting, at the Christian Science church by the park. Little effort was made to invite community groups like the People's Park Committee, Food Not Bombs, Suitcase Clinic, or others who provide resources at the park so few of the park community were able to participate. Except one town hall on the LRDP in April 2019, no public meetings about this process were held. Two public meetings in February and March 2020, were limited to Project #2 at People's Park, and didn't include other plans to be discussed in this EIR. Which stakeholders were invited to the other 196 meetings, and what parts of the LRDP Update did they cover?
3. The NOP insists on necessity of expansion of facilities and university population, even though Berkeley has sued UC for exceeding the agreed-upon number of students to be admitted. The number of beds planned for students and non-university affiliated people are vague, talking about construction 'up to' a certain number, without any minimum commitment. No mention of students who are homeless now, in need of housing, let alone non-university park residents. And no specifics about nonprofits who are supposed to develop and manage the housing projects proposed at People's Park. Who are these nonprofits, what is their proposed role, and what financial and other benefits would they derive from this project?
4. UC used the excuse of 'deferred maintenance', a concept mentioned in the NOP, to destroy the forested area of People's Park as well as trees all over campus, and the excuse of 'wildfire management' to deforest other areas in the East Bay hills, and use pesticides, long targeting the Hill Campus area. Even mature, tall redwoods are planned for demolition by UC in the Hill Campus. UC repeatedly has been taken to court by community members seeking to defend the Hill Campus forest. UC insists that since these forested areas are not state or federal forest, it's not necessary to discuss the impact of converting that forest to non-forest use, and because there may not be a formal habitat conservation plan, no habitat conservation activities are necessary in the project areas covered in the EIR, even though many animals, including falcons and hawks, utilize them as habitat.
5. The EIR is supposed to cover historic resources, and preserve historic legacy, and as such People's Park, a City of Berkeley Historic Landmark, must be preserved as a park, not replaced with buildings. The NOP refers to creating multi-purpose spaces, but People's Park already has multiple purposes and uses for humans and wildlife, which these plans would eliminate.

**\*\* THESE COMMENTS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE PEOPLE'S PARK COMMITTEE,**  
including Russell Bates, Lisa Teague, Jessie McGinley, Michael Delacour, Max Ventura, Erick Morales, Andrea Prichett, Aidan Hill, Paul Prosseda, Ivar Diehl, Siobhan Lettow, Dawn Goldwasser

**4/26/20 We give permission for these comments to be read aloud during the Scoping session and added to publicly-accessible written comments.**

**\*\* please acknowledge receipt of these comments**

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Maxina Ventura  
Classical Homeopathy, Non-toxic Medicine  
All Ages, All Genders  
WiseWomanHealth.com

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Maxina Ventura  
Classical Homeopathy, Non-toxic Medicine  
All Ages, All Genders  
WiseWomanHealth.com

**Comment to be Read Aloud for April 27 Meeting**

2 messages

**Sam Siegel** [REDACTED]  
To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 4:59 PM

**Name** Samuel Siegel**Statement of Affirmation** I hereby give the University permission to read this comment aloud during the meeting.

The proposed 16-story tower would figuratively and literally overshadow several recognized landmarks in the immediate vicinity, including the Anna Head School, First Church of Christ Scientist, Baptist Divinity School, and many historic residences.

People's Park needs to be developed and returned to its original role as housing, but in a decidedly urbanist way that respects the scale and appearance of the surrounding historic built environment.

Additionally, from my experience in criminal justice, history, and urban design, I believe the current proposal contains elements that could pose a risk to public safety, particularly the open spaces secluded from the street and the covered space beneath the architectural breezeway.

—  
**Samuel Siegel**  
UCLA Luskin School, Class of 2020  
UC Berkeley, Sesquicentennial Class of 2018

**Samuel Siegel** [REDACTED]  
To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 7:04 PM

Addendum clarifying "secluded open spaces":

Diagram demonstrating where lines of sight from the street to the open space(s) are diminished.

**UPDATED SCENARIO**

On Apr 26, 2020, at 16:59, Sam Siegel [REDACTED] wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Corrected comments for UC NOP for EIR for LRDP**1 message

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[REDACTED]  
to: planning@berkeley.edu

Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 12:17 PM

I'd written 'out-of-country or out-of-city students.... that was a mistake. I'd meant out-of-state so am resending now.

<< UCB must not pursue out-of-country or out-of-state students. Serve more CA students, with less negative impact to Berkeley, and our whole region. >>

Please acknowledge receipt of corrected comments which are attached, and pasted into the email.

Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESPONSE TO NOP of an EIR for UC BERKELEY'S LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN****APRIL, 2010****From Maxina Ventura**

\*\*\*\*\*

Problem #1: This EIR would be used as an umbrella under which UC would pursue future projects, not just the two they name in this NOP. UC must not avoid doing needed Environmental Impact Reports for each project as they try to jam through what the public may understand as destructive. UC is trying to disallow meaningful input which could result in stopping their plans, or slowing down as each project is considered by all concerned, and all who could be impacted.

Reference to more than 200 meetings with stakeholders would suggest meetings with developers, or cherry-picked people who for whatever personal reasons would prefer to see this beautiful park paved over and built upon. One LRDP town hall occurred in April, 2019, but no others, to my knowledge. Two People's Park-specific occurred earlier in 2020, and a small meeting of invited people involved with People's Park met with Capital Strategies representatives and one non-profit which would stand to benefit by lucrative contracts with UC.

This NOP is about future plans for UC Berkeley as a whole, which owns land all over Berkeley, but there is a curious insistence on leveling this 2.8 acre park of trees, open space, and lungs of the neighborhood.

A fallacy is the assumption that more students need to be added when the city already has sued UC over being nearly 10,000 over in 2019 for the 2020 LRDP put out in 2005, close to 25% over the agreement. To plan for an additional 8,900 students and 3,600 faculty and staff when UC's actions have resulted in more on the streets, including students, because of housing impacts due to such growth, is reckless.

To say it needs 4,000,000 gross square feet of administration and academic building is disingenuous. If so much administration is needed, perhaps the mission of learning is a last consideration. When I was at UCLA nearly 40 years ago, there were not enough core classes. Less than a decade ago UCB students crowded BCC, making an unjust situation for those without means to attend UCB. UC does not set a future population capacity for UCB, thereby leaving floodgates open. UCB must not pursue out-of-country or out-of-state students. Serve more CA students, with less negative impact to Berkeley, and our whole region.

East Bay Pesticide Alert addressed in past related comments what shows up here again as UC tries to designate Hill Campus (and People's Park) non-forests since they don't contain state or national forests. That is in conflict with USDA Senior Scientist, David J. Nowak, who presented for UCB's 150th celebration lecture series, on the crucial importance of urban forests.

This month, people worldwide celebrated three peregrine falcon chicks hatched on the Campanile. Their parents, and hawks, depend on tall trees at People's Park for resting and views during their food hunts. They need tall trees

and open space, both of which the park offers not only people, but wildlife. Make no mistake: students and the longtime Berkeley community loves People's Park.

\*\* Yes, please do read my comments aloud, and publish them in print as part of this process.  
Maxina Ventura, longtime Berkeleyan, and involved with People's Park since 1983, close to 40 years

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Maxina Ventura  
Classical Homeopathy, Non-toxic Medicine  
All Ages, All Genders  
WiseWomanHealth.com

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**2 attachments**

**UC NOP, LRDP, my comments.pdf**  
29K



**UC NOP, LRDP, my comments.pages**  
778K





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP planning meeting**

1 message

**Michael Apte** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 5:00 PM

To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

My name is Michael Apte and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session.

I am a lifelong resident of Berkeley. My wife and I have lived on Walnut Street between Virginia and Cedar since 1978. I went through the entire 12 grades in the Berkeley School System. I graduated from UC Berkeley with a BS, MPH, and PhD, and spent almost my entire working career at LBNL. While being very oriented towards UCB, the University's mission and culture, I have never been a fan of the administration's relationship with the City and residents of Berkeley. It has often been a one-way street where the City gives and the University takes. This is no more evident than in the case of housing. Obviously, the UCB needs to house its students, but the system as it stands creates a huge power imbalance. Students are admitted, and the City has to provide for them. This leads to untenable living conditions where many students are overcharged for substandard rentals and overcrowded shares. The city is beyond capacity for an increase in student enrollment. This is true in terms of actual housing units; but more importantly, in terms of the infrastructure to support those housing units and their residents. Berkeley housing is already among the densest in the US.

Given this problem, why is UC planning another expansion in Berkeley? Understandably, UCB is very popular and is the jewel in UC's crown, so there is pressure to bring in increasing numbers of students. It is also clear that increased enrollment is a big money maker for the system. Having had to raise funding, I understand the financial need for income sources. However, planned expansion pushes more problems onto the City and the local environment. There has to be a balance.

The LRDP as proposed is once again pushing out into neighborhoods that can ill afford the added density. The South Berkeley plans in the current draft LRDP will have a huge impact on the student-housing-dominated region around Peoples Park. Parking and traffic are already so congested in this area.

Further, I am concerned for the vaguely presented second-level plans to build out the Oxford Tract. Word has it that there are plans for housing over 4000 students on that land. The Oxford Tract is a special part of UCB, part of the land grant system, and gifted to the University after the Berkeley Fire. For students, it is an opportunity to connect with agriculture in this overwhelming high tech, crowded environment. For local residents, it is the last buffer against urban expansion that has consumed the neighborhoods in the area. It may not even be legal to re-purpose this land, but if the University manages to get permitted to load it with thousands of students it will cause a lasting negative impact. The first blow took place when UCB constructed the replacement Warren Hall. UC promised that this wonderful new building would be an asset to the neighborhood. Take a walk around the Oxford Tract and see how UC cares for this property



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR**1 message

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**Ann Arnold** [REDACTED]  
To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 12:07 AM

My name is Ann Arnold and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session.

I live one block away, on Walnut Street from the "Gateway site"(always known locally as the Oxford tract.) The idea of adding accommodation for 850 more students to our relatively quiet neighborhood is horrendous.

When the University last became involved in our neighborhood they constructed an office building at the end of Walnut Street, claiming that the plot next to it would be a park. Shortly after constructing the building, the University turned the lot next to it into a parking lot , and shortly after that they turned the parking lot into another tall office building, creating a wind tunnel.

The Oxford tract is one of the few open spaces in Berkeley. The research carried out in the greenhouses and insectary are significant and the ease of access for students using those facilities is an important element in the success of research being done there.

To put 850 people, with events space, shops and office space on such a small piece of land would not be in keeping with the scale of the neighborhood, not to mention the peace and quiet we have previously enjoyed. I see no mention of parking-is everyone living or working there going to walk or ride bicycles at all times? Dream on!!

Surely there are better sites for housing development in Berkeley.

Ann Arnold





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park Project**

2 messages

**Andrew Baker** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 1:05 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Please do something to lessen the height of the planned, 16-story tower - too tall for this site - and to have the design esthetics reflect or harmonize with the beautiful and historic neighborhood structures, in particular the Anna Head School complex and the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Thank you,  
Andrew H. Baker  
UC Berkeley Law alum and resident of Berkeley since 1979.

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 2:19 PM

To: Andrew Baker [REDACTED]

Hi Andrew,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner

[Quoted text hidden]

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++++  
Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)  
phone: (510) 643-4793  
email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**From an Anna Head Alumni**

1 message

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paulagloria [REDACTED]  
Reply-To: paulagloria [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 3:24 PM

First and Foremost UC Berkeley has permission to read aloud my **"For the Public Record"** comments which will also be read out on FCC licensed community radio in Woodstock, New York as a public service announcement tonight, April 27, 2020 on WIOF-LP at 10 pm EST:

As an Anna Head Alumni who started her school day with a short 15 minute entire school wide Chapel in the auditorium (now called Alumni Hall) around 1961-63, I protest the use of People's Park with more gigantic dormitories that look like prisons. At a time when so much education is going on-line there is no reason to destroy the historic landmark's view and viewing by a world that appreciates culture and art.

Out of control real estate investment should never destroy the well-being and legacy of the communities they are building in, even when they are disguised as "educational" or somehow essential "for the People".

Do not destroy the value of Berkeley's legacy by going forward with this project.

People's Park will no longer be the People's Park.

Paula Gloria Tsaconas Barton  
Graduate of Anna Head School 1969  
Presently living in  
Woodstock, New York

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**NOTICE TO AGENT IS NOTICE TO PRINCIPAL (& vice versa)**

★ Joe and Paula Gloria Barton, [REDACTED] [Gramercy Park](#) [REDACTED], New York, New York, (despite exile status until City Marshal Alfred E. Locascio, 13th precinct and Louis Zazzarino stop ignoring lawful judge's orders, return stolen property, including social security number & cell phone (# [REDACTED]) whose missing status casts us in a false light as fraudsters when **neither of The Bartons are corporations or have any intention to infringe on copyright owned by the CROWN CORPORATION**, otherwise erroneously understood by most people as "our" legal names.

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Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## Comment of scope of EIR

1 message

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**t compost** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:09 PM

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" <planning@berkeley.edu>

Comment by Terri Compost

I grant permission to read this comment out loud at the scoping meeting online public session April 27, 2020.

I must begin by pointing out that the space and resources of the City of Berkeley and the UC campus are obviously not infinite, and that the current housing crisis is being manufactured by UC's decision to radically increase the student load far beyond any of their previous plans or predictions. This increase appears to be a devious business move where UC creates an extreme demand for housing and then begs permission to build, so they can then cash in on their housing crisis. UC should continue educating a reasonably sized population of students, remaining in the business of education, rather than real estate.

Next I would like to point out why their extensive building plan on People's Park is unacceptable. First, UC and the City of Berkeley committed to retain People's Park as open space. Open space means; no buildings on the Park. An important reason that the Park remain open green space is that it is desperately needed in that neighborhood of extremely dense population. If there was an earthquake or other emergency, People's Park's open space is the safe place people would go to, to share information, resources and to avoid immediate danger. As the recent epidemic has shown us, having a little space can be crucial to people's safety.

The Park also offers very important psychological and physical health amenities. It absorbs water and carbon dioxide and provides oxygen, a taste of nature and habitat for animal species. It is a psychological relief valve for the neighborhood, offering respite, calmness, space and peace to all kinds of people in need. While a certain amount of the social chaos it absorbs is not always pretty, it is frightening to imagine what would happen without this place of healing.

The Park is the heart of Berkeley's history. It exists in the soil and space, where people gather, in the trees and plants and structures built by volunteers. It is uniquely created by user development. It is the place where we celebrate and mourn together. It cannot be replaced by a plaque. People's Park can be said to have had more attention, discussion, volunteer labor and love poured into it than any other place in Berkeley. There are untold stories and ghosts there. It will not roll over and let some architectural plan be erected. It will rebel. To try it will rend our community.

We need the Park. We need the open space. It is not the place to build a highrise! Do not build on People's Park!

Terri Compost



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Public Comment for April 27 NOP scoping session**1 message

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**Ivar Diehl** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:36 PM

To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Cc: Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin [REDACTED] City Clerk [REDACTED]

Please read the following email out loud at the online presentation, and also send confirmation of receipt via email.

The environmental impact of the development proposal at People's Park will be of a manifold nature. First, the damage to the historical integrity of both Berkeley and UC would be impossible to mitigate. There is no way that the small and heavily mediated space that would be left on the site could honor the struggle, pain and death that was inflicted on the Berkeley community by UC Berkeley and the State of California; this very painful and contentious legacy of state and institutional violence necessitates that any plan for People's Park not disrespect the culture of the park users, either in fact or in apparent affect.

The mayor of the city of Berkeley has requested that UC Capital Strategies delay and/or prolong the window for public comment on NOP and EIR until the lift of Covid Quarantine, likely in June. This is not a lot to ask, and if UC refuses to honor this request the process will be tainted, voiding any legitimacy of the development proposal at People's Park. The tight EIR schedule that UC is imposing during a worldwide pandemic is also concerning in light of a total lack of interior plans being released for any of the proposed developments, including at the People's Park site. We are concerned that those floor plans may not be appropriate in a world newly threatened by corona virus and other infectious outbreaks. The air handling and climate control are also a concern; how much potential will there be for exchanges of spores and aerosols from one residential unit to another? Will

The kitchens and living rooms be shared? The cost of the units is also important; the mitigation of the housing crisis will be much less if the units are expensive.

The services that People's Park currently offers residents of Berkeley and visitors are not being replaced by this development, either directly or through an offset. The city and those who pay taxes to the city will be forced to shoulder the financial burden incurred by destroying this Park, which is so precious to so many.

Willard Park gets quite crowded and People's Park is the only other green space on southside campus that has all the utility and flexibility of a city park; the UC campus green space can not be purposed by the city for disaster mitigation, for instance. The proposed development can be built at a nearby and much less contentious location, Clark Kerr campus; 133 acres jointly owned by both UC and city of Berkeley. The Clark Kerr site is ideal for solving the enrollment overruns mandated by UC Regents.

Thank you,

Ivar Diehl

Siobhan Lettow





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Public Comment to be read aloud on People's Park**1 message

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**Toni Blair Garrett** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:52 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Cc: Jennifer Block [REDACTED]

Priscilla Birge [REDACTED]

Wendy Walker

William Ludtke [REDACTED]

Toni Garret [REDACTED]

Please read this comment aloud in the upcoming virtual hearing. The following statement is permissible to be read aloud as a Public Comment. If you have any questions, please call Toni Garrett at [REDACTED] representing First Church of Christ, Scientist, Berkeley.

For our over 50 year history, First Church of Christ Scientist, Berkeley has been a cornerstone of the SE corner of People's Park. We are grateful to participate in the planning and consideration of the renewal of the Park. We are also pleased that the University is taking into serious consideration the public's deep sentiments regarding the values and ideals that the park represents; these being: open space for all, community relationship with UC Berkeley, and the commercial and residential neighborhood that surrounds it. The current reality is starkly different ; it is past due to be repaired and the acreage of the space utilized constructively. However, keep it in proportion, please.

The new proposed building plan for People's Park is too big. The height of the proposed buildings is way out of proportion to, not only, our historic landmark neighborhood but to the campus as a whole. If you need to increase enrollment to the proposed 47,000; perhaps a new adjunct campus would be appropriate rather than the heart of Berkeley. Please cut the heights of the buildings significantly.

The current usage of homeless encampments is sometimes better controlled than at other times, but is always an issue which curtails general public usage of this park. Development needs to proceed. However, It should be kept in proportion and be a friendly, usable park space. Activity is essential to preempt the currently typical "hangout" spots. Drug usage and disposed needles and waste are common in the area.

Our church building, First Church of Christ,Scientist, Berkeley, is a national historic landmark and an important visitor attraction for Berkeley. Bernard Maybeck designed it in keeping with the historic homes that existed there in 1910. The year-round sunlight which filters through the glass into the auditorium is an important feature of the architectural design and is highlighted on the equinox when it precisely shines on the organ loft which illuminates the building. We trust that the University Design Team is taking this into consideration and will preserve the light patterns. However, the current proposal for an 8 story building horizontal to Bowditch divides the open space even with the Portico concept The 16 story building is out of scale with all of Berkeley. How does the 16 story building compare to the Campanile?

We'd like to suggest that you move the building, closer to the west end of the property and the supportive housing building, leaving some open space, but placing the majority of the open space together and in view of the streets, The Portico is a good critical element in providing both a sense of inclusiveness and expansiveness. We believe this would make it more conducive to active community usage and supervision.

And lastly there is an underground creek, Derby Creek which should be taken into consideration.

Thank-you. Executive Board of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Berkeley

Toni Garrett

Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts. Mary Baker Eddy



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**EIR scoping**

1 message

2309 [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 1:05 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Cc: Gianna Ranuzzi [REDACTED]

Our names are Chase Fenton and Paul Skilbeck. We give UC Berkeley permission to read our comments (below) in the April 27, 2020, scoping session.

Please be sensible and drop the high-rise plans. People prefer not to live in high-rise buildings if low-rise alternatives are available. There is a valid, future-proof alternative to planning for a concrete jungle. Yes, a concrete jungle and all the social problems that entails. We should all know that the proposed developments are only the precursor of a much darker future.

Distance Learning: This is the bright alternative. It has proven financially successful, it provides successful education and work placement outcomes, in short it works, and unlike the proposed building plans, it won't spoil Berkeley.

Berkeley is a quiet city with distinctive and attractive character. Don't let conservative views about education spoil the best of Berkeley.

And Traffic. Responsible cities are looking at ways to reduce automobile traffic, not to increase it.

UC's development plans will lead to a steep increase in Uber and Lyft vehicles speeding through the surrounding neighborhoods. An increase has already been noted in the past two years in Southside and LeConte, and formal efforts are already underway with the City to protect the neighborhood residents from this new menace.

Think about the environment in this impact review. Let's plan responsibly for a better and brighter future, not for darkness and discontent.

Ends





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## Comments For Tonight's LRDP EIR Scoping Session

1 message

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isis feral [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 2:33 PM

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" <planning@berkeley.edu>

Please find my comments for tonight's Scoping Session on the LRDP Update EIR below. I request and give permission for them to be read aloud during the online meeting.

Confirmation of receipt requested. Thank you.

Isis Feral

### MY COMMENTS (500 words):

LRDP Updates described in the NOP consist of projects opposed by local residents. The EIR is declared programmatic, a bureaucratic maneuver to avoid CEQA compliance and public involvement on unspecified future projects, and enable further encroachment of UC facilities on unwilling communities. Future projects must produce their own EIR, and include public input!

I oppose expansion of UC Berkeley, its history of taking over surrounding towns, burdening local infrastructure. The increase of the university population violates agreements with the City of Berkeley. Long-term residents are being displaced, with even UC students homeless, neglected by an overpriced, overcrowded public university. This proposal is not an effort to find solutions for existing housing problems, but to expand the university and bring in more students, further compounding the problem.

UC has repeatedly shown it won't let environmental laws get in the way of expansion, and is determined to kill every tree in its path:

The Hill Campus this EIR targets was one of several agencies' projects, already reviewed in FEMA's East Bay Hills EIS, which together would have destroyed half a million trees on thousands of acres on university, park district, and Oakland land. Under the guise of fire hazard mitigation, UC attempted to appropriate public emergency funds for this same development scheme proposed here.

In 2014, before the EIS finished reviewing the projects, UC illegally clearcut Frowning Ridge, another of the proposals to FEMA. In 2016, UC's projects, including Hill Campus, were stopped in court by hills residents, as was the addendum to the previous LRDP EIR with which UC tried to sneak the project past CEQA.

Even the timing of this NOP compromises the usual public process, and public comment should be extended after the shelter-in-place order is lifted!

UC claims 200 meetings with stakeholders, but people most directly affected by these proposals were not included. People's Park would have been an ideal venue to communicate with the community there. But the university treats the park with disdain, neglecting maintenance of bathrooms, even now in this public health crisis, and two years ago, without warning, killed dozens of trees, robbing the park of its extensive forest of cooling shade, which provided habitat to human neighbors and wildlife alike.

People's Park is where community gathers for events, where people who lack housing and struggle for survival can take a rest, where activists share food and life-saving resources, and tend the soil and grow a garden, services worth more than the development proposed.

I oppose any increase in university population and expansion by UC Berkeley, including removing trees from Hill Campus. I warn policy makers that attempts to develop People's Park would certainly be met with resistance, like all previous attempts over the last 51 years. Those killed and injured by police violence against those that defended the park as our public commons, are not properly honored by symbolic memorials, but require that People's Park once

and for all be declared a protected historical landmark that belongs to the community, not the university.

Isis Feral



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**UC Berkeley, EIR Project - Scoping Session**

1 message

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**Elizabeth Fisher** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:36 PM

My name is Robert Fisher and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments aloud during the scoping session.

I comment on the following environmental issue areas:

1. Aesthetics
2. Air Quality
3. Biological Resources
4. Cultural Resources
5. Recreation

1) The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association makes a compelling presentation that because of the concentration of historic landmarks of merit, the park and surrounding area should be recognized as a *de facto* historic district.

2) The importance of trees, bushes and open space cannot be underestimated in their contribution to air quality, especially in urban areas.

3) The neighborhood use of the park as a community garden is a significant biological resource.

4) This plot of land, although owned by the University, represents the social movements of the 1960s. The struggles to save this park from over-development have become a momentous cultural and educational resource and should be honored and treated with respect similar to the Free Speech Movement.

5) This park is a classic green space that provides varied recreational opportunities. There's a grove of trees to walk through, grassy areas and courts where numerous games are played, and park benches that offer a place to sit to observe and reflect.





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Subject: The 16 story student housing complex on Peoples Park. My comments.  
Robert J Geering FAIA Architect UC Berkeley has permission to read my  
comments.**

2 messages

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**robert geering** [REDACTED]  
To: "planning@berkeley.edu" <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:23 PM

My experience as an Architect who has designed many successful and award winning student housing projects: (6 for UC, 3 for Stanford and for other universities across the country), tells me that there are many other better ways to provide well designed student housing, other than this proposed massive ungainly complex. It is particularly bothersome on such a sensitive site as this, which is surrounded by some of Berkeley's most important architectural landmarks. Although I haven't seen the actual architectural design so I am unable to comment on that, but the massing diagram disturbs me greatly.

Needless to say, Bernard Maybeck's First Church of Christ Scientist is an absolute Masterpiece and leaves us a legacy of Timeless Beauty created straight from the heart of one of our nation's best Architects. Of course It requires the highest respect !! The other landmarks in this district are obviously very noteworthy too, and need to be considered with at least compatible scale and contextual relationships.

The massing of this proposed complex totally ignores the context and scale of this wonderful Berkeley neighborhood.

The !6 story slab almost the full length of the site on Haste St, even though it appears to drop to 10 floors or so at the corner of Bowditch St. is totally foreign in scale and will likely cast its shadow on The Anna Head School complex across the street. The location of the lower 8 story that runs North South on the site is questionable as well.

I respect UC's need for student housing, but believe that this complex could be done with similar density with much lower buildings. Without going into further great detail in my unsolicited criticism of this scheme, I would just like to conclude that much further study is needed to make this an acceptable undertaking.

Sincerely,  
A concerned Citizen and Architect and UC Berkeley Graduate  
Robert J Geering FAIA

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>  
To: robert geering <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:28 PM

Hi Robert,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm

whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner  
[Quoted text hidden]

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++++  
Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)  
phone: (510) 643-4793  
email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## On Public Comment during Scoping Session

1 message

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Aidan Hill [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 2:04 PM

To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Esteemed colleagues,

My name is Aidan Hill and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session.

I am the Vice-Chair of the City of Berkeley Homeless Commission, a UC Berkeley student, and a Berkeley mayoral candidate for this 2020 election. I am speaking as an individual, not on behalf of my commission or constituency.

I am disappointed this virtual open house has not addressed my concerns: What is the estimated cost per semester for housing? How will an altered landscape change soil quality? Will the university explicitly state priority housing for People's Park residents is illegal? This process, attempting to develop my neighborhood park, continues to marginalize students and homeless people alike.

UC's development process burdens park residents with environmental stress. Continued threats, after curfew raids, and public health failures prove UC Berkeley administrators have no intention to steward People's Park by its own community standards. Does our university truly wish to erase a living monument and displace us from our open community space? By continuing to violate the trust of environmentalists, children, students, women, and people of color both undocumented and unhoused, UC administrators inspire no confidence in protecting its constituents from the foreseeable climate crisis.

My primary objection to building on People's Park is climate adaptation and mitigation. People's Park provides the temporary refuge space for students living in Martinez Commons and Unit 2 during emergencies. The park's ecology provides clean air and soil health for our Southside community. Please note the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate (GAUC), stated they "encourage universities around the world to address climate change as a core part of their mission." This is incompatible with a building on People's Park; the only open space accessible to me and my family on Telegraph Ave and Dwight Way. People's Park Committee has noted several alternative locations for housing students, including University House or Clark Kerr Campus.

Every park resident I have talked to is unanimous there should be no housing development on People's Park. Please note California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment states, "People who are already vulnerable, including lower-income and other marginalized communities, have a lower capacity to prepare for and cope with extreme weather and climate-related events. Prioritizing adaptation actions for the most vulnerable populations would contribute to a more fair future within," our Berkeley community.

Colleagues, please refrain from climate denial by acknowledging that People's Park is an ecological sanctuary and a living monument to the free speech movement for our Southside Community. I welcome students conducting field research for public health, ecology, and social equity at People's Park. Development, however, is ill-advised. As a People's Park steward, I will continue to protect the civil rights, environment, and student leadership embedded in consciousness within our park.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Aidan Hill**

Pronouns: they/them/their(s)

Undergraduate, Political Science | Public Policy

University of California, Berkeley '21

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

*"Modern residents would hardly recognize the Bay Area as it was in the days of the Ohlones. Marshes that spread out for thousands of acres fringed the shores of the Bay. Thick oak-bay forests and redwood forests covered much of the hills." — Malcolm Margolin, The Ohlone Way*





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## Alumni comment on LRDP scoping and proposed People's Park megastructure (please read aloud 4/27)

1 message

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Michael Katz [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:46 PM

[Dear Raphael Breines et al: My name is Michael Katz and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session. The following comments are spell-checked as exactly 500 words:]

My lifetime Cal Alumni Association membership reflects my enduring gratitude for the excellent, affordable graduate education I received at Cal.

I wish I could place corresponding confidence in this great learning institution's ability to learn – from evidence, and from its own past errors.

In a changed world of global pandemics and physical distancing, Cal's proposed 16- and 11-story towers on People's Park are simply insane. As NYC's catastrophic rates of infection and death demonstrate, high-density buildings with elevator-only access rapidly spread contagious diseases.

One block north, Cal's recent "Anna Head" dorms provide 424 units in low-rise buildings accessible by multiple stairways. For People's Park, Cal's architects offered a similar, low-rise "2.8 Spoke" layout.

But rather than replicate success, Cal arrogantly proposes structures impossible to finance and unsafe to occupy. This is as super-stupid as the supersized athletic facility that Cal built right on the Hayward fault – a deficit-plagued white elephant that will drain the campus' budget for at least a century.

At the "Upper Hearst Project" and Oxford Tract, Cal threatens more oversized megastructures that would degrade livability for its own community. The Tolman Hall and 2223 Fulton Street demolitions offer space for high-capacity, ON-CAMPUS student housing. Yet Cal arbitrarily refuses to build any housing on its main campus. If dorms are good enough for Harvard Yard, why not for Cal?

This campus' fundamental problem is addiction to growth – and enslavement to a model from a bygone century.

Cal's current population of 39,708 already exceeds its 2020 LRDP commitment by 19% (6,258 people), leading to lawsuits for uncompensated impacts on the City. For 2037, Cal proposes to supersize its 2020 target by an astounding 44%.

Clark Kerr, UC's president during a past rapid expansion, is notorious today for comparing the university to a corporation. Indeed, for-profit corporations must continuously grow, to reward their shareholders with higher revenues and valuations.

But UC is a nonprofit, whose shareholders are California taxpayers. And this dot-org will soon face a yawning funding deficit. If Cal's current leaders want to retain the public's loyalty – and not be remembered as reviled punchlines – they must adapt to the new world of distributed learning.

Cal should be aiming to stabilize and reduce – not expand – its local population, its physical footprint beyond its central campus, and its expensive empire of real-estate follies.

Cal has successfully moved all instruction online this spring. Its brightest future lies in expanding on this trend of virtual knowledge-sharing. UC Berkeley-affiliated research and instruction need not all occur in jammed, expensive Berkeley.

It's time for Cal to finally, virtually fulfill its promise of extension benefits to residents and taxpayers up and down the state. And to share its research and teaching best practices, so that undergraduate degrees from every UC campus –

including those with greenfields to expand into – carry the will same prestige as Cal degrees.

Cal's only sustainable future lies in physical contraction and virtual expansion. Please acknowledge this reality.

April 27, 2020

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
Physical and Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
300 A&E Building  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Re: Environmental Impact Report for the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2

Dear Mr. Breines,

The Le Conte Neighborhood lies within the boundaries of Dwight Way, Telegraph Avenue, Shattuck Avenue and the Oakland border. The area between the Le Conte Neighborhood and the southern edge of the UC campus is called the Southside.

This EIR really should be three separate EIRs due to the complexity and intensity of impacts generated by each of the three projects: the LRDP Update, Housing Project #1 and Housing Project #2. Nonetheless, this three-part EIR is being rushed through at a rapid pace and at a highly inappropriate time.

The program LRDP Update portion of this EIR is premature due to concurrency with the City of Berkeley's Southside Zoning Ordinance Updates Project, which was actively under review until it was delayed due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency declared by Governor Newsom, which paused meetings by the relevant City Commissions and Boards. UC is also under the same State of Emergency, but is inexplicably ignoring that fact with respect to this EIR.

Density is one of the key discussions of the ongoing (but on hold) City review of the Southside Zoning Ordinance Updates Project. UC Project #2 is within the area under discussion for ordinance updates. Many factors that might possibly affect the discussion of density are in flux right now, again due to the State of Emergency, so it is hardly the time to rush through a project or projects for which prior beliefs about the need for escalating density may no longer apply. The "significant need to provide more student housing at UC Berkeley," mentioned in the Notice of Preparation is no longer a given.

A USA Today article titled *Students are weary of online classes, but colleges can't say whether they'll open in fall 2020* quotes a senior vice president for the American Council on Education, Terry Hartle: "The coronavirus will determine when colleges and universities can reopen . . . All colleges and universities want to open normally, but no college knows if it can." Under these circumstances, how can UC assume the extreme density of student housing it has been promoting will be a good idea in the future?

Finally, both the Southside and the Le Conte Neighborhood are severely lacking in open space. Prior to the State of Emergency, extreme density requiring people to live in close proximity to one another was viewed as the most desirable land use possible. Will that trend continue? Perhaps carefully designed and well-managed open space will be seen as a necessary component of developments in the future.

If UC miscalculates, and spends precious resources on an EIR that is focused on the wrong questions, this would be a waste of California tax revenue; UC is a state entity, and should be using its resources for the benefit of the residents of California, not squandering them on a belief that trends of the last two decades will continue despite a changing world.

Sincerely,

Gianna Ranuzzi  
President, Le Conte Neighborhood Association



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP Update and Housing Project #1 and #2 EIR**

1 message

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**joe liesner** [REDACTED]  
To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:52 PM

I, Joe Liesner, give UC Berkeley permission to read my comments aloud at the 4/27/2020 public scoping session.

### Power to the People

The total, and utter **destruction** of People's Park, a registered Historic Resource, is defined by section 15064.5 in the CEQA guidelines as a Significant environmental impact.

The University of California can not be permitted to find that such an impact is significant and **unavoidable**. UC must show that they have explored, to a significant degree, possible, or feasible, alternatives to such destruction.

Could anybody with the accumulated power of the Regents of the University of California and their clear intention to destroy People's Park (the second time) be expected to honestly explore such alternatives?

Why would the Regents honestly look for those alternatives if they don't fully understand what they are destroying?

At the first open house UCB held to present Project #2 (building over People's Park) Steve Wasserman of Heyday Books, publisher of "The Battle for People's Park", explained to the lead architects for that project that for any meaningful conversation to begin with Park advocates, the university, first, must apologize for the murder of James Rector, the blinding of

Allan Blanchard, and the maiming of 142 other people.

Has UCB ever given any indication that they have even heard the many requests for an apology that people have made over the 51 years since those events of May 15, 1969?

Wake up fool! Institutions with the power of the UC don't apologize . . . they win.

I daresay most of us can't imagine, or admit, the extent of UC's power.

UC "manages" the two nuclear weapons design, development, and testing facilities in the U.S. What are the implications of that? Do Regents attend Trilateral Commission meetings? Could the UC's oppression of the anti-Vietnam War movement in the late 1960's implicate them in our country's current addiction to endless war?

Can the UC admit their role in fostering the class division and hatred of Ronald Reagan's march to the presidency and its culmination with the tyrant currently fanning the flames of racial hatred?

The destruction of People's Park is UC's attempt to silence those who worked and fought for peace and freedom . . . those who might still pose these kind of questions or ask UC for an apology.

What can UCB inscribe on its walkways in Project #2 that are offered as a memorial to People's Park that could provide any support or inspiration to future generations of would-be freedom fighters when UC shows no care or understanding for what they have done?

It should have become clear that the Board of Regents of the University of California will not seriously or honestly consider

alternatives for Project #2 in this EIR. I hereby ask that in accord with CEQA guidelines an alternative no-build project be given Significant consideration, and alternative building sites also be given significant consideration.

Joe Liesner

4/27/20-Response to LRDP update – Project #1 and #2

After reviewing your future development plans and as a 50 (fifty year) Berkeley native and resident residing in North Berkeley within a stone's throw of Project #1; I am concerned.

1. The assumption indicates that the institution needs to prepare for a growth estimate of 11,000 additional students for the 2036-37 academic year. Your desired further encroachment through Berkeley doesn't take into consideration the current existing populations who are being squeezed out of their privacy and nature in the areas.

For example, project #1 assumes that 850 undergraduate students are free to park, make noise, have soirees of beer drinking and loud music and rage parties that are already existing in shared housing in our neighborhoods. The notion of having these large populations of students without issues is a pipe dream in that your assumption is that they will be hermetically sealed and on their best behavior. These activities of this new population will be magnified exponentially by 10X.

2. One thing that this pandemic has taught us is that with "shelter in place" that on-line learning technologies have picked up more than enough of the "slack" from the loss of physical campus learning. It is my contention that to solve the growth problem facing the UCB system over the coming decades does not reside in a "brick and mortar" growth only solution. Rather, it should be considered that on-line technologies, especially in the coming years represents a blended solution; thereby relieving the pressure of encroaching into neighborhoods such as mine. Example – would a Zoom meeting be a better experience than 700 students in a lecture hall where you can barely see or hear the professor?
3. In addition to an Environmental Impact Statement; have you addressed the upcoming student educational planning of diverse subjects that are NOT offered at UCB. (I graduated from UCLA vs. UCB as it didn't offer the culturally diverse educational needs at that time).
4. Have you explored other areas of large land to be developed outside the city of Berkeley to create more UC campuses as UC is a statewide system not just exclusive to Berkeley only as this plan envisions?

In closing I ask when is enough growth enough? With the best academic minds surely, you must agree that blended solution of technology (i.e. Zoom) and "light brick and mortar" going forward can play a meaningful role in your expansion challenges.

Sincerely,

Melinda E. Lopez

North Berkeley native, resident



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Comments on LRDP and the EIR**

2 messages

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**megan march** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 2:44 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm a long time Berkeley resident (15+ years), located on Blake St. between Dana and Ellsworth. I have a family and my partner and I work in the arts/education. I'm writing to you today with my concerns with the LRDP and the desire to build high-rise student housing off campus as a concerned resident, and as a member of the Blake Street Neighbors group.

Given the current circumstances with COVID-19, it may be time to reconsider the role student housing plays in Berkeley. Questions of affordability and neighborhood impact for current and future residents are also a concern. We want to encourage people to love Berkeley enough to care about their community - don't take away the reason why people like living here for present and future residents.

- Why not have more student housing in more affordable outlining areas near BART/transit such as El Cerrito etc?
- With the future push for distance learning, will this much expensive housing be necessary?
- High rise buildings are bad for community building. Please consider low rise buildings for quality of life of building residents and to maintain neighborhood character.
- If current development models are followed, there will be no guarantee of ground floor retail that will benefit the community. We don't need more private gyms or vacant space used as a tax write off for landlords
- This will put added pressures on neighborhood infrastructure, including utilities, parking, and traffic, how will this be mitigated? We are already packed in tight here, and are currently pleading with the city of Berkeley for help with traffic and parking issues, which we still haven't gotten after 10+ years of trying.
- What guarantees does the community have that these units will be affordable/rented out? None of these units will be rent controlled, and there is no accountability with regards to occupancy rates. Buildings should be required to have a ZERO occupancy rate.
- Off campus housing built specifically for students is housing discrimination. Period.

Thank you for your time,  
Megan March, Blake Street Neighbors

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**megan march** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu  
Cc: Paul Skilbeck [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 3:03 PM

Also, yes I Megan March grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments out loud.

[Quoted text hidden]





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

&lt;no subject&gt;

1 message

**RACHEL MCGINLEY** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 2:20 PM

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

My name is Rachel McGinley and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session.

I think that it is wrong and unethical for the University to continue with this public comment period during a pandemic and shelter in place order. People have many things to worry about right now such as their health, families, children, grandparents, financial insecurity, and so much more and the University is taking advantage of this critical time to push forward their agendas without transparency or adequate communication. Even the Mayor of Berkeley Jesse Arreguin personally asked Carol Christ to postpone this public comment period until after the Shelter in place order has been lifted. It is absolutely appalling that the University would uphold this brief public comment period during a global crisis.



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## Comments on Housing Proposal

1 message

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Sheila Mitra-Sarkar [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:22 PM

### COMMENTS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR UC BERKELEY LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE AND HOUSING PROJECTS AT PEOPLE'S PARK AND HILL CAMPUS

People's Park was created in 1969. This park is City of Berkeley's first Green Infrastructure to sustain Derby and Potter watershed. Over the past five decades, People's Park has provided considerable financial and water quality gains to the City by reducing and managing stormwater. The Park mimics natural hydrologic functions, to prevent stormwater overburdening the sewer systems. It is one of the **oldest and cost-effective** way to supplement or replace "grey infrastructure".

The Housing Project Design was conducted in a **pre-pandemic** environment when the "gentrification" design language to **pave over green areas** such as, "**crime**", "**unsafe**", and "**dangerous**" (often cited by administrators, politicians, and consultants) was still acceptable. Urban designers and architects were still allowed to gloss over the harmful effects of gentrification by offering terms, "unified space," "overlook", "commemorative plaque", "patios for passive recreation." Fortunately, activists and academicians are developing a new collaborative field that will put an end to **blatant and fatal mistakes of paving over green areas** as social distancing and open spaces become integral part of our survival.

Don't forget that we are **still in the midst of the pandemic** and the **experts** are concerned about the spread of the disease. Michael Stoto, a professor of population health at Georgetown University, shared, "three variables dictate the spread of a disease: "**how many people the average person encounters in a day when transmission could take place**" (whether through face-to-face interaction or from touching the same surface), "the chance that the **virus will be transmitted in each of those interactions**," and "the **proportion of people that you encounter who are themselves infected**." These population health scenarios affect housing and open space designs. **Two months ago, the designers had no idea about HOW infection rate increases with exposure density, the risk of infection is a function of being close to people who are infected. The risk of infection can be expected to be higher where there are very high micro-densities whether in residences, transport or employment/education locations. (Cox, April 12, 2020)**

Fatal Errors:

a) A 16-story building would **violate, legibility, structure and identity** (Lynch, 1960) .

b) Furthermore, **students** who will live in these **high-rise residential buildings** are likely to experience greater **exposure densities**.

c) *Buildings of such scale will require air-conditioning which increases the spread of the virus.*

d) The high density and 16 story buildings will exacerbate the “**street canyon**” Street Canyons increase pollution.<sup>[1]</sup> Coronavirus has been **detected** on particles of air pollution.

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The value of this Park is even greater now for the City and the Communities. It’s a living park with history that is helping many who cannot walk too far their daily dose of UV and nature. The UC Berkeley’s proposal on People’s Park is considered a “taking” of a public good while exacerbating pandemic urban micro-density.

**I give permission for these comments to be read aloud during the Scoping session and added to publicly-accessible written comments.**

**\*\* please acknowledge receipt of these comments**

Sheila Mitra-Sarkar, Ph.D.

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Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

## Pandemic Effect

1 message

Sheila Mitra-Sarkar

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:56 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu,

Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin

Kate [REDACTED], Susan

Cheryl Davila

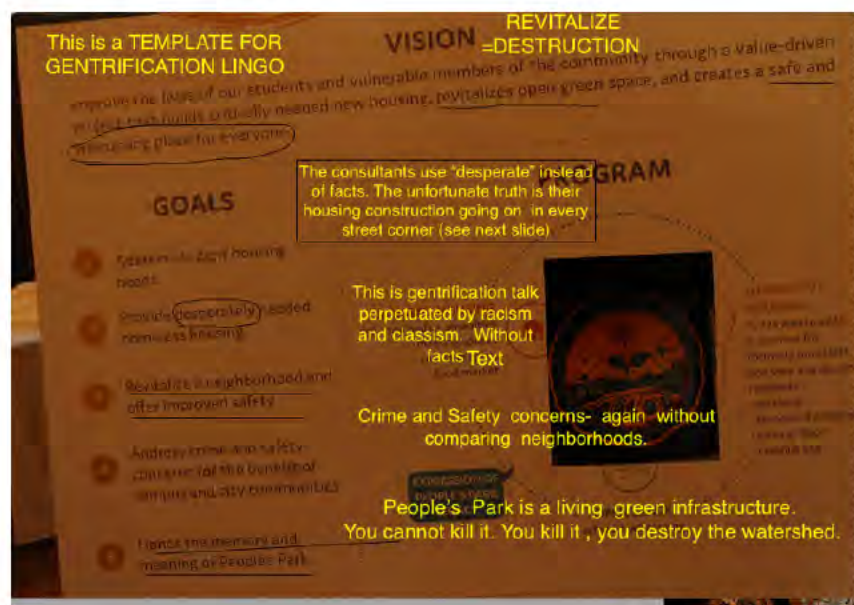
Wengraf [REDACTED], "Kesarwani, Rashi"

Cc: People's Park Committee [REDACTED]

The selection of a "placemaking" firm to lead the project of an open space which has a 'sense of place' for the last 51 years is bewildering. For 51 years, students have identified People's Park as a place that instilled their positive beliefs of kindness and respect for the earth and all beings. My final "cringing" moment was this graphics below and I have written on it to help you understand why. My arguments are valid not only for UC Berkeley as well as for the City of Berkeley. Every one of you who are supporting the taking of a Public Park without understanding the effect of micro-densities you have supported are creating disaster zones.

<https://bit.ly/UONLINEOPENHOUSEPEOPLESARK>

Sheila Mitra-Sarkar, Ph.D.





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Long Range Plan, People's Park**

2 messages

**Leila H. Moncharsh** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 10:52 AM

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

I have sent this several times as there is no way to know if you received it.

I am Leila H. Moncharsh, JD, MUP. I grant permission to UC Berkeley to read my comments aloud as part of the online scoping session.

The proposed project will hopefully benefit the university and the community. There are many different stakeholders with a project of this complexity.

The EIR should evaluate the proposed enrollment increase as it is reasonably likely to negatively impact the availability of critical city services such as fire response to wildfires, evacuations, police availability and the like. This is a physical, not funding, issue under CEQA. The mayor will show that the proposed additional UC enrollment will push the available city services over the tipping point even if the EIR only considers a baseline number. It should discuss the impact with and without a baseline limit. The EIR should propose mitigations.

Under alternatives, the EIR should consider whether future student housing can be constructed further away from the campus where there is ample public transportation. That would reduce the need to evacuate such a tightly compacted area of Berkeley where the bulk of the housing is now located and possibly reduce some of the load on city services, especially emergency services. Is the city sewer system directly around the campus able to adequately handle the current and proposed enrollment increase?

The EIR should indicate the condition of the Radcliffe designed 1930 UC garage landmark and under alternatives, consider whether the 800+ beds could be moved into the P. Park location, with the landmarked garage repurposed for the non-residential piece of the project now slated for PP. The lot size and the housing piece at the garage site are too small at this location to provide sufficient housing. As is, the proposed P. Park piece provides insufficient housing, given the great need.

There was a leak from the garage tank(s) in 1988. Holes were observed in more than one tank. (See EnviroStor) The EIR should discuss whether the remediation that was completed over the years is adequate for residential uses versus the current garage use.

Under aesthetics, the EIR should discuss whether the P. Park project's design. Cold, institutional buildings in the style sometimes derogatorily called "stack and pack" should not be located across the street from extant structures, some of which are landmarked. Can something be done with landscaping to cover or improve the view into the P. Park site? Can some of the proposed landscaping now located inside of the site be relocated to the outside of the site? Of course, maintenance also will need to be provided for any landscaping.

The height of buildings is an aesthetic consideration. The EIR should discuss whether the proposed stepping down will be successful. If not, what alternatives would reduce the negative visual impacts on surrounding structures.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 10:59 AM

To: "Leila H. Moncharsh" [REDACTED]

Hi Leila,

Thank you for resending this. It appears your previous emails did not arrive. You can consider the comment noted, and it will be read tonight.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner

[Quoted text hidden]

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Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)

phone: (510) 643-4793

email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)



## Newest resubmit of People's Park Committee comments

2 messages

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 3:18 PM

Sorry for yet another submission. Only difference is that a longtime park activist and PPC member, Charles Gary, asked to be added.

\*\*\*\*\*

### PEOPLE'S PARK COMMITTEE SCOPING COMMENTS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR UC BERKELEY LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE AND HOUSING PROJECTS AT PEOPLE'S PARK AND HILL CAMPUS 4/27/20

1. LRDP Update must not be a programmatic EIR that automatically gives the green light to future projects not explicitly listed in the EIR. All future projects must continue to be subject to public input under CEQA.
2. The NOP claims 200 meetings and events with stakeholder groups and the public, but not all stakeholders were contacted. Homeless residents of the park weren't included. There was a 1/24/20 invitation-only meeting, at the Christian Science church by the park. Little effort was made to invite community groups like the People's Park Committee, Food Not Bombs, Suitcase Clinic, or others who provide resources at the park so few of the park community were able to participate. Except one town hall on the LRDP in April 2019, no public meetings about this process were held. Two public meetings in February and March 2020, were limited to Project #2 at People's Park, and didn't include other plans to be discussed in this EIR. Which stakeholders were invited to the other 196 meetings, and what parts of the LRDP Update did they cover?
3. The NOP insists on necessity of expansion of facilities and university population, even though Berkeley has sued UC for exceeding the agreed-upon number of students to be admitted. The number of beds planned for students and non-university affiliated people are vague, talking about construction 'up to' a certain number, without any minimum commitment. No mention of students who are homeless now, in need of housing, let alone non-university park residents. And no specifics about nonprofits who are supposed to develop and manage the housing projects proposed at People's Park. Who are these nonprofits, what is their proposed role, and what financial and other benefits would they derive from this project?
4. UC used the excuse of 'deferred maintenance', a concept mentioned in the NOP, to destroy the forested area of People's Park as well as trees all over campus, and the excuse of 'wildfire management' to deforest other areas in the East Bay hills, and use pesticides, long targeting the Hill Campus area. Even mature, tall redwoods are planned for demolition by UC in the Hill Campus. UC repeatedly has been taken to court by community members seeking to defend the Hill Campus forest. UC insists that since these forested areas are not state or federal forest, it's not necessary to discuss the impact of converting that forest to non-forest use, and because there may not be a formal habitat conservation plan, no habitat conservation activities are necessary in the project areas covered in the EIR, even though many animals, including falcons and hawks, utilize them as habitat.
5. The EIR is supposed to cover historic resources, and preserve historic legacy, and as such People's Park, a City of Berkeley Historic Landmark, must be preserved as a park, not replaced with buildings. The NOP refers to creating multi-purpose spaces, but People's Park already has multiple purposes and uses for humans and wildlife, which these plans would eliminate.

**\*\* THESE COMMENTS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE PEOPLE'S PARK COMMITTEE,**  
including Russell Bates, Lisa Teague, Jessie McGinley, Michael Delacour, Max Ventura, Erick Morales, Andrea Prichett, Aidan Hill, Paul Prosseda, Ivar Diehl, Siobhan Lettow, Dawn Goldwasser, Tom Luce, Hali Hammer, Sheila

Mitra-Sarkar, Charles Gary

**Added names 4/27/20 We give permission for these comments to be read aloud during the Scoping session and added to publicly-accessible written comments.**

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Maxina Ventura  
Classical Homeopathy, Non-toxic Medicine  
All Ages, All Genders  
WiseWomanHealth.com

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Maxina Ventura  
Classical Homeopathy, Non-toxic Medicine  
All Ages, All Genders  
WiseWomanHealth.com

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Fri, May 1, 2020 at 10:57 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Your comment has been recorded.

[Quoted text hidden]

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++++  
Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)

phone: (510) 643-4793

email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**'Scoping Comments for LRDP Update EIR'**

2 messages

**Andrea Prichett** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:40 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Hello. My name is Andrea Prichett. I graduated from UC Berkeley in 1985 and I have lived in Berkeley for over 42 years. I have been a witness to events in People's Park and lived on Telegraph Avenue for most of that time.

I am currently a history teacher at Willard Middle School and I confess that I am partial to those things which are historic. I believe that our community and our society becomes aimless and valueless when we casually disregard the lessons of history and its artifacts.

People's Park is a living thread of history that connects us not only to the desire for true freedom and the love of creativity that characterized the movements of the time. It connects us to the earth. To the health of our community. To acts of great kindness and generosity as well as cruelty and desperation.

Whatever People's Park is now, it is, in some way, the measure of all of us. There are those who use the park and those who abuse it. Those who offer help and those who blame and accuse.

Today the poverty that has made People's Park the last refuge for those in need for decades, now threatens to engulf more and more of us. People's Park is more needed now than ever.

Unless you plan to expand on your current policy of hiding, harassing and ignoring people in poverty who suffer at your doorstep, we implore you to leave the park alone and let it continue to build on its 50 year history of offering space for those with nothing to come seek food, support, free expression and connection.

We invite anyone who truly wants to serve the poorest among us, to join us even now. Sadly, the UC has answered the calls for help with a deaf ear. Now, after decades of neglect, a social worker has finally been hired. One. This is compared to the legions of police who have cited, berated and abused those folks over the years.

It is hard to imagine that UC could be so heartless that you would pave over the cultural, historical and community needs of our community so you can build overpriced housing for people who have never even been to Berkeley. That you would place a food mart on the place where our history and even our future lies, it an offense that can not be measured.

I am here to raise my voice in opposition to your plan to build housing on People's Park. I believe that we need to offer love and support to those who need the park and offer the park to all of our community. We need UC to stop expanding housing for students at the expense of the people who live and work and love Berkeley.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

-Andrea Prichett

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:42 PM

To: Andrea Prichett [REDACTED]

Hi Andrea,

Thank you for submitting your comment on this document. We are holding a public scoping hearing tonight. Due to COVID-19, the hearing will be virtual, with staff reading comments submitted ahead of time. We wanted to confirm whether or not you would like your comment read at the hearing. This in no way affects how your comment will be incorporated in the report. The hearing is intended as an opportunity for the community to hear comments part-way through the official comment period.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Green  
Assistant Planner  
[Quoted text hidden]

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++++  
Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)  
phone: (510) 643-4793  
email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LDRP**

1 message

**Ursula Schulz** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 1:42 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

My name is Ursula Schulz and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session.

Regarding the UC Berkeley LRDP I am objecting to the increased sized of the projected numbers of students and faculty, and the university's unilateral style of engagement with their surrounding community.

There other less well-attended UC campuses that could absorb those numbers better than Berkeley.

I am particularly aghast at the proposal of including the Oxford Tract as a future development that could house upward of 3,000 students.

I live near the Oxford Tract on Walnut St. Funneling a large amount of additional people to our already dense block will be astonishingly destructive of the environment, infrastructure and quiet ambience of neighborhood. It is vital open space as well as a location of scientific enquiry

Indeed any building on this space should be disallowed. The agricultural studies that take place on the Oxford Tract are the connection to the original land grant that supported the founding of U.C.

The proximity of the experiments to the campus are exactly what the administration envisioned when they purchased the land after the first huge Berkeley fire in the 1920s. I was told that the original I owners of the property es were assured that this land would never be built on.

The encroachment of buildings on this experimental agricultural space as been an object of the university administration for some time. I attended hearings regarding the building at Oxford and Hearst St. Promises of well-tended landscaping and responsibility to the neighborhood were never fulfilled. It is and has always been a trash-strewn eyesore.

I would like to point out that the removal of Tolman Hall has left plenty of space to install dorms, not to mention the Chancellor's garden is conveniently placed on the campus proper.

I am very supportive of housing students, it is specious to claim that UC is

addressing this issue while radically adding to the population of the campus.  
Creating more slots on campus is not going to be the solution to this issue.  
Especially as expensive dorms managed by for profit companies will be  
operating these structures as a profit making investment.  
The insistence on holding this important meeting during the Covid-19  
pandemic seems poorly thought through.  
Thank you for attention,  
Ursula Schulz



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Berkeley LRDP EIR - People's Park**

1 message

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**Julia Sherman** [REDACTED]  
To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 12:24 AM

Hello,

My name is Julia Sherman and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comment aloud during the scoping session.

"I am strongly against the development of People's Park. This is not a viable solution to the limited number of beds available for students at UC Berkeley. Development of this historical landmark will not only put increasing strain on the current housing and dining facilities utilized on campus, it will further entrench the city of Berkeley in issues related to gentrification, displacement of homeless people, inequity, reduced green/open spaces, and more. The destruction of a place that speaks to the values of Berkeley's past should not be used as an opportunity for the university to profit from the admittance of larger freshman classes.

People's Park is, and should be, for the PEOPLE. It is not acceptable for the University to continue to take from vulnerable local populations (reminder that People's Park already exists on stolen Ohlone land) and profit from "development" that regresses the sustainable and equitable vision the school currently boasts. While this may be a beneficial decision for the school's wallet - it is not beneficial to the surrounding community or in line with the values the University claims to be built on. Please consider the gravity of this decision in oppressing Berkeley's most underserved populations and showcasing the true motives of the University's administration."

Thank you,  
Julia

--

**Julia K. Sherman**  
Waste Reduction Coordinator, Housing & Dining Sustainability  
Vice Chair, Zero Waste Coalition  
President, California Triathlon  
*UC Berkeley | Class of 2021 | B.S. Genetics & Plant Biology*

[REDACTED]

**Recommendation for People's Park Development**

2 messages

**Sam Siegel** [REDACTED]  
To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 9:40 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

This email contains my own recommendation of a proper site treatment for the People's Park development, and is being submitted for the meeting record rather than spoken during the meeting tomorrow night.

I have studied the built environment of Berkeley and the UC campus extensively, written several academic papers analyzing the social and spatial histories of public space, urban form, and development across several cities in the global north, worked with a number of Bay Area agencies on public space, transportation, and preservation-related design projects, and served as a trial clerk for prosecutors in the criminal branch of the Los Angeles city attorney's office, where I interacted frequently with city and county law enforcement personnel.

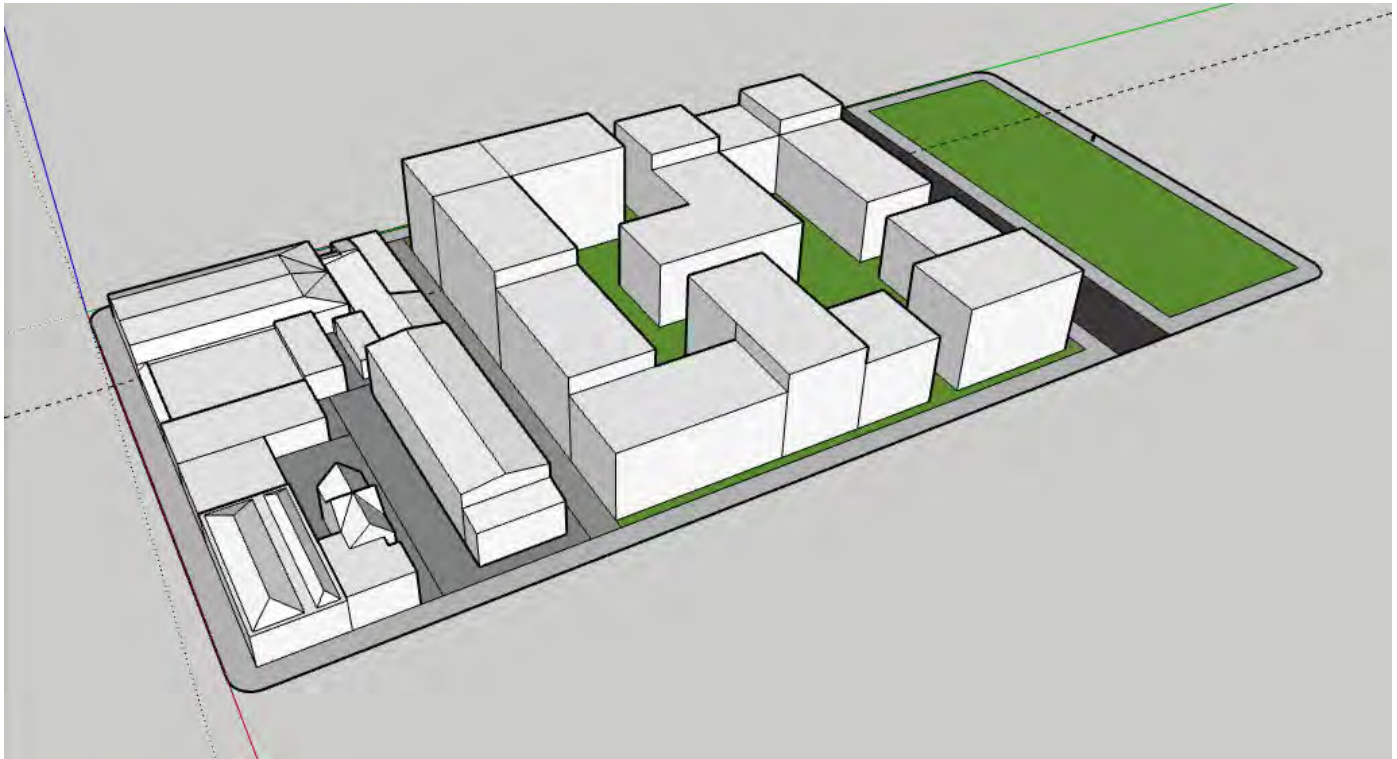
Based upon my experience, I believe the current proposal for development of People's Park by the University is not only highly inappropriate given the location and surrounding land uses, but will be unsuccessful if implemented in its current form.

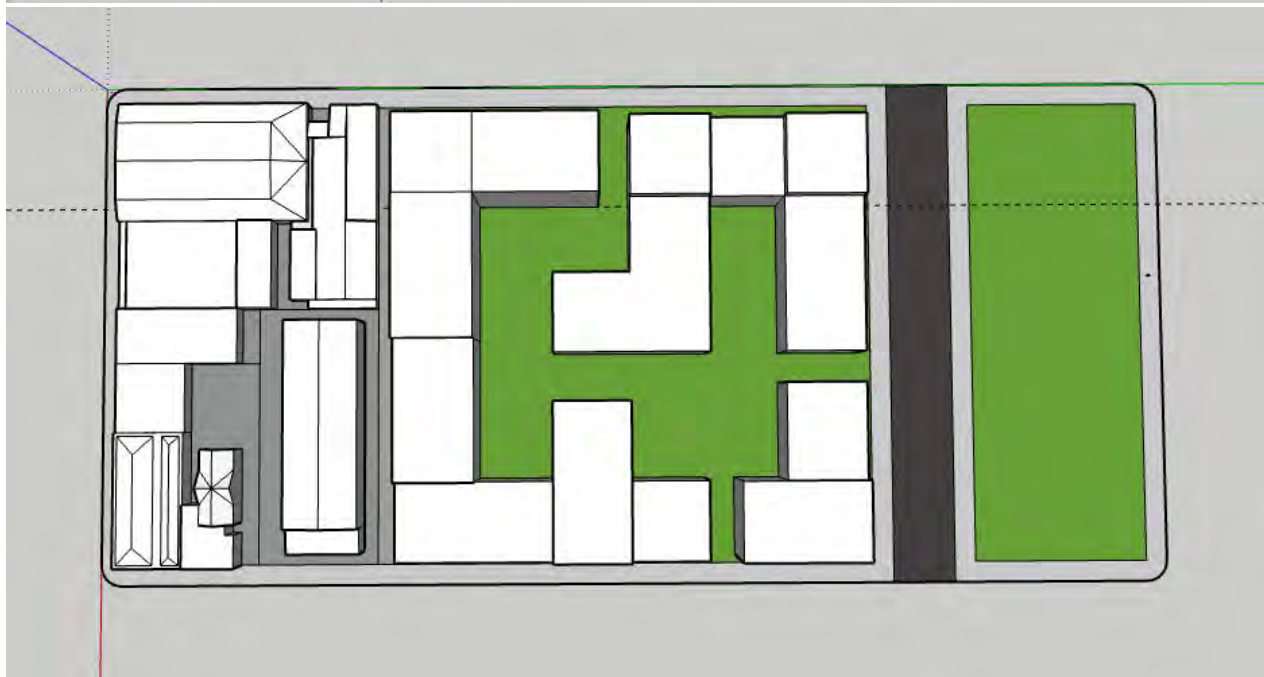
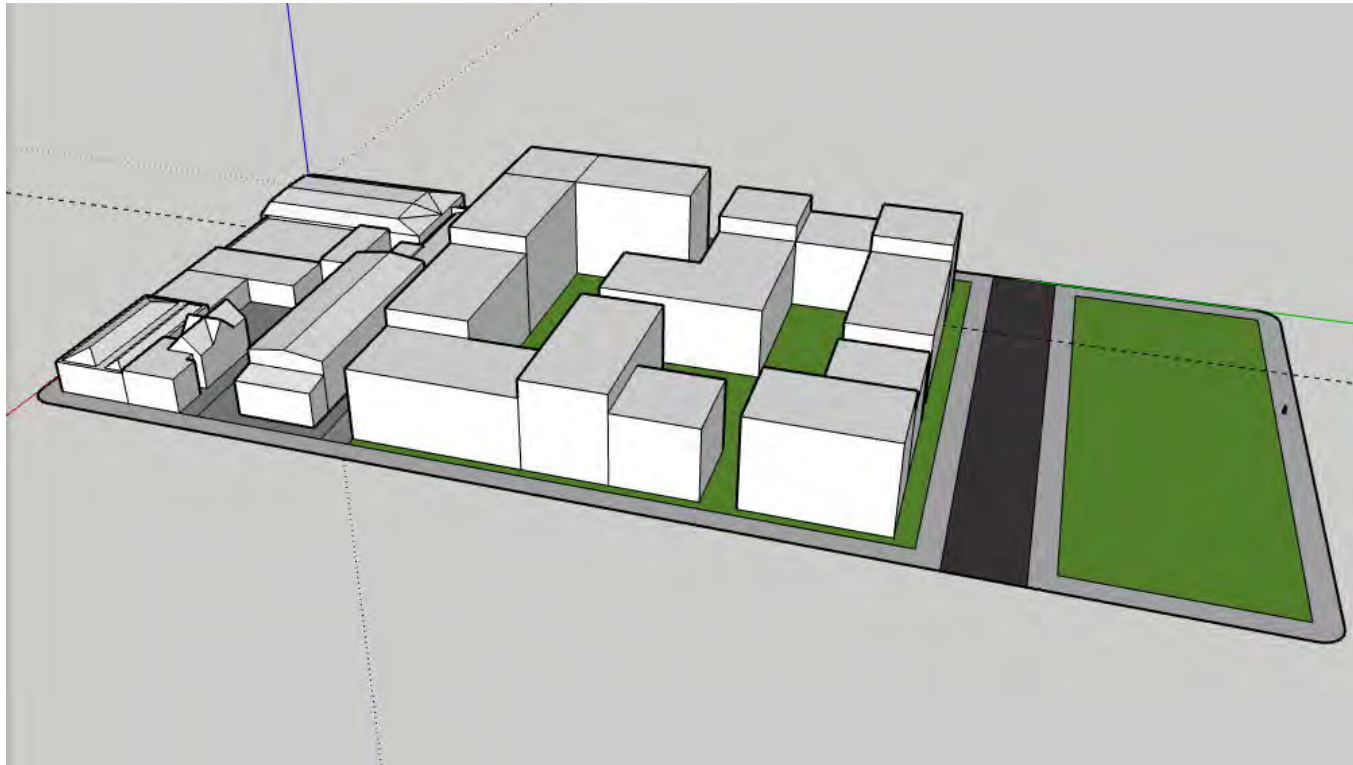
The current proposal is markedly similar to the Corbusian "towers in the park" developments of the 1950s and 1960s, a tragic irony given the history of People's Park as a protest against this very sort of banal, inhuman architecture and planning.

A few months ago, I prepared a number of massing studies and site layouts for People's Park in anticipation of the future period for public comment on an updated proposal. For each design, I utilized a 1920 Sanborn map and my own surveys of the surrounding blocks to inform choices on structural footprints, setbacks, scale, massing, height, and open space allocation and placement.

The following is one of the draft studies I produced, which addresses five issues, in no particular order, which I believe are most salient to the park's development:

1. Safety
2. Historicity
3. Scale
4. Open Space
5. Aesthetics





This to-scale plan involves dividing the site into two sections by way of an extended Hillegass Avenue (60' lot to lot, 36' with 12' sidewalks) that could operate as either a pedestrian-only street, a one-way street, or a *woonerf* (mixed traffic street).

The divided site is then broken into two distinct uses: a smaller (150' x 270') new "People's Park" fronting Bowditch, and a housing complex varying between 4 and 6 stories in height (determined by the height of adjacent structures) with 5' setbacks on Dwight, 10' on Bowditch, 15' on Haste, and a 15' alley at the site's eastern edge.

Note that this study does not specify where the supportive housing is located, as it was prepared prior to the University committing to providing supportive housing on the site.

The small L-shaped structure along Bowditch could suffice for such a purpose, especially given its high visibility and separation from the other structures.

The footprint and setbacks of the housing complex are derived from the structures that existed on the site prior to its clearing in 1959.

Ideally, the architectural character of the development will be influenced directly by the styles of the original buildings. This recognizes the site's history and past relationship with its surroundings, especially if the new development varies its facades to resemble an assortment of distinct structures, cultivating a "built over time" appearance.

This plan provides several benefits that the current proposal does not, including, but not limited to:

1. Respecting the height and architectural character of nearby structures, allowing for greater sunlight penetration, and preserving the view of the Campanile for residents to the South
2. Segregating public space and housing uses on the site to enhance "eyes on the street" safety protocols for the park component



3. Giving students living in the complex a greater sense of community by separating their own interior spaces from the public realm
4. Concentrating access to these interior courtyard spaces at three 17'5" points, thereby allowing for keycard protected security gates (if necessary)
5. Creating a dedicated park space visually and physically uncluttered by university structures, while also providing an attractive framing element for the historic structures across Bowditch (e.g. Washington and Huntington Square parks in San Francisco)
6. Breaking up the street grid to provide for a more intimate housing and public space experiment while at the same time increasing pedestrian and vehicular access and introducing additional curb parking spaces
7. Providing additional opportunities for public art and memorials by way of the extended Hillegass, which could be specially named (i.e. James Rector Place) and fitted with decorative pavers telling the story of People's Park
8. Reinforcing human-scaled design and urbanism in the area by breaking up structural massing into various heights, and potentially, architectural styles

I hope sincerely that the University considers this proposal and its merits, or at least the benefit of an alternative plan that is similarly new-urbanist and historically minded.

As a proud Cal alumnus, I love the Berkeley campus, and the city of Berkeley, and I want to ensure that the development of People's Park will be a success story that people will point to for generations to come.

Please feel free to email me at this address or call my cell at the number provided in my electronic signature below.

I would be happy to contribute my knowledge of Berkeley's 150-year architectural and planning history as well as my design skills to help shape the University's next 150 years.

Also, I will likely be sending you a few more comments and suggestions for the new LRDP prior to the 15 May deadline, as there are a number of other campus planning studies I have completed, especially during my time at Cal.

Regards,  
Sam Siegel

--  
**Samuel Siegel**  
*UCLA Luskin School, Class of 2020*  
*UC Berkeley, Sesquicentennial Class of 2018*

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**Samuel Siegel** [REDACTED]  
To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 9:44 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

Please disregard the first sentence in the previous email, as I had composed it prior to the meeting tonight and intended to send it yesterday, when I was unaware that written comments will still be received until 15 May.

Regards,  
Sam

[REDACTED]

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On Apr 27, 2020, at 21:40, Sam Siegel [REDACTED] wrote:

To Whom It May Concern,

This email contains my own recommendation of a proper site treatment for the People's Park development, and is being submitted for the meeting record rather than spoken during the meeting tomorrow night.

I have studied the built environment of Berkeley and the UC campus extensively, written several academic papers analyzing the social and spatial histories of public space, urban form, and development across several cities in the global north, worked with a number of Bay Area agencies on public space, transportation, and preservation-related design projects, and served as a trial clerk for prosecutors in the criminal branch of the Los Angeles city attorney's office, where I interacted frequently with city and county law enforcement personnel.

Based upon my experience, I believe the current proposal for development of People's Park by the University is not only highly inappropriate given the location and surrounding land uses, but will be unsuccessful if implemented in its current form.

The current proposal is markedly similar to the Corbusian "towers in the park" developments of the 1950s and 1960s, a tragic irony given the history of People's Park as a protest against this very sort of banal, inhuman architecture and planning.

A few months ago, I prepared a number of massing studies and site layouts for People's Park in anticipation of the future period for public comment on an updated proposal. For each design, I utilized a 1920 Sanborn map and my own surveys of the surrounding blocks to inform choices on structural footprints, setbacks, scale, massing, height, and open space allocation and placement.

The following is one of the draft studies I produced, which addresses five issues, in no particular order, which I believe are most salient to the park's development:

1. Safety
2. Historicity
3. Scale
4. Open Space
5. Aesthetics

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Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## Scoping Comments for the LRDP Update EIR

1 message

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Elisa Smith [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:56 PM

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" <planning@berkeley.edu>

Hello,

I am Elisa Smith and I give permission for my comments to be read aloud.

I am commenting about the proposed building on People's Park. I grew up across the Bay but my Mom brought me to People's Park when I was a kid. When I was on her boyfriend's shoulders, beholding the park full of people dancing to Commander Cody...it was so magical that I told myself I was gonna be here when I grew up.

Which I did. As a youth I had gotten inspired and involved in environmental and social justice issues and so was especially excited to come to a place that had such a rich history of activism. I would say that, aside from my learning at the University that I received most of my "education" from the Community here, from the streets and specifically from the diverse assembly of committed people who gather in People's Park. To have a special Commons, where all sorts of people gather: families, longtime residents, homeless, students, all colors, genders, styles, ages, etc...was and is a special thing indeed and an important thing.

In the early 90s, the activists and people I connected with became lifelong friends and an inspiration for my life. Much as participation later at the WTO shutdown in Washington, and the Occupy Movement, specifically in Oakland: THE BONDS AND CONNECTIONS THAT HAPPEN IN THESE MOMENTS AND PLACES IS IRREPLACEABLE AND INSPIRES PEOPLE FOR THEIR ENTIRE LIFETIMES. You can't put a price tag on that and we are LOSING THIS HISTORY if we destroy such things. This is to make a better world!

In 1991 we started East Bay Food Not Bombs and started serving Monday through Friday in People's Park. I worked with the organization for 20 years, sharing healthy meals, breaking bread with all sorts of people. Sharing and taking care of each other continues in People's Park every day. Mutual Aide. WHEN WE LOSE OUR GATHERING PLACES WE LOSE SO MUCH AND WE NEED TO KEEP THIS VISION, HISTORY, COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTION INTO THE FUTURE FOR THE NEXT GENERATIONS.

Thank you very much!

Elisa Smith, UC Berkeley Alumni, Community Activist

Comments for Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Update  
and Housing Projects #1 and #2 Scoping Session – April 27, 2020

Harvey Smith

*My name is Harvey and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session.*

I represent a nonprofit organization, the People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group, organized to protect, preserve, and enhance public understanding of the significant architectural and cultural landmarks and historic events unique to the Southside campus area through outreach, research, and education and cultural community projects. My comments are addressed primarily to the Housing #2 project.

First, we want to point out that this online "public" session is inappropriate given the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The timelines for the EIR process should be extended to allow adequate, truly public input. Second, the LRDP and two housing projects should not be combined in one EIR when they are three distinct projects occurring in different locations in Berkeley. Third, the EIR does not offer a no-build alternative. Fourth, the pandemic crisis will surely impact many aspects of planning for the city, the university, and the nation, including the economy, budgetary resources and student enrollment. It will not be business as usual in the future.

Our specific objections and concerns regarding environmental impact are the following. This project will have a significant effect on the aesthetics of the area by substantially degrading and obstructing publicly accessible views and the existing visual character of the area resulting in a substantial, demonstrable negative aesthetic effect. It will have an adverse effect on the cultural and historic resources by the demolition, destruction and alteration of the existing historic character of the park and its surrounding registered historic landmarks. The hydrology and water quality of the People's Park site is not addressed. Land use and planning are not adequately assessed because the City of Berkeley has not completed its Southside Plan, the adverse impact on the existing character of the vicinity is not considered, and the project ignores the Berkeley Public Parks and Open Space Preservation Ordinance of 1986. Population and housing are major issues in Berkeley, but while future projections can be difficult, UC has disregarded even its own plans and overenrolled. No adequate assessment of the additional demand on public services is given, or the effect of the elimination of open space, particularly its loss as a safe shelter in a highly seismically active area. The reduction of recreation space in the most densely populated area of Berkeley is not adequately addressed.

The university has long considered People's Park a liability. We contend that the People's Park Historic District is a community asset that should be developed through creative, grassroots, community-based, user-developed initiative. A fuller explication of our concerns and objections and a no-build alternative that would recognize the architectural, cultural and historic contributions of the park and the Southside neighborhood will be presented by us by the May 15 deadline.



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Re: LRDP and Housing Project #2**

1 message

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**Lisa Teague** [REDACTED]  
To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 1:27 PM

To UC Berkeley:

My name is Lisa Teague and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session April 27, 2020.

Why save People's Park? Here are the words of Julia Vinograd (1943 - 2018), the Poet Laureate of People's Park.

**People's Park**

We will defend this place  
Till the last drop of beer  
And the first drop of rain.

**People's Park**

The wizards in old tales used to bury their hearts  
in secret places

and unless you dug up the heart and destroyed it  
they were invulnerable and heartless.

Part of my heart is buried in People's Park.

Not all of it

not even the largest part --

other places, people, and I'm no wizard

so I keep some of it myself.

Part of my heart is buried in People's Park.

Leave it alone.

It's the part that will never be reasonable

never grow up and know better and do worse.

It's young.

Breathing is sweet to it and wild and scary.

It remembers meeting soldiers' bayonets

with daffodils.

It remembers tear gas drifting over swing sets.

It will always be young.

Leave it alone.

I go to the Park sometimes to talk to it

-- not often.

Time passes and it doesn't always recognize me.

But it tells me there are many hearts buried

with it

all young, all proud of what they made

and fought for.

Do not disturb them.

Do not build on them.

Do not explain that times have changed.

Do not tell them it's for their own good.

They've heard that before.

They will not believe you.

There are many hearts buried in People's Park,

and part of my own as well.

Oh leave them alone.

**Julia Vinograd, All rights reserved**

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**People's Park**

This is People's Park  
where tattooed fighters planted rose tattoos  
and roses grew  
blood red.  
It's not a peaceful place.  
The vines are tangled with our nerves.  
Grass untidy as a drunk's beard.  
Trees grow shopping carts.  
Bushes grow sleeping bags.  
Lilies of the valley smoke cigarettes  
they just bummed, but with such style.  
Here are sunflowers that'll steal your backpack  
when you're not looking,  
daisies crooked as game booths at the circus  
and violets sticking out  
their impudent purple tongues.  
Or is that us?  
I don't know. It doesn't matter.  
When people come to Berkeley  
they always ask to see People's Park  
and when I show it to them  
they don't see it.  
Next time  
I'm not going to walk them a few blocks,  
watch their faces and try to explain.  
Instead, I'll show them my hands.  
"Here's People's Park", I'll say.  
"Here."

**from Julia Vinograd's Blues for the Berkeley Inn**  
**Julia Vinograd, All rights reserved**



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Peoples Park Project**

1 message

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**Marguerite Tompkins** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 2:36 PM

To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Cc: Anthony Bruce [REDACTED]

I am a loyal UC Berkeley alumna and grateful donor. I am also a Berkeley resident. This community is blessed with extraordinary architectural treasures and the First Church of Christ Scientist, Bernard Maybeck's masterpiece, may be the most precious of them. I am writing to express my profound distress with the plan to erect a 16-story tower in the proposed location. I am well aware of the challenge that the University faces to provide student housing. But it should not do so at the cost of degrading a structure that is part of our cultural patrimony. Surely the University has the ability to find solutions that meet its current needs while safeguarding for future generations what is truly irreplaceable.

I request that you read my comments publicly at the online scoping session scheduled for April 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Marguerite Tompkins, B.A. '76, J.D. '80

Sent from my iPad



Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

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## Comments for Online Scoping Session - April 27, 2020

1 message

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**Mikayla Tran** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 3:48 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Hello,

My name is Mikayla Tran and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session.

I oppose the development of People's Park. The plans to build student housing through a number of "sustainable" practices represent stark efforts to greenwash the space and blatantly disregards the social, political, and economic consequences of this narrow interpretation of sustainability. This project will only solidify UC control over these vital public spaces, displace the most vulnerable members of our community, and put increasing strains on our current housing and dining facilities. As the largest employer in California, the UC actively contributes to the market conditions that produce the social issues of housing and homelessness that it seeks to address through development. These are problems that cannot be solved by the construction of a simple housing complex, and such development will only worsen and allow the same conditions to continue that result in even more homelessness and crime. For these reasons and more, I oppose the development of People's Park.

Word count: 150

Thank you.

Best,  
Mikayla

--

**Mikayla Tran**

SDG & OS Engagement Fellow, UC Berkeley Office of Sustainability

Senior Resident Assistant, Unit 1

B.S. Society and Environment, Class of 2021

Pronouns: she/her/hers

## **RESPONSE TO NOP of an EIR for UC BERKELEY'S LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**APRIL, 2020**

**From Maxina Ventura**

\*\*\*\*\*

Problem #1: This EIR would be used as an umbrella under which UC would pursue future projects, not just the two they name in this NOP. UC must not avoid doing needed Environmental Impact Reports for each project as they try to jam through what the public may understand as destructive. UC is trying to disallow meaningful input which could result in stopping their plans, or slowing down as each project is considered by all concerned, and all who could be impacted.

Reference to more than 200 meetings with stakeholders would suggest meetings with developers, or cherry-picked people who for whatever personal reasons would prefer to see this beautiful park paved over and built upon. One LRDP town hall occurred in April, 2019, but no others, to my knowledge. Two People's Park-specific occurred earlier in 2020, and a small meeting of invited people involved with People's Park met with Capital Strategies representatives and one non-profit which would stand to benefit by lucrative contracts with UC.

This NOP is about future plans for UC Berkeley as a whole, which owns land all over Berkeley, but there is a curious insistence on leveling this 2.8 acre park of trees, open space, and lungs of the neighborhood.

A fallacy is the assumption that more students need to be added when the city already has sued UC over being nearly 10,000 over in 2019 for the 2020 LRDP put out in 2005, close to 25% over the agreement. To plan for an additional 8,900 students and 3,600 faculty and staff when UC's actions have resulted in more on the streets, including students, because of housing impacts due to such growth, is reckless.

To say it needs 4,000,000 gross square feet of administration and academic building is disingenuous. If so much administration is needed, perhaps the mission of learning is a last consideration. When I was at UCLA nearly 40 years ago, there were not enough core classes. Less than a decade ago UCB students crowded BCC, making an unjust situation for those without means to attend UCB. UC does not set a future population capacity for UCB, thereby leaving floodgates open. UCB must not pursue out-of-country or out-of-state students. Serve more CA students, with less negative impact to Berkeley, and our whole region.

East Bay Pesticide Alert addressed in past related comments what shows up here again as UC tries to designate Hill Campus (and People's Park) non-forests since they don't contain state or national forests. That is in conflict with USDA Senior Scientist, David J. Nowak, who presented for UCB's 150th celebration lecture series, on the crucial importance of urban forests.

This month, people worldwide celebrated three peregrine falcon chicks hatched on the Campanile. Their parents, and hawks, depend on tall trees at People's Park for resting and views during their food hunts. They need tall trees and open space, both of which the park offers not only people, but wildlife. Make no mistake: students and the longtime Berkeley community loves People's Park.

Yes, please do read my comments aloud, and publish them in print as part of this process.  
Maxina Ventura, longtime Berkeleyan, and involved with People's Park since 1983, close to 40 years.





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park Housing Project**

1 message

**Pallop Wilairat** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:13 PM

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

***My name is Pallop Wilairat and I grant UC Berkeley permission to read my comments during the scoping session.***

*Public comments are presently limited to choices made under parameters that were already determined. However, it is the parameters that are really important here. The public should be able to have input on the parameters, such as height, size, and density of the buildings. Please find a way to allow for public comment and input on them. Thank you.*

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
P.O. BOX 23660, MS-10D  
OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660  
PHONE (510) 286-5528  
TTY 711  
www.dot.ca.gov



*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

April 29, 2020

SCH # 2020040078  
GTS # 04-ALA-2020-00527  
GTS ID: 19217  
ALA/VAR/VAR

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
300 A&E Building,  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

University of California, Berkeley Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Update  
and Housing Projects #1 and #2 – Notice of Preparation (NOP)

Dear Raphael Breines:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the University of California, Berkeley LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system. The following comments are based on our review of the April 2020 NOP.

#### *Project Understanding*

The LRDP provides a high-level planning framework for University of California, Berkeley's planning area and surrounding campus environs. The LRDP will forecast development through the 2036-2037 academic school year and proposes to add up to 11,700 student housing beds, 385 employee housing units, and approximately 4,000,000 gross square feet (GSF) of academic and administrative facilities. Also, the project includes two specific student housing projects (Housing Projects #1 and #2). Housing Project #1 includes up to 850 beds for students, and Housing Project #2 would include up to 1,200 beds for UC Berkeley students, and a separate housing unit for lower income (non-university affiliated) individuals with up to 125 units. UC Berkeley will develop an Environmental Impact Report that will analyze project impacts at the programmatic level for the LRDP update, and at the project level for the two

housing projects. Regional access is provided from State Routes (SR)-13, 24, and 123, all within one mile of the planning area.

#### *Multimodal Planning*

The project's primary and secondary effects on pedestrians, bicyclists, travelers with disabilities, and transit users should be evaluated, including countermeasures and trade-offs resulting from mitigating vehicle miles traveled (VMT) increases. Access for pedestrians and bicyclists to transit facilities must be maintained. These smart growth approaches can be consistent with MTC's Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and would help meet Caltrans Strategic Management Plan targets.

#### *Vehicle Trip Reduction*

The LRDP should include a robust Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program to reduce VMT and greenhouse gas emissions. Such measures are critical to facilitating efficient site access. The measures listed below can promote smart mobility and reduce regional VMT.

- Project design to encourage walking, bicycling and transit access;
- Transit and trip planning resources such as a commute information kiosk;
- Real-time transit information system;
- Transit subsidies on an ongoing basis;
- Ten percent vehicle parking reductions;
- Charging stations and designated parking spaces for electric vehicles;
- Carpool and clean-fuel parking spaces;
- Designated parking spaces for a car share program;
- Unbundled parking;
- Showers, changing rooms and clothing lockers for employees that commute via active transportation;
- Emergency Ride Home program;
- Employee transportation coordinator;
- Secured bicycle storage facilities;
- Fix-it bicycle repair station(s);
- Bicycle route mapping resources;
- Aggressive trip reduction targets with Lead Agency monitoring and enforcement.

Transportation Demand Management programs should be documented with monitoring reports by a TDM coordinator to demonstrate effectiveness. If the project does not achieve the VMT reduction goals, the reports should also include next steps to take in order to achieve those targets. Also, reducing

parking supply can encourage active forms of transportation, reduce regional VMT, and lessen future transportation impacts on State facilities.

For additional TDM options, please refer to the Federal Highway Administration's *Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference* (Chapter 8). The reference is available online at: <http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/fhwahop12035.pdf>.

#### *Transportation Impact Fees*

The University of California, Berkeley should identify project-generated travel demand and estimate the costs of transit and active transportation improvements necessitated by the proposed project; viable funding sources such as development and/or transportation impact fees should also be identified. We encourage a sufficient allocation of fair share contributions toward multimodal and regional transit improvements to fully mitigate cumulative impacts to regional transportation. We also strongly support measures to increase sustainable mode shares, thereby reducing VMT. The Lead Agency should also consider fair share fees for shuttles that use the public curb space.

The University of California, Berkeley should also ensure that a capital improvement plan identifying the cost of needed improvements, funding sources, and a scheduled plan for implementation is prepared along with the General Plan. Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to work with the City and local partners to secure the funding for needed mitigation. Traffic mitigation- or cooperative agreements are examples of such measures.

#### *Lead Agency*

As the Lead Agency, the University of California is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the State Transportation Network (STN). The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner

April 29, 2020

Page 4

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Andrew Chan at 510-622-5433 or [andrew.chan@dot.ca.gov](mailto:andrew.chan@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Mark Leong  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

cc: State Clearinghouse



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park**

1 message

**Deron Cavaletti** [REDACTED]

Wed, Apr 29, 2020 at 1:17 PM

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

To Whom it may Concern,

you people still have not learned your lesson's. Why would anyone who was not greed minded like UC go to that school that can not learn their own historical lessons. It is the students democratic movements of the 60's that put this school on the map internationally famous and People's Park is a living symbol of that. I would imagine as I am sure you know the people will not let this happen. Are you prepared for that? Think of how much extra \$ it going to cost you to fight to protect your stupid greedy investment. You people never learn. Besides the fact that Berkeley does not have enough public parks and space as it is you are over crowding the neighborhood and jeopardizing Public Safety!!! You better believe it. Please reply.

Deron Cavaletti



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**People's Park, not a building, please!**

1 message

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**Tom Luce** [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 5:50 PM

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

Cc: A people's committee in response to UC plans to raze the park [REDACTED]

Hello. My name is Tom Luce. I am an 82 year old, retired teacher from my home town in Barre, Vermont. At the time the folks here in Berkeley were going through the amazing and very rough time asserting free speech and eventually establishing **People's Park**, I was involved with social justice back home. That is why when I moved here fifteen years ago in retirement with my oldest son and family, I wanted to put my feet on the ground here.

My inner spirit of love from a lifetime of struggling for social justice was kindled again in my old age that the battles for peace with justice need to have a sanctuary such as **People's Park**. Not a placard in a building. A park such as it has been from the beginning, welcoming the disenfranchised, the workers for equality, students seeking the truth about our social lives and what to do about the challenges.

So I'm sending you this message as a plea to abandon the current plan you have for building housing in **People's Park**. What I saw this last time you had people come and see your plans is definitely not what I think should be done with the land. The earth, the trees—such as they have been left after much cutting over the years—the stage where people with talent and an undying message for peace with justice—all this must remain and be developed even more as a sanctuary. This is the place where real impoverished folk do come and obtain service. That is essential to the message the university should be fostering and the basis for developing programs to deal with inequality, racism, homophobia, xenophobia...

I do acknowledge that a social worker has been hired to relate to the needs of those who come here. It doesn't seem, though, that this social worker compares at all with the amount of policing and abuse of people here over the decades. A sanctuary such as **People's Park** has been and is continuing to become is unique and cannot be turned into another building. We need a place to promote, celebrate truth seeking, not some far out excessive freedom seeking that besmirches the history of free speech here in Berkeley.

Please, a sanctuary for all that is best in us from the days when **People's Park** was begun.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Tom Luce, [REDACTED] Fairview St. [REDACTED] Berkeley, Ca. 94703 [REDACTED]

--

Tom Luce

[REDACTED] Fairview St. [REDACTED]  
Berkeley, Ca 94703-2317  
[REDACTED]



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**Please, no student housing on People's Park**1 message

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**Michael Fullerton** [REDACTED]  
To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Thu, Apr 30, 2020 at 7:02 PM

Open space is sorely needed in the densely developed South Campus area. Also, along with thousands of other Berkeley residents, I believe the historic importance of People's Park should be respected and no housing should be built on this site.

Michael Fullerton  
Former UC student UC staff retiree  
Berkeley resident for 50 plus years





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## Alumna Opposes UC development of People's Park

1 message

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Amelia Marshall

Thu, Apr 30, 2020 at 4:18 PM

To: [REDACTED] planning@berkeley.edu

As a UCB Alumna, retired staff engineer/SRA, and former resident of the South Campus neighborhood, I vehemently oppose allowing the university to develop People's Park for high-density student and homeless housing.

If there is any lesson to be learned from the present COVID-19 pandemic, it is that excessive crowding, aka "urban density" is not a desirable direction for urban planning to be going.

I have watched sadly as the Berkeley campus I loved has been overbuilt and uplifted, just as the campus of UCLA has been. People's Park is not only an historic landmark - it is a rare open space amid the towering dorm buildings in which students are packed like lab rats.

Unlike other UC campuses, UC Berkeley simply has insufficient space to house all the students on site. But the nearby cities of Berkeley and Oakland do provide room for distributed student housing. There is no need to further uglify the Southside neighborhood with tall towers casting shadows on what was once a vibrant scene.

The city has every right and reason to hold the university accountable for its greedy desire to take more than its share of the public space and resources. Stop this dreadful proposal now.

Amelia S. Marshall  
BS - EECS - 1980



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP**

1 message

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**Renee C. Wachtel** [REDACTED]  
Reply-To: "Renee C. Wachtel" [REDACTED]  
To: "@berkeley.edu planning @berkeley.edu" <planning>  
Cc: "Renee C. Wachtel" [REDACTED]

Thu, Apr 30, 2020 at 1:03 PM

To: Kyle Gibson, Berkeley Capital Strategies  
Re: LRDP/EIR scoping session

I am a long time resident of Panoramic Hill, a neighborhood adjacent to the University.  
I have attended the scoping session provided on line on 4-26-20, and reviewed the material provided on-line.

Although many issues have yet to be developed, I have two concerns:

1. Does the LRDP take into account the changes higher education is undergoing, such as distance learning, and the potential need for FEWER student beds?
2. Does the LRDP process actually include any NEIGHBORHOOD community advisory members?

Thank you in advance for responding to my concerns.

Renee C. Wachtel  
[REDACTED] Panoramic Way  
Berkeley CA 94704

RAPHAEL BREJNES  
SENIOR PLANNER  
A and E BUILDING  
BERKELEY CA 94720

1 MAY 2020

THANK YOU FOR HAND-DELIVERING A COPY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE AND HOUSING PROJECTS #1 and #2.

IN LIGHT OF OUR ORDERS TO SHELTER-IN-PLACE, NOW EXTENDED THROUGH THE MONTH OF MAY, I DO REQUEST THAT THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ALSO BE EXTENDED. THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS FOR THIS :

1. THE COMPLEXITY OF UNIVERSITY'S DOCUMENT, WHICH COMBINES A LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN STRETCHING OUT TO THE YEARS 2036 - 2037, ALONG WITH PROPOSALS FOR IMMINENT CONSTRUCTION ON SEVERAL CENTRALLY LOCATED PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY, ALONG WITH AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PREPARATION; ALL DUE FOR SUBMISSION BY 5:00 pm on FRIDAY MAY 15, 2020.

2. BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS WELL AS BY THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, AND ALSO BY THE CITY OF BERKELEY, WE ARE NOW REQUIRED TO SELF-ISOLATE IN OUR PLACES OF RESIDENCE, AVOID TRAVEL BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT FOR ESSENTIAL BUSINESS; WE ARE NOT TO CONGREGATE IN GROUPS;

AND ALL NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES ARE NOW CLOSED.

3. THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC SEVERELY CURTAILS THE CITIZENS' OPTIONS TO GATHER FACTS, VERIFY INFORMATION, AND EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO THE UNIVERSITY'S DOCUMENT. THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF IS CLOSED EXCEPT FOR ON-LINE INSTRUCTION, AND EMPLOYEES ARE WORKING REMOTELY. EVEN THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN NEWSPAPER, OFTEN A GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION, IS AFFECTED BY THE SHUT-DOWN. LIBRARIES CITY-WIDE ARE CLOSED. EVEN IF CITIZENS WERE TO GATHER ENOUGH INFORMATION TO WRITE A MEANINGFUL RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT; HAVING A COPY MADE AT A COMMERCIAL COPY SHOP; AND DELIVERING IT TO THE ARCHITECTURE and ENGINEERING BUILDING BY THE APPOINTED 5:00 pm MAY 15, 2020 WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF THE SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION TO THIS REQUEST. RECALL THAT THE ORDERS THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN ARE INTENDED FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT; TO HALT THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS; AND TO NOT OVER-LOAD THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

I CAN BE REACHED BY MAIL OR BY TELEPHONE :

BARBARA ROBBEN

EL DORADO

BERKELEY CA 94707



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR**1 message

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**Judy MacLean** [REDACTED]

Sat, May 2, 2020 at 4:05 PM

Reply-To: Judy MacLean [REDACTED]

To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

I am writing in favor of building student housing and housing for homeless people on the site of People's Park. I am a tenant who has lived one block from People's Park for 20 years. The park is already a de facto housing site for homeless people. The University needs to provide more housing for students, and housing for low-income and homeless people needs to be built in every neighborhood, including this one. Having formerly homeless and other low-income people in the same housing complex as students could provide internship opportunities for students preparing for certain careers, and services to low-income people could be provided at lower cost if some services were provided by interns. Also, the University should consider the possibility of making some of that low-income housing available to low-paid University staff, like cleaners and dishwashers.

Sincerely,

Judy MacLean

[REDACTED] Regent St. [REDACTED]

Berkeley 94704

# LRDP Feedback

Email address \*

[REDACTED]

Would you like to receive emails about the LRDP update process? \*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Name (first and last) \*

Erica Sladky

Affiliation

Neighbor that lives within the City of Berkeley

### Comments, ideas, or questions:

Hello,

I recently moved to Berkeley, and I have tried to learn as much as I can about it! I also immediately joined a housing rights group, and therefore I fully support additional housing. I support more affordable housing for students, and I also support your supportive housing planned.

As far as the locations, I do not have super strong opinions being new. However, I read a lot about People's Park and the historical value it has. What struck me though when reading the history is that this has always remained UC's property. I think the protests were valid, but I bet there will be more if there isn't some sort of compromise. Perhaps the university can look at other locations, or, have some sort of memorial to People's Park.

This form was created inside of UC Berkeley.

Google Forms





State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Bay Delta Region  
2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100  
Fairfield, CA 94534  
(707) 428-2002  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



May 7, 2020

Mr. Raphael Breines  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
300 A&E Building  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1382  
[planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Subject: University of California, Berkeley Long Range Development Plan Update and  
Housing Projects #1 and #2, Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact  
Report, SCH 2020040078, Alameda County

Dear Mr. Breines:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Update ("LRDP Update" or "Project") in Alameda County.

## **CDFW ROLE**

CDFW is a Trustee Agency with responsibility under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15386 for commenting on projects that could impact fish, plant, and wildlife resources. CDFW is also considered a Responsible Agency if a project would require discretionary approval, such as permits issued under the California Endangered Species Act, the Lake or Streambed Alteration (LSA) Program, or other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that afford protection to the state's fish and wildlife trust resources.

## **REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

### *California Endangered Species Act*

Please be advised that a CESA Permit must be obtained if the Project has the potential to result in "take" of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the Project. Issuance of a CESA Permit is subject to CEQA documentation; the CEQA document must specify impacts, mitigation measures, and a mitigation monitoring and reporting program. If the Project will impact CESA listed species, early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to the Project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit.

CEQA requires a Mandatory Finding of Significance if a project is likely to substantially restrict the range or reduce the population of a threatened or endangered species. (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21001, subd. (c), 21083; CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15380, 15064, and 15065). Impacts



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must be avoided or mitigated to less-than-significant levels unless the CEQA Lead Agency makes and supports Findings of Overriding Consideration (FOC). The CEQA Lead Agency's FOC does not eliminate the Project proponent's obligation to comply with Fish and Game Code section 2080.

#### *Lake and Streambed Alteration*

CDFW requires an LSA Notification, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et. seq., for Project activities affecting lakes or streams and associated riparian habitat. Notification is required for any activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow; change or use material from the bed, channel, or bank including associated riparian or wetland resources; or deposit or dispose of material where it may pass into a river, lake or stream. Work within ephemeral streams, washes, watercourses with a subsurface flow, and floodplains are subject to notification requirements. CDFW will consider the CEQA document for the Project and may issue an LSA Agreement. CDFW may not execute the final LSA Agreement (or Incidental Take Permit) until it has complied with CEQA as a Responsible Agency.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**

Each University of California campus periodically prepares an LRDP, which provides a high-level planning framework to guide land use and capital investment in line with the campus's mission, priorities, strategic goals, and enrollment projections. The most recent LRDP (2020 LRDP) for UC Berkeley forecasted development through the year 2020. The LRDP Update will replace the current LRDP. The UC Regents adopted the previous 2020 LRDP and associated EIR on January 20, 2005. The previous LRDP requires updating to reflect new growth projections and plans.

The LRDP Update EIR will function as a Program EIR (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15168) that can be used in the environmental review of subsequent campus development projects during implementation of the LRDP Update. The LRDP Update EIR evaluates the physical environmental effects of the LRDP Update proposed development program that includes two specific student housing projects located off of the Campus Park. The site for Housing Project #1 is located west across Oxford Street from the UC Berkeley Campus Park, and is bounded by Oxford Street, University Avenue, Walnut Street, and Berkeley Way. The site for Housing Project #2 is located at the southwestern corner of the intersection of Bowditch Street and Haste Street, roughly 0.2 miles south of the UC Berkeley Campus Park 3.

The planning area for the LRDP Update and associated EIR includes properties owned by the UC Regents located within the City of Berkeley, as well as areas of the Hill Campus located within the City of Oakland and a portion of land located in unincorporated Contra Costa County. Specifically, the LRDP Update Planning Area includes the Campus Park, which is bounded by the hills to the east, Hearst Avenue to the north, Oxford Street to the west, and Bancroft Way to the south; the Hill Campus, which extends east from the Campus Park; campus environs north of the Campus Park to Ridge Road, west of the Campus Park to Shattuck Avenue, and south of the Campus Park to Dwight Way; the Clark Kerr Campus southeast of the Campus Park; and several satellite properties located within the City of Berkeley.

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The draft LRDP Update land use plan supports potential growth on the Campus Park and adjacent university property, Hill Campus, Clark Kerr Campus, and satellite properties within the City of Berkeley.

Academic, Research, and Support (Approximately 180-200 acres).

The majority of the identified program needs in this category will be accommodated on the Campus Park. The intention of the LRDP Update is to preserve the existing proportion of open space within the Campus Park.

Hill Campus (Approximately 800 acres)

Limited development, focusing primarily on expansion and renewal of existing academic, research, and public-facing uses, is expected in the Hill Campus. The remaining Hill Campus area, comprising the majority of its acreage, will continue to be used for purposes of recreation and managed to reduce wildfire risks and enhance biodiversity.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The 2020 draft LDRP EIR describes the environmental setting as located on the western slopes of the Berkeley Hills, occupying the upper watersheds of Strawberry and Claremont canyons. It contains two distinct areas, one the largely developed Campus Park, and the other the largely undeveloped Hill Campus. The City Environs, the lands to the south, north and west of the Campus Park, are extensively developed with urban uses, including residential, commercial, and institutional uses. Sensitive vegetation and wildlife resources are generally absent in the urbanized area surrounding the Campus Park due to its intensively developed character. The eastern edge of the Southside area, along the upper slopes of the Clark Kerr Campus and Smyth-Fernwald housing area, contain areas of undeveloped habitat. These areas include native woodlands and grasslands, and remnants of riparian habitat along the remaining segments of open creek channels.

### **Campus Park**

The Campus Park is an urbanized and landscaped area that contains the majority of UC Berkeley's academic and administrative space. The North and South Forks of Strawberry Creek and three designated Natural Areas bordering them are the most biologically important features on the Campus Park. Mature ornamental trees, shrubs and large areas of turf contribute to the landscaped character of the Campus Park.

### **Hill Campus**

The Hill Campus consists of approximately 800 acres east of the Campus Park, largely referred to as Strawberry Canyon, bordered by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Tilden Regional Park, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) watershed lands, and low-density residential development. The western side of the Hill Campus includes the Lawrence Hall of Science, the UC Botanical Garden, the Strawberry Recreation Area, and Charter ("Tightwad") Hill above Memorial Stadium.

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## COMMENTS

CDFW recommends that the draft EIR analyze all potential impacts to sensitive habitat types (e.g. grassland, riparian, wetland, forested and brush) and special-status species that could be present at each Project location. The 2020 draft LDRP EIR identified several special-status species that are known to or suspected to occur at Hill Campus including, but not limited to, the state and federally threatened Alameda whipsnake (*Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*) and the federally threatened and state species of special concern California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). Please be advised the Fish and Game Commission recently accepted the mountain lion (*Felis concolor*) Central Coast North Evolutionarily Significant Unit as a state candidate for listing as threatened. CDFW recommends avoiding impacts to areas that provide habitat for sensitive species.

Trees are present within the Project boundary and in adjacent residential areas. Both native and non-native trees provide nesting habitat for birds. CDFW recommends that the following measures be included in the draft EIR:

1. Nesting Bird Surveys: If Project-related work is scheduled during the nesting season (typically February 15 to August 30 for small bird species such as passerines; January 15 to September 15 for owls; and February 15 to September 15 for other raptors), CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct two surveys for active nests of such birds within 14 days prior to the beginning of Project construction, with a final survey conducted within 48 hours prior to construction. Appropriate minimum survey radii surrounding the work area are typically, the following but may differ even within species: i) 250 feet for passerines; ii) 500 feet for small raptors such as accipiters; and iii) 1,000 feet for larger raptors such as buteos. Surveys should be conducted at the appropriate times of day and during appropriate nesting times.
2. Active Nest Buffers: If the qualified biologist documents active nests within the Project area or in nearby surrounding areas, an appropriate buffer between the nest and active construction should be established. The buffer should be clearly marked and maintained until the young have fledged and are foraging independently. Prior to construction, the qualified biologist should conduct baseline monitoring of the nest to characterize "normal" bird behavior and establish a buffer distance which allows the birds to exhibit normal behavior. The qualified biologist should monitor the nesting birds daily during construction activities and increase the buffer if the birds show signs of unusual or distressed behavior (e.g. defensive flights and vocalizations, standing up from a brooding position, and/or flying away from the nest). If buffer establishment is not possible, the qualified biologist or construction foreman should have the authority to cease all construction work in the area until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active.
3. Hooded Lighting: Project lighting to be installed should be hooded or shielded to direct light downwards and to minimize the spillage of light outwards into adjacent areas where trees are present.

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CDFW is concerned regarding potential impacts to lakes and streams within the Project location. Due to the limited information provided in the NOP, CDFW is providing comments below with regards to potential impacts and mitigation measures for lakes and streams. CDFW recommends that the following measures be included in the draft EIR:

1. Habitat Assessment: A qualified biologist should conduct a habitat assessment in advance of Project implementation, to determine if the Project area or its immediate vicinity supports freshwater stream, wetland, and/or riparian communities. This survey should include, but not be limited to, Strawberry Creek or streams, and drainages. The assessment should include recommended stream buffers and setbacks.
2. Wetland Delineation: CDFW recommends a formal wetland delineation be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to Project construction to determine the location and extent of wetlands and riparian habitat present. Please note that, while there is overlap, State and Federal definitions of wetlands, as well as which activities require Notification pursuant to Fish and Game Code § 1602, differ. Therefore, CDFW further recommends that the delineation identify both State and Federal wetlands as well as which activities may require Notification to comply with Fish and Game Code.
3. Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration: Fish and Game Code §1602 requires an entity to notify CDFW prior to commencing any activity that may (a) substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; (b) substantially change or use any material from the bed, bank, or channel of any river, stream, or lake; (c) deposit debris, waste or other materials that could pass into any river, stream, or lake. CDFW is required to comply with CEQA in the issuance of an LSA Agreement. For additional information, please see <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA>.

CDFW recommends consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on potential impacts to federally listed species. Consultation with the USFWS in order to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act is advised well in advance of Project implementation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations. [Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e)]. Accordingly, please report any special-status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to CNDDDB. The CNDDDB field survey form can be found at the following link: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Submitting-Data#44524420-pdf-field-survey-form>. The completed form can be mailed electronically to CNDDDB at the following email address: [CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov). The types of information reported to CNDDDB can be found at the following link: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Plants-and-Animals>.

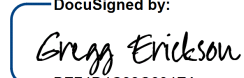
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## FILING FEES

CDFW anticipates that the Project will have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary (Fish and Game Code section 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, section 21089). Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project's NOP. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Marcia Grefsrud, Environmental Scientist, at (707) 644-2812 or [marcia.grefsrud@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:marcia.grefsrud@wildlife.ca.gov); or Ms. Brenda Blinn, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), at (707) 944-5541 or [brenda.blinn@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:brenda.blinn@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
BE74D4C93C604EA  
Gregg Erickson  
Regional Manager  
Bay Delta Region

cc: State Clearinghouse #2020040078  
Ryan Olah, USFWS – [ryan\\_olah@fws.gov](mailto:ryan_olah@fws.gov)



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## LRDP EIR comments: A brighter vision for Cal's next 150 years

1 message

Michael Katz [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Thu, May 7, 2020 at 12:25 AM

Dear Raphael Breines and colleagues,  
Please accept this revision of my earlier public comment on the 2037 LRDP and "Housing Project #2", read at the 4/27/20 public hearing.

### A brighter vision for Cal's next 150 years

**Bottom Line Up Front:** Given current and likely future circumstances, the EIR for the 2037 LRDP should study the overall benefits of a planning alternative that *shrinks* the campus' local population and physical footprint. Specifically, I suggest studying a rollback to the targets outlined in UCB's [1990–2005 LRDP](#): 30,000 students and 14,711 faculty/staff, for a total local population of 44,711 people, with a corresponding reduction in physical space occupied outside the central campus.

Benefits from slightly smaller enrollment (beyond the scope of this EIR) might include: higher quality of instruction, based on higher faculty/student ratios; higher quality of student life, based on a less impersonal environment; more-competitive faculty recruitment, based on more-selective student admissions; and greater resilience against future financial and natural disasters, based on lower campus fixed costs and overhead.

My lifetime Cal Alumni Association membership reflects my enduring gratitude for the excellent and affordable graduate education I received at Cal.

I wish I could place corresponding pride and confidence in this great learning institution's ability to learn – from evidence, and from its own past errors.

In a changed world of global pandemics and physical distancing, Cal's proposed 16- and 11-story towers on People's Park are simply insane. New York City's catastrophic rates of C-19 infection and deaths demonstrate that high-density buildings, with elevator-only access, spread contagious diseases with hideous speed.

Just one block north of People's Park, Cal's recently built "Anna Head West" dorms provide 424 units in attractive, contextual, low-rise buildings accessible by multiple stairways. For People's Park, Cal's architects offered a similar low-rise layout called "2.8 Spoke." This layout would admittedly leave less room on the block for uses other than student housing. But if student dorms are the highest priority, amid the recent explosion in regional housing costs, I believe the community will ultimately accept that trade-off.

Unfortunately, rather than replicate success, Cal is arrogantly insisting on a monstrosity that will be impossible to bond (finance) and unsafe to occupy. This is as super-stupid as the supersized athletic facility that Cal insisted on building directly above the Hayward Fault. That deficit-plagued white elephant will drain the campus' athletics and (most likely) academic budget for at least a century.

The People's Park proposal would loom nearly twice as high as anything Cal has ever previously imposed on Southside. This proposal, alone, presents the best case ever (among many previous examples) for voters to simply end UC's archaic constitutional exemption from municipal zoning controls. In any construction outside campus' historic 1873 boundaries, UC is imposing significant impacts on what is now one of California's densest cities. In this 21st-century reality, UC's actions should be 100% subject to adjudication by local voters, and by their elected and appointed officials.

At its "Upper Hearst Project," and on the Oxford Tract, Cal threatens more out-of-scale megastructures that would degrade livability for its own students, faculty, staff, and broader community. (The Oxford Tract's rare patch of open land has provided breathing room for generations of students living on both sides of its block – making it a unique and irreplaceable resource.)

The demolitions of Tolman Hall and 2223 Fulton Street offer ample footprints for high-capacity, truly *on-campus* student housing. Yet Cal arbitrarily refuses to build any housing on its main campus, clinging to an accidental precedent that has no clear rationale. If dorms are good enough for Harvard Yard, why not for Cal?

Cal's refusal to locate even a single dorm bed on its main campus lags behind perhaps every other university and college on Earth. Comparably built-out campuses like UCLA (my other alma mater) are eagerly replacing antiquated central academic and lab buildings with needed student housing.

Beyond the Tolman Hall and 2223 Fulton St. brownfields, what exactly does Cal intend to do with the large, seismically doomed, original University Art Museum site between Bancroft Way and Durant Ave.? Or the nearby low-rise "Hearst Field Annex" temp buildings, which were erected as temporary homes for Pacific Film Archive and College of Environmental Design classrooms? If Cal wants to put dense student housing somewhere, probably the least disruptive "opportunity site" is right here, directly south of looming Barrows Hall.

Let me shift the remainder of my comments to a broader, underlying issue: This campus' fundamental problem is addiction to growth – and enslavement to a growth model from a bygone century.

Cal's current population of 39,708 already exceeds its 2020 LRDP commitment by 19% (6,258 people), leading to lawsuits for uncompensated impacts on the City. For 2037, Cal proposes to supersize its 2020 target by an astounding 44%.

The question for Cal leadership is not *how* to grow by half again, by why? Does anyone seriously deny that the quality of instruction (at all levels) and administration will significantly decline at this still more impersonal scale? How many tenured Cal faculty members send their own children to Cal – versus smaller liberal-arts colleges, where students have a chance to actually interact with their professors?

Clark Kerr, UC's president during a past rapid expansion, is notorious today for comparing the university to a corporation. Indeed, for-profit corporations must continually grow, to reward their shareholders with higher revenues and valuations.

But UC is a nonprofit, whose shareholders are California taxpayers. And this dot-edu will soon face a massive funding deficit. If Cal's current leaders want to retain the public's loyalty – and to be remembered as visionaries, rather than reviled as punch lines like Clark Kerr – they must adapt to the new world of distributed learning and research collaborations.

Cal should be aiming to stabilize and reduce – not expand – its local population, its physical footprint outside its central campus, and its expensive empire of real-estate follies.

Cal has successfully moved all instruction online this spring. Its brightest future lies in expanding on this trend of virtual knowledge-sharing. In this LRDP's planning horizon of 2020–2037, there is simply no reason why all UC Berkeley–affiliated (or –branded) research and instruction must occur in jammed, expensive Berkeley.

Harvard and other major universities earn renown for scholarship conducted worldwide, by developing funding to bestow research fellowships on prominent and emerging scholars in tenured and tenure-track positions at other institutions. Carnegie Mellon has transplanted its prominence in digital engineering to a Silicon Valley campus at Moffett Field, where it offers five master's programs. I'm aware of no Cal expansions like these, beyond a "Berkeley-Columbia Executive MBA Program" that enrolled students alternately on both campuses, and was canceled in 2013.

Cal helped build the foundations of today's Internet – through important innovations like Berkeley Unix, and through distinguished alumni like Sun Microsystems' Bill Joy. It's time for this campus to get a real return on its research investment.

It's time for Cal to finally, virtually fulfill its promise to provide extension benefits to residents and taxpayers up and down the state. And to share its research and teaching best practices, so that undergraduate degrees from every UC campus – including newer campuses with greenfields to expand into – will be as prestigious as Cal degrees.

If a smaller, more cohesive Cal sounds like a counterintuitive goal, this campus has interesting recent precedents for planning for – and thriving with – negative growth:

- Above, I recommended studying a re-adoption of the [1990–2005 LRDP](#)'s target enrollment of 30,000 students. Surprisingly, when that document was prepared in fall 1988, the actual enrollment was 31,364 students. So Cal's own recent planning practice offers a precedent of planning for a moderate decrease in enrollment. (As newer UC campuses expand enrollment – while enhancing their research and teaching capabilities and reputations – the UC system's flagship campus can afford to be more selective.)
- Cal's [2005–2020 LRDP](#) set a target faculty/staff population of 15,810 people in 2020. Yet the actual 2018/19 faculty/staff headcount was only 15,421 people. Without wading into the controversy of adjunct versus tenure-track academic staffing, this is an immediate precedent for maintaining Cal's tradition of academic excellence while hiring substantially below earlier targets – even after years of expansion in California's economy.

In conclusion: Cal's most sustainable future lies in physical contraction and virtual expansion. Please acknowledge this new reality, and turn it into a bright reality that benefits UC Berkeley's population as well as the state's. Fiat Lux 'n' stuff.

Respectfully yours,  
Michael Katz  
Berkeley 94709



## THE ALTOGETHER ARCANES

1.

We're this altogether, as in  
naked, thing, this springtime  
development of a process  
that might be, for all

the friendship that comes  
from more than a few  
years and through many  
actions, struggles,

many deaths, to love more  
than ourselves and each  
other, to include another  
human being, first of all,

intimately and alternatively,  
to bring the near and far  
together not as a blink on  
a computer screen, not

as an image on television  
or even as the lustily forlorn  
as in a pornography, but for  
the deepest preparation.

2.

This isn't a time for massing.  
Not just yet. This certainly  
isn't the time for storming.  
Not just yet.

But to overcome the death,  
the hollow bankruptcy of  
feeling that's come with our

slavery to the state of the

world isn't easy. Only the  
simplest responses, only  
the most simple feelings  
will do. The rest's a lie,

the rest will stay nowhere,  
nowhere left, get nowhere  
fast; the rest w'll remain  
urbanely unable to lead

the people dying to a life  
beyond the daily holocaust  
and the chance for survival,  
—I'm singing of a world

without death—but how is  
that possible, after all who've  
died? I'm certainly going to.  
You're going to also. How

Then can there be a living  
That's not going toward  
death? O Brother, Sister,  
Comrade, Friend, get rid

of your mind for a moment!  
Let the monumental face  
that really is yours rise in  
you and take place again

in that skull-case you've  
shown the world these  
years, a face of the poor  
and the just, of simple

heart made light the future  
looks irresistibly out of, and  
speaks through you those

co-operations, resounding

understandings, multiplying  
certainties in what's to be  
done, that face yours, whose  
cry: REVOLUTION! can't die!



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**public comment on people's park proposal**

1 message

**Martin Hickel** [REDACTED]

Sun, May 10, 2020 at 6:13 PM

To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)***normally***

those whose entire lives  
normally waste away  
hidden by the glassy stare  
of dead-eyed oppression  
trapped in a lockdown  
enforced by class & race  
might well be wondering now  
how you like this shit...  
knowing as they must  
poverty is a bitch -- whatever  
your fake-ass profit-based  
motive for helping inflict it

Martin Hickel  
P.O. Box 5127  
Ignacio, CA 94948



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**proposed "developments"**

1 message

**Jim Powell** [REDACTED]

Sun, May 10, 2020 at 1:37 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear "Planning@berkeley.edu":

I am writing regarding the proposed "developments" in People's Park and elsewhere and regarding UC Berkeley's "plans" generally. I am a UC Berkeley alumnus, a Berkeley native, a Berkeley resident, and a MacArthur Fellow.

- 1) I oppose ANY development on People's Park. This land needs to be transferred to the City of Berkeley and turned into a City park.
- 2) The proposed "16-storey" -- or half that -- scale of the tower proposed for People's Park is grotesquely out of scale with the neighborhood. This is obvious. The southside needs more open space, not UC Berkeley's continuing community-wrecking. The proposal demonstrates the vicious unconcern -- indeed, intentness on harm -- of the proposers.
- 3) UC Berkeley's continuing to drastically expand its student body is the number one cause of our town's housing problems. The proposed further expansion of enrollment by another 10,000 (is it?) over the next few years amounts to an attack on my community and it reflects a mind-set of vicious disrespect -- a willingness to harm -- that is a disgrace to the University and to all involved. I categorically oppose it. SHAME ON YOU.
- 4) Further "development" of the Berkeley campus should take place ONLY ON THE CAMPUS. If you want to densify, densify the campus. STOP WRECKING BERKELEY.
- 5) The behavior of UC Berkeley now and throughout recent decades vis-a-vis the community of Berkeley (and much else) is a disgrace to our community, to the University, to the State, to humanity, to the values it claims to espouse. Fiat Lux is the University motto but its behavior says Fiat Ruiinae.

Jim Powell

--

Dwight Way, N<sup>o</sup> 4  
Berkeley, California  
94704-2324

May 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
300 A & E Bldg. Berkeley, California  
94720-1382

Dear Raphael,

As a neighbor of People's Park since 1989, I take exception to "Environmental Factors Not Affected" by the proposed building project on Peoples Park.

To say that the project will have "No Impact", aesthetically, is fundamentally mistaken. Because People's Park can not be seen from a state scenic highway does not mean there will be no aesthetic loss by cutting down trees and putting up buildings on the sight site.

It is sad to see the university resort to such a feeble justification for claiming there would be no aesthetic impact by building upon the site of People's Park. Even if routes 80, 580, 24 & 13 were designated as scenic highways, People's Park is not visible from any of those routes. How fatuous to ascribe to the car culture the authority to determine whether or not a building project may have any aesthetic impact.

Aesthetics, of course, are not limited to that which can be seen. With the loss of trees & open space, and with the construction of buildings at People's Park, then gone will be the flocks of birds, their nests, the call of the Mourning Dove and the Jay, the chatter of squirrels, the fragrance of Redwood, Oak, and other trees.

To say, also, that no farmland would be displaced, by building on People's Park, is incorrect. The soil in People's Park provides good ground for raising vegetables, fruit & nut trees, and fiber crops. I have planted a thriving garden of flax in the park, and have picked apples there, every Autumn.

The University of California can set a good example of urban agriculture at the site of People's Park. The park is a unique opportunity to establish an urban farm, free of chemicals — requiring no semi-trucks to transport the produce to flour-

not felt the patter of rain for generations.

It has become inefficent to be growing melons, almonds, etc. in Manteca, and trucking the produce to Berkeley. With the end of oil approaching, we would all do well to grow our produce locally — and student dining commons stand in proximity to the park.

Students of Plant & Soil Biology, Conservation & Resource Studies, Botany, etc. could work the farm between Dwight & Haste at Bowditch, receive credit toward their major, supply the student dining commons with fresh produce, sell produce at farmers' markets, learn farming skills.

Better that, than to have yet another city block fall to the bulldozer, steel-reinforced concrete, and the loss of urban farmland.

In 1868, the University of California began with the merging of Henry Durant's College of California and the Agricultural, Mining & Mechanical Arts College. By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the University had excelled in the fields of Agriculture, the Humanities, and Engineering.

We ought not to stray from our agrarian roots any further than we have — but even to grow back toward our origin, and reclaim some of the farming skills of our grand parents.

Fiat lux —

Michael Lang  
MICHAEL LANG, '91

cc: Governor Newsom  
State Senator Skinner  
Mayor Arreguin  
Chancellor Christ



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## Inappropriate Development Plan

1 message

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**Lisa Houston** [REDACTED]

Tue, May 12, 2020 at 3:55 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

To whom it may concern,

As a native of Berkeley, I protest the idea of going forward with UC's planned development on the historic site of People's Park. In addition to many preservationist issues which have doubtless been well-voiced by others, the current global health crisis should precipitate at the very least a delay, to allow for more public comment and also for a thoughtful revisioning of the University's future.

The timing of the deadline for public comment is appropriate as so much of the population is currently concerned in a day-to-day way with survival, major job loss, and other practical factors that make consideration of this plan an extremely low priority for very understandable reasons. Therefor the public must be given more time to respond to such a major change in central Berkeley.

Additionally, the role of remote learning can and should be factored in more heavily to UC's plans, and that simply cannot be fully considered in time for this projected development. The impact of this health crisis on public behavior vis-a-vis commuting and remote learning is as yet unknown, nor has there been adequate time for UC to consider in the wake of this crisis the various video and online options which have quickly become the norm, and which many students may prefer in the near future.

Meanwhile, making a significant and permanent change to the look and feel of Berkeley's beloved Telegraph avenue should simply not happen at this particular moment without more complete consideration of these issues, along with a commensurate, non-crisis time period for people's voices to be heard.

If People's Park has not been all it could be in recent years, I hope anyone who loves Berkeley would still agree that hearing the voices of the People matters fundamentally, and when people are struggling to find basic necessities, preoccupied with health concerns for themselves and their families, not to mention making their rents and mortgages, UC should not be permitted to move ahead. It is a kind of dead-of-night appointment, a maneuver that intentionally or unintentionally takes advantage of the crisis to push forward their own interests.

Surely such action is not at all befitting either a town of University with such noble and meaningful traditions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Houston

[www.SingerSpirit.com](http://www.SingerSpirit.com)

MAY 12, 2020

RAPHAEL BREINES  
SENIOR PLANNER  
PHYSICAL and ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BERKELEY CA 947 20

COMMENTS ON THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY  
LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE AND HOUSING  
PROJECTS #1 and #2.

TO PROPERLY RESPOND TO THIS DOCUMENT, ONE WOULD FIRST  
NEED TO KNOW A SERIOUS AMOUNT OF BACKGROUND ON THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS, LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT  
PLANS AND THEIR UPDATES as well as the difference between  
the PROGRAMMATIC LEVEL and a PROJECT-SPECIFIC  
ANALYSIS, also the FORECAST HORIZON, INITIAL STUDIES,  
CEQA GUIDELINES, MITIGATION MEASURES, CUMULATIVE EFFECTS,  
LEAD AGENCY, SCOPING SESSIONS, AND STATUTORY  
RESPONSIBILITIES. THESE ALL HAVE IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES.

THIS IS A CONFUSING DOCUMENT LACKING CLEAR INFORMATION  
TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THIS DOCUMENT IS ALL  
ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY'S PLANS TO KEEP EXPANDING  
NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, AND IF THE INDIVIDUALS AND  
INTERESTED PUBLIC DON'T LIKE IT THEY HAVE BUT A  
SHORT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN WHY. IS U.C. LISTENING?

THE PAPER MAPS THAT WERE INCLUDED IN MY COPY OF  
THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION WERE HELPFUL HOWEVER,  
AND WOULD BE USEFUL TO THOSE ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE  
THE VARIOUS SITES MENTIONED IN THE TEXT.



THERE IS REALLY NO GETTING AROUND THE FACT THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IN BERKELEY HAS LONG AGO EXCEEDED ITS BOUNDARIES. A SERIES OF MAPS SHOWING THE EXPANSION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE EIR AND L.R.D.P. TO COME. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE U.C. : 'UNIVERSITY OF CONSTRUCTION' THINKS NOTHING OF HOPPING ACROSS OXFORD STREET, HEARST AVENUE, AND BANCROFT WAY TO CLAIM PROPERTY THAT IT FEELS IT NEEDS AND IS SOMEHOW ENTITLED TO.

PAGES 1, 2, 3 and 4 IN THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION SAYS AS MUCH. IF, AS IS INDICATED, 200+ MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD IN RELATION TO THE UNIVERSITY LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND EIR, AND IF THOSE ATTENDING THE EVENTS HAVE SPOKEN OUT ABOUT CONGESTION, OVER-CROWDING, AND DIMINISHING QUALITY OF LIFE DUE TO UNIVERSITY ACTIONS, THEN THE UNIVERSITY SHOULD HEED THESE COMMENTS. THE FOLKS THAT ATTEND THESE MEETINGS SHOULD BE FAIRLY HEARD AND THEIR COMMENTS REGISTERED. TO DO OTHERWISE WILL REDUCE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TO MERE TALLY-MARKS ON A U.C. ATTENDANCE CHART.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE STATE-WIDE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM THAT WAS INTENDED TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON THE ORIGINAL BERKELEY CAMPUS - NOW REFERRED TO AS 'CAMPUS PARK'. IT IS INDEED AN ATTRACTIVE AREA IN GENERAL, WHY IS FURTHER CONSTRUCTION NEEDED - IF IT IS BECAUSE OF INCREASES IN UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ENROLLMENT, THEN THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF IS THE PERFECT ENTITY TO CONTROL IT. "LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS" IS VALID ADVICE, THE MOST DISCOURAGING SENTENCE IN THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT: "IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL PROJECTED FUTURE SPACE DEMAND ON CAMPUS PARK SITES. OTHER PROGRAM NEEDS, INCLUDING HOUSING, WILL NEED TO BE ACCOMMODATED OUTSIDE CAMPUS PARK SITES".

IT HAS BEEN MENTIONED MANY TIMES THAT THE UNIVERSITY, AS A TAX-EXEMPT ENTITY, DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ITS EFFECT ON THE COMMUNITY TAX BASE. TO REQUIRE THE COMMUNITY SURROUNDING THE UNIVERSITY TO FURTHER ACCOMMODATE U.C. NEEDS IS UNREASONABLE. THE U.C. NEEDS TO PRESENT THE LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLANS HONESTLY, THE MAGNITUDE OF L.R.D.P. NEEDS TO BE PRESENTED IN A SEPARATE DOCUMENT, AND NOT TUCKED IN WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT- WHICH CONCERNS THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ABILITY OF HUMANS TO CO-EXIST WITH WITH A HEALTHY PLANET.

SIMILARLY, PROJECTS #1 and #2 WHICH CONCERN TWO IMMINENT MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SHOULD NOT BE ROLLED INTO ONE MULTIPURPOSE ATTEMPT TO AVOID UNDERSTANDING AND SCRUTINY.

THANKS FOR DELIVERING MY PAPER COPY OF THIS NOTICE. I WILL ALSO NEED A PAPER COPY OF ANY FUTURE REPORTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY ON THIS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS. I AM WILLING TO PAY REASONABLE COSTS FOR THE COPIES AND POSTAGE OF PRINTED MATTER DELIVERED TO MY ADDRESS.

BARBARA ROBBEN

EL DORADO

BERKELEY CA 94707



Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

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## Support dense housing at People's Park

1 message

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**Kevin Burke** [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Wed, May 13, 2020 at 9:43 AM

Berkeley students need a lot of housing and a denser, taller structure makes more sense from a cost/benefit analysis.  
Please build this building as tall as possible.

Kevin

May 13, 2020

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
300 A&E Building  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Re: LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR

Dear Mr. Breines:

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the University of California, Berkeley Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 located in the City of Berkeley (City). EBMUD has the following comments.

#### **WATER SERVICE**

Pursuant to Section 15155 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines and Sections 10910-10915 of the California Water Code, the proposed project meets the threshold requirement for a Water Supply Assessment (WSA). While EBMUD approved a WSA on January 29, 2004 for the project proposed at that time, it is unclear if the water demands for the modified project are greater than the currently approved WSA. Please submit a written request to EBMUD to prepare a revised WSA. EBMUD requires the project sponsor to provide future water demand data and estimates for the project site for the analysis of the WSA. Please be aware that the WSA can take up to 90 days to complete from the day on which the request is received.

EBMUD's Berryman Pressure Zone, with a service elevation range between 200 and 400 feet, will serve the proposed development. Individual units in a newly built multi-occupancy commercial premise shall be individually metered. Off-site pipeline improvements, at the project sponsor's expense, may be required to serve the proposed development. Off-site pipeline improvements include, but are not limited to, replacement of existing pipelines to the project site. When the development plans are finalized, the project sponsor should contact EBMUD's New Business Office and request a water service estimate to determine costs and conditions for providing water service to the proposed development. Engineering and installation of water mains and services require substantial lead time, which should be provided for in the project sponsor's development schedule.

EBMUD's Standard Site Assessment Report indicates the potential for contaminated soils or groundwater to be present within the project site boundaries. The project sponsor should be aware that EBMUD will not install piping or services in contaminated soil or groundwater (if groundwater is present at any time during the year at the depth piping is to be installed) that must be handled as a hazardous waste or that may be hazardous to the health and safety of construction and maintenance personnel wearing Level D personal protective equipment. Nor will EBMUD install piping or services in areas where groundwater contaminant concentrations exceed specified limits for discharge to the sanitary sewer system and sewage treatment plants. The project sponsor must submit copies to EBMUD of all known information regarding soil and groundwater quality within or adjacent to the project boundary and a legally sufficient, complete and specific written remediation plan establishing the methodology, planning and design of all necessary systems for the removal, treatment, and disposal of contaminated soil and groundwater.

EBMUD will not design piping or services until soil and groundwater quality data and remediation plans have been received and reviewed and will not start underground work until remediation has been carried out and documentation of the effectiveness of the remediation has been received and reviewed. If no soil or groundwater quality data exists, or the information supplied by the project sponsor is insufficient, EBMUD may require the project sponsor to perform sampling and analysis to characterize the soil and groundwater that may be encountered during excavation, or EBMUD may perform such sampling and analysis at the project sponsor's expense. If evidence of contamination is discovered during EBMUD work on the project site, work may be suspended until such contamination is adequately characterized and remediated to EBMUD standards.

## **WASTEWATER SERVICE**

EBMUD's Main Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWWTP) and interceptor system are anticipated to have adequate dry weather capacity to accommodate the proposed wastewater flows from this project and to treat such flows provided that the wastewater generated by the project meets the requirements of the EBMUD Wastewater Control Ordinance. However, wet weather flows are a concern. The East Bay regional wastewater collection system experiences exceptionally high peak flows during storms due to excessive infiltration and inflow (I/I) that enters the system through cracks and misconnections in both public and private sewer lines. EBMUD has historically operated three Wet Weather Facilities (WWFs) to provide primary treatment and disinfection for peak wet weather flows that exceed the treatment capacity of the MWWTP. Due to reinterpretation of applicable law, EBMUD's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit now prohibits discharges from EBMUD's WWFs. Additionally, the seven wastewater collection system agencies that discharge to the EBMUD wastewater interceptor system ("Satellite Agencies") hold NPDES permits that prohibit them from causing or contributing to WWF discharges. These NPDES permits have removed the regulatory coverage the East Bay wastewater agencies once relied upon to manage peak wet weather flows.



A federal consent decree, negotiated among EBMUD, the Satellite Agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), requires EBMUD and the Satellite Agencies to eliminate WWF discharges by 2036. To meet this requirement, actions will need to be taken over time to reduce I/I in the system. The consent decree requires EBMUD to continue implementation of its Regional Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance ([www.eastbaypsl.com](http://www.eastbaypsl.com)), construct various improvements to its interceptor system, and identify key areas of inflow and rapid infiltration over a 22-year period. Over the same time period, the consent decree requires the Satellite Agencies to perform I/I reduction work including sewer main rehabilitation and elimination of inflow sources. EBMUD and the Satellite Agencies must jointly demonstrate at specified intervals that this work has resulted in a sufficient, pre-determined level of reduction in WWF discharges. If sufficient I/I reductions are not achieved, additional investment into the region's wastewater infrastructure would be required, which may result in significant financial implications for East Bay residents.

To ensure that the proposed project contributes to these legally required I/I reductions, the lead agency should require the project sponsor to comply with EBMUD's Regional Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance. Additionally, it would be prudent for the lead agency to require the following mitigation measures for the proposed project: (1) replace or rehabilitate any existing sanitary sewer collection systems, including sewer lateral lines to ensure that such systems and lines are free from defects or, alternatively, disconnected from the sanitary sewer system, and (2) ensure any new wastewater collection systems, including sewer lateral lines, for the project are constructed to prevent I/I to the maximum extent feasible while meeting all requirements contained in the Regional Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance and applicable municipal codes or Satellite Agency ordinances.

## **WATER RECYCLING**

EBMUD's Policy 9.05 requires that customers use non-potable water, including recycled water, for non-domestic purposes when it is of adequate quality and quantity, available at reasonable cost, not detrimental to public health and not injurious to plant, fish and wildlife to offset demand on EBMUD's limited potable water supply. Appropriate recycled water uses include landscape irrigation, commercial and industrial process uses, toilet and urinal flushing in non-residential buildings, and other applications.

The project is not currently a candidate for recycled water, however, and depending on the project's implementation schedule and water demand, a future recycled water pipeline expansion could potentially serve various components of the LRDP including the Housing Projects #1 and #2. Recycled water is appropriate for outdoor landscape irrigation and EBMUD is evaluating options of recycled water for in-building non-potable use. As EBMUD further plans its recycled water program, feasibility of providing recycled water to this area may change. EBMUD encourages the project sponsor to continue to coordinate

closely with EBMUD during the planning of the project to further explore the options and requirements relating to recycled water use.

## **WATER CONSERVATION**

The proposed project presents an opportunity to incorporate water conservation measures. EBMUD requests that the lead agency include in its conditions of approval a requirement that the project sponsor comply with Assembly Bill 325, "Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance," (Division 2, Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 2.7, Sections 490 through 495). The project sponsor should be aware that Section 31 of EBMUD's Water Service Regulations requires that water service shall not be furnished for new or expanded service unless all the applicable water-efficiency measures described in the regulation are installed at the project sponsor's expense.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Timothy R. McGowan, Senior Civil Engineer, Major Facilities Planning Section at (510) 287-1981.

Sincerely,



David J. Rehnstrom  
Manager of Water Distribution Planning

DJR:CB:bf  
sb20\_71



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR**

1 message

**Mike Lang** [REDACTED]

Wed, May 13, 2020 at 4:25 PM

To: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Cc: [REDACTED]

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California Berkeley  
300 A & E Bldg. Berkeley, California  
94702-1382

Dear Raphael,

As a neighbor People's Park since 1989, I take exception to "Environmental Factors Not Affected" by the proposed building project on People's Park.

To say that the project will have "No Impact", aesthetically, is fundamentally mistaken. Because People's Park cannot be seen from a state scenic highway does not mean there will no aesthetic loss by cutting down trees and putting up buildings on the site.

It is sad to see the university resort to such a feeble justification for claiming there would be no aesthetic impact by building upon the site of People's Park. Even if routes 80, 580, 24 & 13 were designated as scenic highways, People's Park is not visible from any of those routes. How fatuous to ascribe to the car culture the authority to determine whether or not a building project may have any aesthetic impact.

Aesthetics, of course, are not limited to that which can be seen. With the loss of trees and open space, and with the construction of buildings at People's Park, gone will be the flocks of birds, their nests, the call of the Mourning Dove and the Jay, the chatter of squirrels, the fragrance of Redwood, Oak and other trees.

To say, also, that no farmland would be displaced, by building on People's Park, is incorrect. The soil in People's Park provides good ground for raising vegetables, fruit and nut trees, and fiber crops. I have planted a thriving garden of flax in the park and have picked apples there, every Autumn.

The University of California can set a good example of urban agriculture at the site of People's Park. The park is a unique opportunity to establish an urban farm, free of chemicals - requiring no semi-truck to transport the produce to fluorescently lit supermarkets surrounded by acres of asphalt parking lots, beneath which the soil has not felt the pattering of rain for generations.

It has become inefficient to be growing melons, almonds etc. in Manteca and trucking the produce to Berkeley. With the end of oil approaching, we would all do well to grow our produce locally - and student dining commons stand in proximity to the park.

Students of Plant & Soil Biology, Conservation & Resource Studies, Botany, etc. could work the farm between Dwight & Haste at Bowditch, receive credit toward their major, supply the student dining commons with fresh produce, sell produce at farmer's markets, and learn farming and business skills.

Better that, than to have yet another city block fall to the bulldozer, steel-reinforced concrete, and the loss of urban farmland.

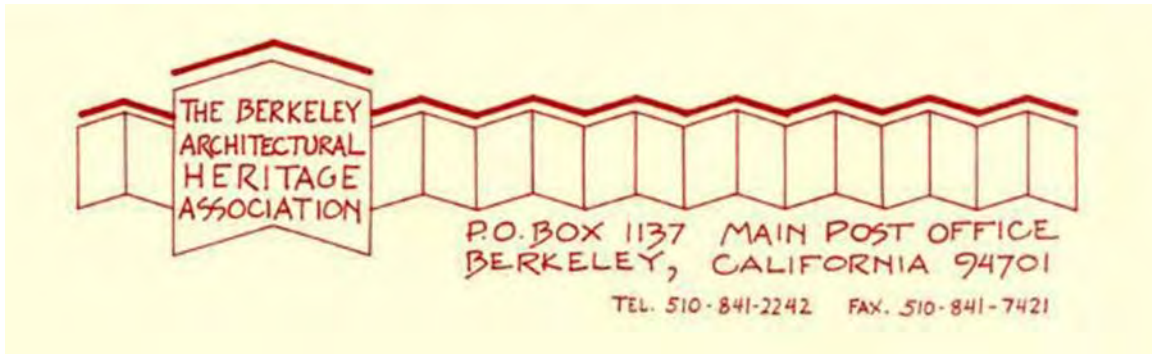
In 1868, the University of California began with the merging of Henry Durant's College of California and the Agricultural, Mining & Mechanical Arts college. By the turn of the 20th Century, the University had excelled in the fields of Agriculture, the Humanities, and Engineering.



We ought not to stray from our agrarian roots any further than we have - but even to grow back toward our origin, and reclaim some of the skills of our grandparents.

Fiat lux,  
Michael Lang, '91

cc.  
Governor Newsom  
State Senator Skinner  
Mayor Arreguin  
Chancellor Christ  
President Napolitano  
Professor Brechin  
etal.



May 15, 2020

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
300 A&E Building  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Also sent by email to: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Re: Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Dear Mr Breines:

This is in response to the University of California, Berkeley's (UCB) scoping session hearing for its proposed LRDP.

**A. Request to Keep Open the Response Period**

We request a 60-day continuance of the May 15, 2020 deadline for responses to the scoping session, which took place on April 27, 2020, and Notice of Preparation (NOP) due to the state-ordered Covid-19 quarantine. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) is complying with the order and our office is closed. This is a difficult time for all citizens due to layoffs, closure of businesses, and concern for their own and their loved ones' health, related to this infectious and deadly disease. There is no legal or other justification for refusing to grant our request. Most agencies routinely grant them for far less compelling reasons in the interest of including the public in the project vetting process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
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Berkeley, CA 94720-1382  
Re: Scoping Session Response  
May 15, 2020  
Page 2

There is insufficient summary information about the proposed project on your website and video presentation, a lack which also supports our request for a continuance. We need to obtain the 2036-7 draft LRDP and its supporting documents, including studies and conceptual development plans. Please let us know how we may expeditiously obtain these documents and your preferred method for making our written request. A request for public records (PRA) will cause unnecessary delay and further disadvantage our nonprofit from fully participating in the scoping session.

If UCB denies our request for a continuance, we reserve our right to respond to the scoping process beyond the deadline of May 15, 2020. Meantime, we will do our best to partially respond.

From the information available to us at this point our concerns pertain to two aspects of the proposed project: demographic (specifically the size of the student cohort), and spatial (specifically the changes proposed in the built environment of the City of Berkeley). Both the enlarging of the student body and the building projects envisioned will fundamentally impact the city, its character, its livability, and its already stressed infrastructure.

## **B. Project Description**

The project description will be a significant part of the EIR. The tables that you provide in the scoping session video raise issues that must be more fully explained in the EIR. For example, Table 1 is entitled, "Current Population and LRDP Update Population Projections." According to this table, the 2020 LRDP Population Projection, published in January 2005, was 33,450 students and yet, the current population shown in the next column is 39,708. (Video slide, April 27, 2020, p. 7, Exhibit (Exh.) 1, attached.) The EIR should explain this discrepancy of 6,258 additional students. Was this an "over-enrollment" that UCB did not anticipate in January 2005 when it published the 2020 LRDP? If these additional students were not included in the EIR supporting the 2020 LRDP, published in January 2005, they should be included in the EIR for the 2036-37 LRDP with a discussion of potential environmental impacts related to them.

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The second column from the right shows a total number of students that UCB projects for the 2036-37 academic year: 48,200, a 14,750 enrollment increase from the 2020 LRDP number (33,450), published in January 2005, and an 8,492 increase from the current enrollment (39,708). These numbers raise a baseline issue for purposes of the current EIR. Normally, the EIR would study the difference between the current physical conditions, i.e., current enrollment of 39,708 compared with the proposed increase of enrollment (8,492). However, that would overlook any environmental impacts from the 6,258 students *in combination* with the anticipated 8,492 students. The EIR would then reflect a skewed analysis of impacts by reviewing enrollment of only 8,492 instead of 14,750, the true enrollment difference between the 2020 LRDP, published in January 2005, and the 2036-37 LRDP. Accordingly, it must analyze potential significant impacts for 14,750 additional students over the 2020 LRDP, published in January 2005, of 33,450 students.

The columns identifying types of students, faculty, and staff are incomplete for CEQA purposes because they do not show all of the categories. For example, students are divided between undergraduates and graduates but limiting the enrollment statistics to just these two categories excludes extension, part-time, short and long-term visiting students from other universities, and individuals auditing classes. Dividing employees between faculty and staff overlooks part-time, volunteer, tutor, and visiting employees. Because the data regarding the number of students and employees is incomplete, the projections for 1.1% anticipated growth is also inaccurate.

To avoid an inaccurate project description, the EIR must present the full 2020 LRDP, published in January 2005, enrollment and number of employees, the current numbers for each category, and the projected growth numbers for the 2036-37 LRDP. This data should appear in one or more charts with a full explanation regarding how the EIR preparers obtained the supporting data for any of its numbers in the chart. Otherwise, any analysis of environmental impact conclusions will be incomplete.

Further, a revised table showing current and additional students and employees should clarify whether each number classification represents full time equivalents (FTE) or Headcount (actual number of people). Impacts will be different. For example, if two

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half time students are commuting to campus by car, they would not be appropriately counted as one FTE since they represent the physical presence and impact of two individuals.

Tables 2 and 3 describe the projected physical growth of UCB. (Exh. 2, pp. 8-9.) These two tables use a different presentation of the data than Table 1. In addition to Tables 2 and 3, the EIR should break down the data in a similar way as shown for Table 1, i.e., columns for the 2020 LRDP, published in January 2005, square feet, the current square feet, and the proposed additional square feet. Otherwise, it is not clear exactly how much additional space has been already added and how much more the 2036-37 LRDP is adding.

It is unclear from the tables whether the increased square footage projected to exist by the 2036-37 academic year includes uses that are not for offices, recreation, housing, or education. For example, we understand that UCB currently has four dining facilities. How many more will be needed to serve the 14,750 students, any additional employees, and visitors? This should be explained in the EIR along with the potential impacts of constructing these additional facilities that are not strictly for academic purposes.

Table 3 indicates that the proposed LRDP contemplates providing 11,710 new beds (11,350 student beds + 360 faculty beds). (Exh. 2, pp. 8-9.) The two slides, entitled "Buildout assumptions for Housing Project #1" (University Garage, 1952 Oxford St., renamed "Gateway" by UCB) and "Buildout assumptions for Housing Project #2" (People's Park) indicate how many student beds UCB plans for these two projects (Exh. 3, pp. 13-14.) The Gateway project proposes adding 850 beds and the People's Park project proposes adding 1,200 beds for a total of 2,050 student beds. This leaves 9,660 beds ( $11,710 - 2,050 = 9,660$ ) unaccounted for. According to the buildout slides on pages 13 and 14 (Exh. 3), none of the 2,050 beds are for faculty. The EIR project description needs to explain how and where UCB plans to build its projects to provide the other 9,660 beds, preliminary to analyzing the environmental impacts from these projects.

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The slide entitled, "Land Use Categories for Potential Growth" on page 11 (Exh. 4), under "Mixed Use/Other Programs," states that UCB has identified for its housing redevelopment a need for "approximately 35 to 55 acres." Assuming that a typical block in the area of the campus is about four acres, this would mean that UCB expects to utilize the equivalent of 8 to 14 blocks of real estate. The EIR needs to explain in its project description where exactly the acreage would be located, the current owners of it, and then go on to analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed redevelopment.

The slide entitled, "Graphic 2: Potential University Housing Locations" includes 13 locations in Berkeley. (Exh. 5, p. 12.) At least Gateway (includes two landmarks in the block), People's Park, Anna Head School, and the Clark Kerr Campus are City of Berkeley Landmarks. Other than Gateway and People's Park, UCB indicated an intent to develop these properties in the future with the EIR acting as a "tier" for these developments. If UCB wishes to avoid full or focused EIRs for each of these other projects, it should describe the intended developments in the project description. Other than the Gateway and People's Park projects, the information provided thus far does not indicate whether UCB intends to demolish, repurpose, or in other ways alter the rest of the 13 locations, including the landmarks, that do not include Gateway and People's Park. This information should be included in the project description. Absent a comprehensive disclosure and evaluation of the entirety of the project in the proposed EIR, the EIR will be legally insufficient.

For example, Anna Head School ((1892-1927) on the National Historic Register of Historic Places) is the original and most important shingle style building in Berkeley, and the site of pioneering ideas about women's education. The diagram (Exh. 5) is unclear about whether it is understood as a "potential housing site location" through long-postponed rehabilitation or through demolition. Such ambiguities must be clarified in the EIR.

### **C. Aesthetics**

UCB intends to redevelop People's Park into a multi-story housing complex, including a 16-story building. The EIR should analyze the visual impact of these structures on the surrounding low-rise character of the surrounding neighborhood,

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Physical & Environmental Planning  
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Re: Scoping Session Response  
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including the adjacent structures that the City of Berkeley has designated as historic landmarks. Institutional-style housing design, frequently constructed in parts of Berkeley, tends to be visually inconsistent with the streetscapes and the surrounding extant housing where it is located. The EIR should discuss the visual impacts of the proposed People's Park project and consider alternatives to blend the proposed project into the neighborhood. Further, it appears from the conceptual drawing that UCB is considering "stepping down" from the tallest building towards the street. The EIR should discuss whether the effort will be successful and the reasons for its conclusion.

The EIR should consider alternatives to at least the height of the 16-story building, including whether it can be better located in another part of Berkeley. In the event that UCB decides to build on the park over the many objections from the community, the EIR should discuss ways to buffer the buildings from the adjacent neighbors. For example, landscaping may be helpful if it is located on the outside perimeter. The EIR should also discuss maintenance of the landscape, especially since commentators have contended that UCB has not maintained the site in the past.

UCB mentioned obtaining shadow studies, presumably for the People's Park project. The EIR needs to include these studies and analyze whether the proposed project will create shadows over not only the surrounding structures, but also adjacent landscapes. For example, Bernard Maybeck's masterpiece, the First Church of Christ, Scientist is located on the corner of Dwight Way and Bowditch Street, and is designated as a National Historic Landmark. A major feature of the church is the architect-specified wisteria on the western facade:

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
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*West façade, Bowditch Street (photo: Daniella Thompson, 2004)*

The EIR should discuss whether the proposed People's Park project will shade this wisteria and any other landscape features in the neighborhood. If so, it should propose alternatives that would avoid this negative impact, including reducing the height of any structure that will cause shading.

In analyzing whether views will be negatively impacted by specifically proposed or contemplated projects, the EIR should consider not just views immediately near the projects, but also long views. Berkeley has a number of vistas that stretch from the hills to the ocean and along major arterials. Will any of the proposed or contemplated projects disrupt the historic views of the Sather Campanile? If so, the EIR should state alternatives. Of particular concern are views up Telegraph Avenue that frame the Campanile, and views up Hillegass Avenue and from Willard Park (Derby Street and Hillegass Avenue). An additional concern is the iconic view of the Campanile up Center Street in Downtown Berkeley, that could be obscured by insensitively placed development on the Central Campus Park. The two following images from Werner Hegemony's 1915 "Report on a City Plan for the Municipalities of Oakland and



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Physical & Environmental Planning  
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Berkeley” illustrate the Telegraph Avenue and Center Street views more than a century ago and the emphasis that Hegemann, an internationally known founder of the city planning movement placed on them.



THE CAMPANILE IN THE VISTA OF TELEGRAPH AVENUE

A rare example of a building powerful enough to master the expanding vista of a modern traffic street. Telegraph Avenue near the Campus slightly changes its direction. It is interesting to see how thereby the Campanile, which would be too gigantic for the street at so close a range, disappears, and the University Library surprisingly replaces it at the end of the new vista.

## CIVIC ART AND CIVIC CENTERS

*“They shall be simple in their homes but splendid in their public ways.”*

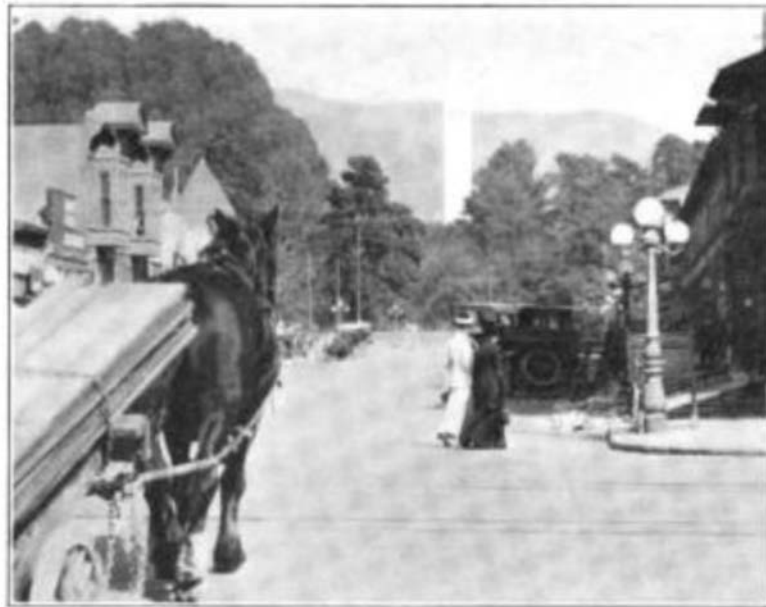
Another vista is shown below:

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## STREETS

97

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THE CAMPANILE, RULING CENTER STREET, SEEN FROM SHATTUCK AVENUE

This is the vista, the preservation of which, as far down as Grove Street, is urged in the proposals for a Berkeley Civic Center (compare last chapter of Report).

The EIR must consider the height of projects such as People's Park interfering with any views that have historical significance.

### D. Cultural and Historic Resources

As part of the Gateway project, the LRDP proposes to demolish the garage located on the site (1952 Oxford Street), possibly demolish the Anna Head School, and build on People's Park, all designated by the City as historic landmarks. Under CEQA, the EIR must analyze whether these three proposed projects would cause substantial

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adverse changes in the significance of the City's historical resources. If there are adverse changes, the EIR must propose mitigations and alternatives. In this regard, UCB offers that it will leave plaques at two of the locations. The EIR must provide the justification for such a minor mitigation given that two landmarks will be destroyed, one by demolition and the other by construction.

The garage on the Gateway site was built in 1930-31 and was owned by the University as a public garage, and leased as income property to gasoline companies over the years. Other than the paint color, the structure's exterior remains intact:



*View of University Garage, 1969, A. Bruce*

The building was designed by renowned architect Walter Ratcliff, Jr., a 1903 graduate of UCB, who also designed many other notable Berkeley structures including: Chamber of Commerce on Shattuck Avenue, Baptist Divinity School (American Baptist School of the West) campus on Dwight Way, the Morrison Library, and part of the Anna Head School. These and many other notable projects preserve his legacy, deserving recognition and respect. As long time BAHA Board member Arlene Silk noted in 1987:

The University Garage was one of [Ratcliff's] later works and is of special interest today, because gas stations are no longer expected to be

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architecturally distinguished buildings. Mr. Ratcliff cultivated the Spanish style beginning in 1923, when he took a sketching trip to Mexico to prepare for his Mills College commission for Spanish Colonial campus buildings; and he used it in the whole range of his work.

The City designated the garage as a City of Berkeley Landmark in late 1981. Thereafter, UCB considered demolishing it on two occasions in the 1980s but after contacts from BAH and others, it refrained from doing so. In 2009, the University of California itself described a repurposing in the UC Berkeley Physical Design Framework report<sup>1</sup>. Page 40 included a drawing and stated:

DOWNTOWN PROJECTS: GATEWAY BUILDING & UC GARAGE This project would also be a third-party partnership. Gateway is planned as a flexible office building, used primarily as relocation space for campus units displaced from buildings undergoing seismic renovation. However, despite this prosaic use, Gateway occupies a prime corner at the west entrance to campus, and high-quality design is imperative. The adjacent historic UC Garage, now used for bus storage, would be renovated for a public-oriented use, such as the campus visitor center now housed in the drab lobby of University Hall.

---

<sup>1</sup> UC Berkeley Physical Design Framework, November 2009, 40, at <https://www.ucop.edu/design-services/files/phdf/bk.pdf> (last visited May 7, 2020).

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*UC Berkeley Physical Design Framework, November 2009, 40.*

The EIR should thoroughly research and discuss the history of this important landmark, and consider alternatives, such as suggested in the 2009 report, for repurposing the building. A public-oriented or campus use is still an attractive option with its proximity to downtown Berkeley and transportation options.

Regarding the project at People's Park, the history of the site is well documented. In 1977, the California State Historic Resources Inventory form, filed with the Department of Parks and Recreation, noted its significance as follows:

The "Park" was originally a residential block bought and demolished by the University in the late '60s for graduate housing. Before construction began, the site was communally developed as a park and garden and when the University sought to reestablish its ownership of the property in May 1969, the worst riots in the history of Berkeley ensued through May and June, culminating in the importation of National Guard troops and a helicopter barrage of the University with pepper fog. One person was killed and several wounded during the riots and the University almost

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closed. Despite its present seedy appearance, any attempt by the University to develop the site still meets strong opposition. The memory of People's Park riots is hard to forget in Berkeley.

Over forty years later, the historical description and conclusion remains valid. The 1984 City of Berkeley Landmark designation added to its status and the Park is the subject of books and films. Even today, many of the principal figures involved in the Park's founding and subsequent events there are present and active, likely presenting their own perspectives on the plan and its impact.

There are numerous extant historic resources on the Central Campus Park. The prospect of an additional 14,750 students and approximately one million square feet of new development on the Central Campus will have negative impacts on the historical resources located there. The EIR must identify and mitigate those impacts, and if it is not possible to do so, provide alternatives. It should explore mitigations such as protecting the resources through repurposing, renovating and incorporating the existing historic resources into its LRDP. It must also include in its analysis historic and cultural resources that UCB has not renovated or committed itself to permanent reuse. Attached as Exhibit 8 is a list of these historic resources. (See items 1 – 27.) Similarly, the EIR must analyze potential impacts to off-campus University-owned historic resources that could be impacted by on-campus and off-campus proposed construction that are included or may be included later in the LRDP. (See Exh. 8, items 28-39.) Regarding the Clark Kerr Campus, the EIR should also include in its analysis the effect of currently enforceable land covenants and restrictions agreed upon in the 1980s by its neighbors, the City of Berkeley, and UCB.

### **E. Cumulative Impacts**

An EIR must discuss cumulative impacts when there is a likelihood that a future project will be approved. Based on the conflicting information in the LRDP and presentations — including identification of sites for potential future development for which detailed plans have not been provided (i.e., the Anna Head School) and future enrollment statistics that have not been supported by proposed additional development

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— the EIR must address the entirety of the project. For example, we just learned that UCB intends to purchase and demolish 1921 Walnut St., directly behind the University Garage site replacing these two structures with an 850 bed structure. (Newstory, dated May 4, 2020, Exh. 6.) Prior to the issuance of the EIR, it appears from the story that UCB Regents will at least approve purchase of the property. Therefore, the EIR must consider the impacts from all of the combined development projects, those that were revealed during the scoping session, the 1921 Walnut St. proposed project, and any others that are likely to be commenced. The cumulative impacts at least will include loss of historic resources and increased traffic.

#### **F. Hazardous Materials**

Like most old gas stations, the landmarked garage's underground tanks leaked diesel and gasoline into the ground. According to GeoTracker, there was a leak in 1988 and it appears that periodically over the following years, there were mediation efforts. (Exh. 7.) Those efforts may have been sufficient for maintaining a garage on the lot, but may not be sufficient for residential uses. The "case closed" in the GeoTracker may not mean that it is now safe for the change of use. The EIR needs to research what, if any, further remediation will be necessary for residential use versus garage or daytime use. It also needs to analyze what, if any, difference it would make that the ground floor would not be residential – it is questionable whether non-residential uses between the ground and the residential floor(s) will stop seepage of gases emanating from any remaining contaminated dirt.

#### **G. Public Services**

The EIR should evaluate the impact of 14,750 additional students on the community's health systems — particularly the local hospitals and university health system — assuming a pandemic such as the one we are experiencing presently. Further, the EIR should address the propriety of building new dense housing in an already heavily developed mixed residential area from an infectious disease mitigation perspective. Similarly, given fire danger, UCB should publish its emergency evacuation

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plan for the institution's currently enrolled students and faculty if one exists; the lack of a viable evacuation plan will be magnified if an additional 14,750 students are added to the campus population. Therefore, the EIR should examine the impact on the community's disaster preparedness planning.

Moreover, the EIR should evaluate the proposed enrollment increase as it is reasonably likely to negatively impact the availability of critical city services such as fire response to wildfires, evacuations, and police availability. This is a physical, not funding, issue under CEQA. The City will no doubt be able to show that the additional UC enrollment (14,750) has or will push the available city services over the tipping point and cause these services to be unavailable equitably throughout Berkeley. The EIR should present mitigation of impacts on city services.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence.

Sincerely,

*Arlene Silk*  
Arlene Silk  
Vice-President, BAHA

AS:lhbm

cc: Berkeley Landmarks Commission  
Chancellor Carol Christ  
Berkeley City Attorney  
Berkeley Mayor and City Council  
Berkeleyside  
Daily Planet



Exhibit 1

Table 1: Current Population and LRDP Update Population Projections

| Population Group | 2020 LRDP Population Projection | Current Population (2018-19) | Anticipated Growth                                                                            | Updated LRDP Population Projection (2036-37) | Net Change |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Students         | 33,450                          | 39,708                       |                                                                                               | 48,200                                       | +8,492     |
| Undergraduates   |                                 | 29,932                       | Years 1-5 = Average 0.5% per year<br>After year 5 = Average 1% per year                       | 35,000                                       |            |
| Graduates        |                                 | 9,776                        | Master’s students = Average 2% per year<br>Doctoral students = Proportional to ladder faculty | 13,200                                       |            |
| Employees        | 15,810                          | 15,421                       |                                                                                               | 19,000                                       | +3,579     |
| Faculty          | 1,980                           | 3,276                        | 1:18 faculty-to-student ratio                                                                 | 4,200                                        |            |
| Staff            | 13,830                          | 12,145                       | Proportional to student growth                                                                | 14,800                                       |            |
| TOTAL:           | 49,260                          | 55,129                       | 1.1% per year                                                                                 | 67,200                                       | +12,071    |



Table 2: Proposed Unconstrained LRDP Update Development Program

| Status of 2020 LRDP                              | Total Academic &<br>Campus Life Space |  | Housing (beds)                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------|
|                                                  |                                       |  |                                             |
| Campus Space in 2005 (2020 LRDP Baseline)        | 12,107,100 GSF                        |  | 8,190 beds                                  |
| Realized 2020 LRDP Development Program           | +992,160 GSF (of 2.2M)                |  | +1,301 beds (of 2,600)                      |
| Current Campus Space (2019)                      | 13,099,260 GSF                        |  | 9,491 beds                                  |
| Proposed New LRDP Space Program                  |                                       |  |                                             |
| Current Space Need, based on current population  | +1,319,000 GSF                        |  | +8,000 student beds +<br>300 faculty units  |
| Net Add'l Space Need, based on future population | +2,699,000 GSF                        |  | +3,350 student beds +<br>60 faculty beds    |
| Total Future Space Need                          | +4,018,000 GSF                        |  | +11,350 student beds +<br>360 faculty units |

Table 3: LRDP Update Space Summary

|                             | Potential LRDP Space<br>(2036-37) | Net New Space<br>Compared to 2018-19          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Academic and<br>Campus Life | 17,117,260 GSF                    | +4,018,000 GSF                                |
| Housing                     | 21,200 beds                       | +11,350 student beds<br><br>+360 faculty beds |
| Parking                     | TBD spaces                        | TBD spaces                                    |





## Housing Project #1

Proposed project would be built on what we refer to as the Gateway Site. The borders are Oxford St., University Ave., Walnut St. and Berkeley Way.

## Buildout assumptions for Housing Project #1:

- One building
- 850 student beds
- Ground-floor retail
- Office space
- Events space
- Student-serving space



## Housing Project #2

Proposed project would redevelop and revitalize People's Park. The borders are Haste Street, Bowditch Street, and Dwight Way.

## Buildout assumptions for Housing Project #2:

- Two buildings
- Building A: Student housing
  - Up to 1,200 student beds
  - Student housing amenities
- Building B: Permanent supportive housing
  - Up to 125 apartments for lower-income (non-university) individuals
- On-site services
- Developed and managed by non-profit organization
- Open landscaped space





# Land Use Categories for Potential Growth

1. Academic, Research and Support
  - Approximately 180 to 200 acres
  - Mostly accommodated on Campus Park
  - Intention to preserve existing proportion of open space
2. Mixed Use / Other Programs
  - Approximately 150 to 175 acres
  - Includes housing and support uses
  - Potential housing redevelopment is approximately 35 to 55 acres
  - Satellite properties and Clark Kerr Campus

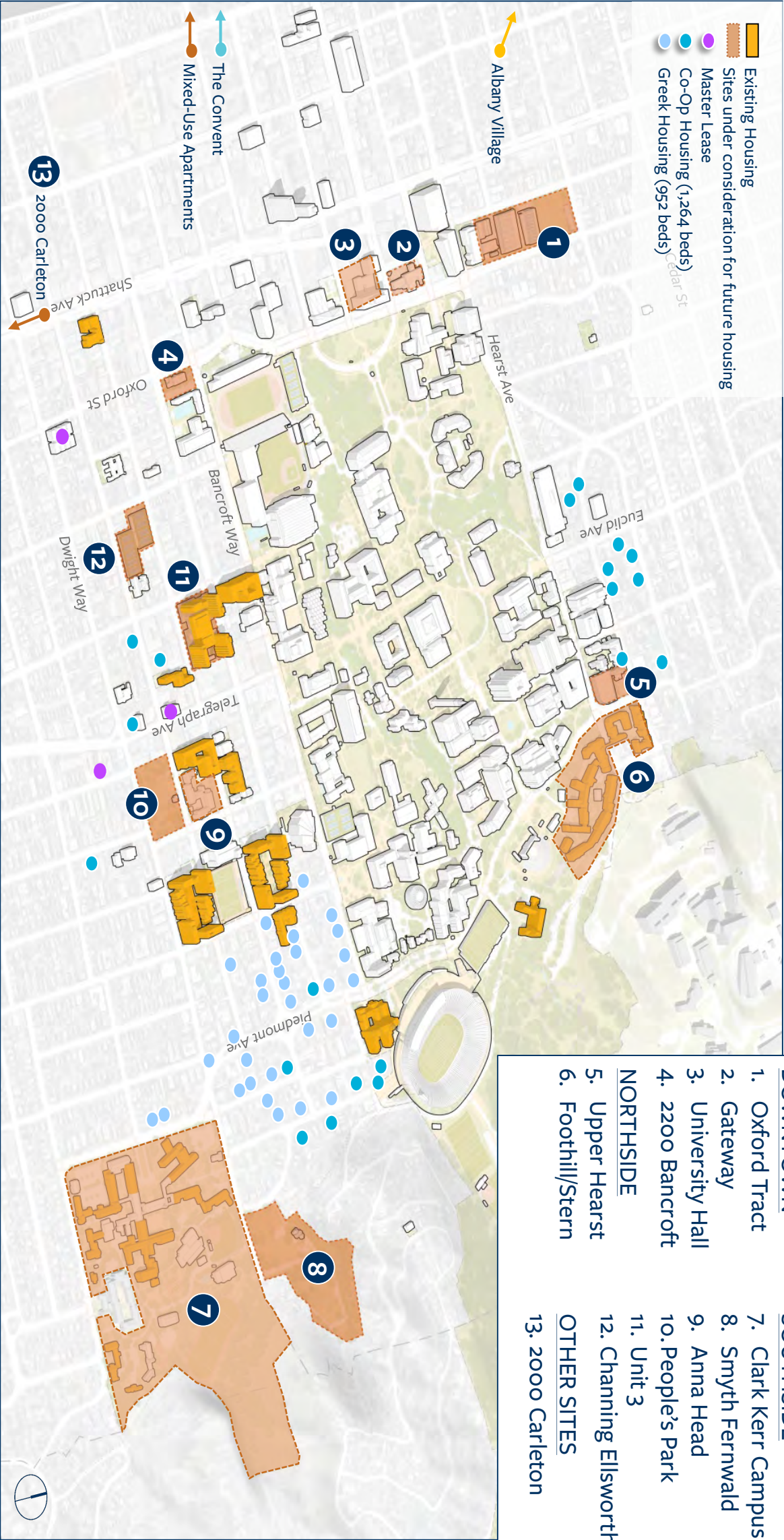


**Majority of the Hill Campus will continue to support recreation and biodiversity. The LRDP Update proposes expansion and renewal of existing uses.**





# Graphic 2: Potential University Housing Locations







# UC Berkeley is negotiating to buy and potentially tear down 111-year-old rent-controlled building

The four-story apartment complex on Walnut Street sits on land that might become part of a new 850-bed student housing project known as the Gateway.

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By Frances Dinkelspiel May 4, 2020, 2:13 p.m.



1921 Walnut St. was built in 1909. UC Berkeley is in negotiations to purchase the apartment building. Photo: Frances Dinkelspiel

UC Berkeley is in negotiations to purchase — and then potentially tear down — a 111-year-old rent-controlled apartment building on Walnut Street where some residents have lived for more than 25 years.

The university sent out notices to tenants at 1921 Walnut St. in mid-April informing them that the Regents “propose to undertake the redevelopment of the property.” The April 17 letter said the tenants would be eligible for relocation assistance and would soon be contacted by the professional firm Autotemp to

discuss the situation. The letter went on to say that no “imminent action” to evict people was contemplated.

UC Berkeley is planning to build a new 850-bed apartment complex for transfer and upper-division students on land it owns bounded by University Avenue, Oxford Street, Walnut Street, and Berkeley Way. In a January memo to the Regents that outlined how a donor wanted to pay for what is being called The Gateway Student Housing Project, officials pointed out that UC Berkeley owned five of the six parcels within those boundaries.

Since then, the owner of the apartment building, which currently has 12 people living in eight apartments, has offered to sell it to UC Berkeley, according to Kyle Gibson, the director of communications for capital strategies at UC Berkeley. The university has entered into a purchase agreement with the property’s owners, said Gibson. F.E. Forbes and Company, a 99-year-old Berkeley real estate investment management and private money mortgage lender, appears to be the owners through a subsidiary, Waterbury Properties, according to public records.

Construction on the project is projected to start in the third quarter of 2021, according to the letter sent to the Regents.

The news that they might have to move from their building took tenants at the apartment complex by surprise, according to Paul Wallace, who has lived there since 2015. After he returned home April 17 to find the UC Berkeley letter inside a Forbes and Company envelope taped to his door, he reached out to Mayor Jesse Arreguin and the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board to see if they could help stop the possible eviction. A rent board official told him that they were aware of the situation and would look into it.

UC Berkeley is a state institution and does not have to abide by Berkeley laws. Berkeley requires the reconstruction of rent-controlled apartments if any rent-controlled apartments are demolished. That action is “unlikely,” said Gibson.

Wallace blasted the university’s timing. (He is not alone as Berkeley has criticized the university for proceeding with a scoping session for its new long-range development plan during the pandemic. UC Berkeley has said that it had no choice about when to hold the virtual session on April 27 since it is following state laws for CEQA and the state has not granted any delays because of the pandemic and shelter-in-place orders.)

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“We are in the middle of a world crisis, a national emergency and a state-wide lock-down,” Wallace wrote in an email. “All resources are being directed toward Covid-19 and Covid-19 relief efforts ... EXCEPT UC – who is working toward displacing tenants and taking advantage of the pandemic and the crisis that we are currently in.”

Wallace said the tenants in the building have been communicating by phone and email to try and figure out how to respond to the news that the four-story building is being sold and the university is contemplating moving them. The building has two apartments on each of the four floors, he said. Each apartment has two bedrooms, oak floors, and wainscoting.

“It has the charm of an older building,” said Wallace. “We really enjoy living there.”

1921 Walnut Street was built in 1909 by William B. Heywood, according to a Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) article by Daniella Thompson, an architectural historian. Heywood hired George L. Mohr as the architect. Mohr also designed the Acheson Physician’s Building at 2131 University Ave., which is now being incorporated into the Modera Acheson Commons, an apartment complex.

At that time, the street was named Home Street, so the apartment building was named Home Street Apartments, said Thompson. The name was changed to Walnut Street in the 1920s, she wrote.

### **Gateway requires demolition of 3 buildings, including Berkeley landmark**

Next door to 1921 Walnut St. is 1925 Walnut, a traditional Berkeley brown shingle house that was used most recently to house OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. That building “has low occupancy, poor structural conditions, and a significant degree of deferred maintenance,” according to Gibson.





UC Berkeley garage on Oxford St. is slated to be torn down and replaced with new student housing. Photo: Pete Rosos

UC Berkeley has not yet decided to demolish these buildings even though it is “contemplating the development of the entire block,” said Gibson. Both Walnut Street buildings are listed on the state historic resources inventory, said Thompson. UC officials have said they intend to demolish the old Richfield Oil Service Station on Oxford Street, designed by Walter Ratcliffe in 1930, to construct the Gateway development. It is now a university garage.

“Oh, no,” Thompson said when Berkeleyside called her to ask for details about 1921 Walnut St. She lashed out at UC Berkeley. “All they are doing is destroying everything in sight. They’re demolishing our history.”

That block used to be lined with brown-shingle houses. Many of them have been demolished over the years but at least one was saved when Tom White and Dmitri Belser, local preservationists, moved it in 2017.

### **UC Berkeley eyes 13 sites for potential housing**

UC Berkeley currently houses the lowest percentage of its students in the UC system. In 2017, Chancellor Carol Christ announced an initiative to change that by building housing for 10,000 students. The new long-range development plan says Cal will build 11,700 units of housing in the next 15 years. The plan lays out 13 sites that will be studied as potential housing spots.

Some of these sites are well-known, including the Gateway project, a proposed complex for People’s Park, the Oxford Tract, which currently houses the

university's agricultural tract, and a proposed housing site known as Upper Hearst.

**Graphic 2: Potential University Housing Locations**



Berkeley Capital Strategies

Long Range Development Plan Update and Housing Projects R1 and R2  
Scoping Meeting - April 17, 2008 12

Potential housing site for UC Berkeley. Graphic: UC Berkeley Capital Strategies

Other potential housing sites have not yet been broadly discussed. They include University Hall on University Avenue and Oxford Way, 2200 Bancroft Ave., which currently houses media relations, the old Anna Head School, Unit 3, 2000 Carlton St., the Foothill-Stern complex at the corner of Hearst Avenue and Gayley Road, and the Channing Ellsworth complex, which is currently occupied by a tennis court and parking lot. UC Berkeley will also study the Clark Kerr campus, as well as the nearby 9.26-acre hillside known as Smyth Fernwald, said Gibson.

Frances Dinkelspiel is co-founder and executive editor of Berkeleyside. Email: [frances@berkeleyside.com](mailto:frances@berkeleyside.com).







## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

## GEOTRACKER



Tools

Reports

UST Case Closures

Information



## CASE SUMMARY

REPORT DATE 10/6/1988 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENT REPORT FILED WITH OES? N

I. REPORTED BY -

UNKNOWN

CREATED BY

UNKNOWN

III. SITE LOCATIONFACILITY NAME

UC BERKELEY SITE GARAGE

FACILITY IDFACILITY ADDRESS

1952 OXFORD ST

ORIENTATION OF SITE TO STREET

BERKELEY, CA 94704

CROSS STREET

ALAMEDA COUNTY

V. SUBSTANCES RELEASED / CONTAMINANT(S) OF CONCERN

DIESEL

GASOLINE

VI. DISCOVERY/ABATEMENTDATE DISCHARGE BEGANDATE DISCOVERED

10/6/1988

HOW DISCOVERED

Tank Closure

DESCRIPTION

post tank removal

DATE STOPPED

10/6/1988

STOP METHODDESCRIPTION

remove tank, excavate soil

VII. SOURCE/CAUSESOURCE OF DISCHARGE

Tank

CAUSE OF DISCHARGE

Phyisc / Mech Damage

DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

inpacts noticed on soil after excavation, some holes in various tanks

VIII. CASE TYPECASE TYPE

Other Groundwater (uses other than drinking water)

IX. REMEDIAL ACTION

NO REMEDIAL ACTIONS ENTERED

X. GENERAL COMMENTSXI. CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION REPORTED HEREIN  
IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.



**XII. REGULATORY USE ONLY**LOCAL AGENCY CASE NUMBER

01-1523

REGIONAL BOARD CASE NUMBER

01-1523

**LOCAL AGENCY**

| <u>CONTACT NAME</u>                                   | <u>INITIALS</u>                                                                                                                                                               | <u>ORGANIZATION NAME</u> | <u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| GEOFFERY FIEDLER                                      | GAF                                                                                                                                                                           | BERKELEY, CITY OF        | gfiedler@ci.berkeley.ca.us |
| <u>ADDRESS</u>                                        | <u>CONTACT DESCRIPTION</u>                                                                                                                                                    |                          |                            |
| 2118 MILVIA STREET 3RD<br>FLOOR<br>BERKELEY, CA 94704 | City of Berkeley, Planning Dept., Division of Toxics Mgt. Hazardous Materials Specialist II California<br>Registered Geologist California Registered Environmental Assessor I |                          |                            |
| <u>PHONE TYPE</u>                                     | <u>PHONE NUMBER</u>                                                                                                                                                           | <u>EXTENSION</u>         |                            |
| Office                                                | (510)-981-7460                                                                                                                                                                |                          |                            |

**REGIONAL BOARD**

| <u>CONTACT NAME</u>                          | <u>INITIALS</u>            | <u>ORGANIZATION NAME</u>           | <u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u> |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Regional Water Board                         | UUU                        | SAN FRANCISCO BAY RWQCB (REGION 2) |                      |
| <u>ADDRESS</u>                               | <u>CONTACT DESCRIPTION</u> |                                    |                      |
| 1515 CLAY ST SUITE 1400<br>OAKLAND, CA 94612 |                            |                                    |                      |
| <u>PHONE TYPE</u>                            | <u>PHONE NUMBER</u>        | <u>EXTENSION</u>                   |                      |
| Office                                       | (510)-622-2300             |                                    |                      |
| SCP General Contact                          | (510)-622-2408             |                                    |                      |
| UST General Contact                          | (510)-622-3277             |                                    |                      |

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### Cleanup Status History

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>STATUS</u>           |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 9/22/2004   | Completed - Case Closed |
| 7/13/1998   | Open - Site Assessment  |
| 1/4/1989    | Open - Site Assessment  |
| 10/6/1988   | Open - Case Begin Date  |

## Exhibit 8



### **List of Historic and Cultural Resources**

1. Hearst Memorial Gymnasium and adjacent playing fields (including site of temporary Hearst Field Annex buildings), and landscape.
2. Senior Hall.
3. Women's Faculty Club.
4. The Faculty Club.
5. The five "Piedmont Houses", all former private residences, that stand on the west side of Piedmont Avenue across from California Memorial Stadium. (addresses 2222 to 2240 Piedmont)
6. The former Zeta Psi Fraternity House (now the Archaeological Research Facility).
7. Lewis Hall (Chemistry complex).
8. Gilman Hall (Chemistry complex).
9. Observatory Hill (historic open space adjacent to the campus North Gate)
10. The Eucalyptus Grove (historic open space and the tallest grove of hardwood trees in North America).
11. Edwards Track Stadium (including the adjacent area occupied by the Hellman Tennis complex).
12. Evans Baseball Diamond.
13. California Alumni House.
14. Dwinelle Annex.
15. University Dance Facility, 2401 Bancroft. (formerly First Unitarian Church of Berkeley).
16. Buildings of the Agricultural Group: Wellman Hall, Giannini Hall, Hilgard Hall.
17. Mulford Hall.
18. Architects & Engineers Building.



19. Sproul Hall and Sproul Plaza.
20. Founder's Rock and adjacent landscape.
21. Calvin Laboratory.
22. Haviland Hall.
23. University House.
24. Moses Hall.
25. Stephens Hall.
26. Campanile Way, including views east and west from the Way.
27. West Circle / West Crescent landscaping.
28. The entirety of the Clark Kerr Campus, including not only buildings but historic landscape features, and the 1915 Blind School Gymnasium.
29. Smyth House, and historic stone walls, at the Smyth Fernwald property (Smyth House is currently believed to be the oldest surviving residential building in Berkeley, and can be dated to the late 1860s.)
30. 2234 Bowditch Street.
31. 2547 Bowditch Street. (former Shorb House)
32. 2505 Channing Way.
33. 2515 Channing Way (former Epworth Hall)
34. 2440 Bancroft (former Campus Theater)
35. 1925 Walnut Street.
36. 1952 Oxford (University Garage, as noted elsewhere).
37. Haas Clubhouse complex, Strawberry Canyon.
38. "Big C" on Charter Hill above Memorial Stadium.
39. Anna Head School (Buildings and Grounds)

Email to: [Planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:Planning@berkeley.edu) by Friday 5 p.m., and in the subject line put something like LRDP EIR comments. Ask for acknowledgment that they've received your comments.

REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR UC BERKELEY LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE AND HOUSING PROJECTS AT PEOPLE'S PARK AND HILL CAMPUS 5/14/20

a) The environmental impact of the development proposal at People's Park will be of a manifold nature. I would like to address some of the technical issues with this NOP and LRDP first, then some of the historical, public safety, personal and community based reasons after.

b) LRDP Update must not be a programmatic EIR that automatically gives the green light to future projects not explicitly listed in the EIR. All future projects must continue to be subject to public input under CEQA.

c) The mayor of the city of Berkeley has requested that UC Capital Strategies delay and/or prolong the window for public comment on NOP and EIR until the lift of Covid Quarantine, likely in June. This is not a lot to ask, and if UC refuses to honor this request the process will be tainted, voiding any legitimacy of the development proposal at People's Park.

d) The NOP (Notice of Preparation) claims 200 meetings and events with stakeholder groups and the public, but not all stakeholders were contacted. Houseless residents of the park weren't included. There was a 1/24/20 invitation-only meeting, at the Christian Science church by the park. Little effort was made to invite community groups like the People's Park Committee, Food Not Bombs, Suitcase Clinic, or others who provide resources at the park so few of the park community were able to participate. Except one town hall on the LRDP in April 2019, no public meetings about this process were held. Two public meetings in February and March 2020, were limited to Project #2 at People's Park, and didn't include other plans to be discussed in this EIR. Which stakeholders were invited to the other 196 meetings, and what parts of the LRDP Update did they cover?

e) The NOP insists on the necessity of expansion of facilities and university population, even though Berkeley has sued UC for exceeding the agreed-upon number of students to be admitted. The number of beds planned for students and non-university affiliated people are vague, talking about construction 'up to' a certain number, without any minimum commitment. No mention of students who are homeless now, in need of housing, let alone non-university park residents. And no specifics about nonprofits who are supposed to develop and manage the housing projects proposed at People's Park.

Who are these nonprofits, what is their proposed role, and what financial and other benefits would they derive from this project?

f) UC Berkeley has a pressing backlog of necessary earthquake retrofitting to do on existing buildings at the campus park and elsewhere. The study of seismic dangers on campus was conducted in 2017 yet UC Capital Strategies would rather build shiny new stuff with other people's money than do the hard work of ensuring the safety of students, faculty and staff. It is unconscionable to spend time, resources, and capital on the large scale student housing projects at People's Park, Oxford Tract and Gill Tract when a devastating earthquake could strike the Hayward fault at any minute. It is as if the university wants to ensure the maximum number of kids in coffins. See this USGS article which states that the fault is one of the most dangerous in the country.

[https://www.usgs.gov/news/hayward-fault-it-due-a-repeat-powerful-1868-earthquake?qt-news\\_science\\_products=3#qt-news\\_science\\_products](https://www.usgs.gov/news/hayward-fault-it-due-a-repeat-powerful-1868-earthquake?qt-news_science_products=3#qt-news_science_products)

Here is an aerial picture, with fault indicated, from UC Berkeley Seismology Lab:



This picture clearly shows the fault cutting underneath Memorial Stadium. This menace is quite literally across the street from numerous unsafe building facilities filled with students at all hours of the day and night. See link below to article in the LA Times which sums up the **gross negligence of UC Capital Strategies in ignoring the dangers to the student and faculty of not retrofitting 68 buildings on campus park**, 62 of which are designated lethal risk “serious”, 6 of which are designated “severe” which is the second worst possible designation of potential risk to life.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-08-29/how-would-uc-berkeley-fare-in-a-big-earthquake-officials-looked-and-its-scary>

g) The previous LRDP has been violated by UC in respect to over enrollment of students, exacerbating a housing crisis which is now being used to justify the housing project at People's Park. Berkeleyside covered the lawsuit City of Berkeley vs. UC Berkeley in the article attached below, Here's a quote: "That plan originally projected there would be 33,450 students at Cal by 2020. Now Cal is saying there will be around 11,000 students more than that. Most of the new students are already on campus."

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/06/17/city-sues-uc-berkeley-for-not-studying-impacts-of-34-student-enrollment-increase>

The housing crisis is not so much lack of housing possibilities in Berkeley, but lack of honestly affordable housing. UC's dorms and other housing often is MORE EXPENSIVE than other wildly expensive Bay Area housing. This project is no exception, as UC Capital Strategies has indicated that the units will be marketed as premium. None of their new housing plans are for anything resembling reasonable-costing housing and this is justified by the private money partnership aspect, necessitating a market rate ROI. City of Berkeley sued in 2019 relating to all the infrastructure cost to the city, and UC paying a tiny fraction of the actual cost of 21 million yearly (paying only 1.8 million yearly now)

h) This LRDP is very incomplete as an EIR because of a total lack of interior plans being released for any of the proposed developments, including at the People's Park site. We are concerned that those floor plans may not be appropriate in a world newly threatened by corona virus and other infectious outbreaks. The air handling and climate control are also a concern; how much potential will there be for exchanges of spores and aerosols from one residential unit to another? Will the kitchens and living rooms be shared? It is unacceptable for this LRDP to not address these issues up front for community review during a worldwide pandemic; it is as if pandemics and earthquakes just don't happen in this LRDP.

i) The services that People's Park currently offers residents of Berkeley and visitors are not being replaced by this development, either directly or through an offset. The city and those who pay taxes to the city will be forced to shoulder the financial burden incurred by destroying this Park, which is so precious to so many. Willard Park gets quite crowded and People's Park is the only other green space on the southside that has all the utility and flexibility of a city park; the UC campus green space can not be repurposed by the city for disaster mitigation, for instance.

j) The proposed development can be built at a nearby and much less contentious location, Clark Kerr campus; 133 acres jointly owned by both UC and city of Berkeley. The Clark Kerr site is ideal for solving the enrollment overruns mandated by UC Regents.

k) The damage to the historical integrity of both Berkeley and UC would be impossible to mitigate. There is no way that the small and heavily mediated space that would be left on the site could honor the struggle, pain and death that was inflicted on the Berkeley community by UC Berkeley and the State of California; this very painful and contentious legacy of state and institutional violence necessitates that any plan for People's Park not disrespect the culture of the park users, either in fact or in apparent affect.

l) UC used the excuse of 'deferred maintenance', a concept mentioned in the NOP, to destroy the forested area of People's Park as well as trees all over campus, and the excuse of 'wildfire management' to deforest other areas in the East Bay hills, and use pesticides, long targeting the Hill Campus area. Even mature, tall redwoods are planned for demolition by UC in the Hill Campus. UC repeatedly has been taken to court by community members seeking to defend the Hill Campus forest. UC insists that since these forested areas are not state or federal forest, it's not necessary to discuss the impact of converting that forest to non-forest use, and because there may not be a formal habitat conservation plan, no habitat conservation activities are necessary in the project areas covered in the EIR, even though many animals, including falcons and hawks, utilize them as habitat.

m) The EIR is supposed to cover historic resources, and preserve historic legacy, and as such People's Park, a City of Berkeley Historic Landmark, must be preserved as a park, not replaced with buildings. The NOP refers to creating multi-purpose spaces, but People's Park already has multiple purposes and uses for humans and wildlife, which these plans would eliminate.

n) User-development is at the center of People's Park's very beginnings and continues unabated. This must continue unabated, and unobstructed by the University of California, and we need the City of Berkeley's support in obstructing the UC People's Park Committee and others need to be able to continue providing concerts and events on our Free Speech stage in the park

o) UC has targeted People's Park, Oxford Tract, and Gill Tract, the three locales where students can work on agricultural pursuits, and act as crucial green spaces in dense, urban neighborhoods. This is a serious degradation of the university's offerings as an educational institution, as well as damaging to the surrounding cities and county, who often hire horticultural specialists from the graduate pool that utilizes these agricultural tracts.

p) The claim that UC needs this 2.8 acres for housing is disingenuous; UC owns land all over Berkeley, and beyond, and has many sites on its own "opportunity sites" list.

Especially now, in the middle of an earth-shattering pandemic response leading to talk of more online teaching and less in-person education, what is not needed is to race forth and keep threatening our needed green space South of campus. This space is needed more than ever, as evidenced by its use during this pandemic for relaxation, (which is crucial to a healthy immune system) and for access for poor people to food at least 5 days a week when other sources have dried up. This space is serving multi functions, including as a place to sleep for those without homes. It is much safer than being in close quarters indoors at a shelter.

This housing project at the People's Park site is so riddled with problems that to proceed with this LRDP NOP as it stands would be a grievous misstep sure to end in tragedy. No institution of this caliber should be so foolishly flaunting the dangers of Seismic upheaval, Disease Outbreak, and the wishes of the surrounding community. Back to the drawing board please.

Regards,  
Ivar Diehl



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**I support**

1 message

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**Norma J F Harrison** [REDACTED]

Thu, May 14, 2020 at 10:55 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Cc: Coalition to Defend East Bay Forests [REDACTED]

**I oppose your relentless and intended ab-use of and attacks on People's Park and Hill Campus. I support the** Hills Conservation Network's efforts for us to keep our land whole – as whole as possible. Scraping it, tearing it up – those are the usual stands by imperialism against our power – the people's power, and our enjoyment of the fruits of our labor and of Earth.

Norma J F Harrison [REDACTED] [Cornell Ave., Berkeley, Ca. USA](#) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Natalie Logusch  
1921 Walnut St Association  
1921 Walnut St  
[REDACTED]  
Berkeley, CA 94704

May 14, 2020

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382  
Email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Re: University of California, Berkeley **NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** University of California, Berkeley Long Range Development Plan Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident of 1921 Walnut St in downtown Berkeley, CA. I have lived here for 10 years. The building is over 100 years old. On April 17, 2020 all tenants received a notice (Dated April 20, 2020) alerting us of UC's intention to purchase and potentially demolish our rent controlled apartment building.

I am very concerned because UC Berkeley is not being transparent with us regarding this building project. I have emailed directly with Kyle Gibson (Director of Communications at UC Capital Strategies – the recommended point of contact) and Michelle De Guzman (Director, Real Estate Acquisitions and Development – the author of the letter) and asked specific questions about UC's plan. Kyle Gibson wrote to me that there were no specific plans or actions being taken regarding 1921 Walnut St and that 1921 Walnut St is “for eventual, unspecific, future use”. I have since found online UC's potential plan to demolish my housing building and build “Housing Project #1”. I also found online a letter to the State of California indicating their intention to build student housing where 1921 Walnut St currently stands. I specifically asked Kyle if there were public meetings I could participate in and he did not name any. If I had not spent hours researching online the UC Regent's website, I would not even know there was open public comment available specifically regarding “Housing Project #1”. It seems clear to me that UC is purposefully obfuscating their intentions perhaps in order to push through the sale of 1921 Walnut St and their housing project plans without directly engaging the community.

In UC's letter to the State of California, they wrote that the UC claims to have “conducted a robust engagement process with the campus community and the



public". As the long-term tenants of 1921 Walnut St, my fellow tenants and I are major stakeholders in the community and we will be drastically affected by this potential development. Yet, UC has not even shared with us their plans.

The UC has many other potential sites to build housing. Most of those sites would not displace long term residents. It is possible for UC to build new housing without displacing us at 1921 Walnut St. In fact, as of January 22, 2020 the UC Board of Regents was planning on building the housing project around 1921 Walnut St, leaving 1921 Walnut St and the tenants in-place. Since January 22, 2020 the UC has now decided to purchase our building and begin the process of relocating the tenants at 1921 Walnut St, some of whom have lived here and have called this building 'home' for 25+ years.

Needless to say, this is all occurring during the Covid crisis where the entire region is in lock-down, our health and economic status is threatened and we as tenants have limited access to resources and support.

I ask you to please consider the timing of these actions, the serious impact this will have on us the residents, and our building at 1921 Walnut St. in the heart of downtown Berkeley. At the best of times it is heartless to displace a community, but now? To give notice during a worldwide pandemic, when the world and the country and our City are on lock-down? And how are we to interpret the complete lack of transparency with the tenants at 1921 Walnut St by UC through this process.

Kindly consider our request for intervention, and thank you for attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Natalie Logusch

**Planning Departmental** <planning@berkeley.edu>

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**LRDP EIR comments**

1 message

**Ethan Mitchell** [REDACTED]

Thu, May 14, 2020 at 8:52 PM

To: Planning@berkeley.edu

I'd just like to express my dismay at the plan to develop People's Park. Absolutely horrified this is going forward, and a sad sign of the times. Plenty of other places for UC to put housing.

Ethan Mitchell



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## People's Park -- Comments

1 message

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David L. Axelrod [REDACTED]  
To: planning@berkeley.edu

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 3:57 PM

To: RAPHAEL BREINES, Senior Planner,  
University of California, Berkeley

Mr. Breines,

The following compelling comments and concerns are submitted with reference to the ongoing planning process involving People's Park in Berkeley, California, specifically including, without limitation, scoping, the LRDP Update, and environmental impact reporting (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The issues herein raised and discussed should be deemed as contributing to and supplementing the thoughtful and well-considered Scoping Comments submitted by People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group, with which I generally concur. I now raise certain additional comment and concerns, largely in defense of People's Park.

With regard to comments on the environmental Impact reporting (EIR) process for threatened development and destruction of People's Park, in Berkeley, California, I now raise and briefly discuss the following topics of concern:

**1. FREE SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY:** Alameda County Superior Court entered Summary Judgment in favor of the People's Park Council, People's Park Project/ Native Plant Forum (ASUC), and four (4) other individual Plaintiffs, in 1987, that established and recognized the status of People's Park as a "quintessential public forum" for freedom of speech, assembly and public expression. The Court ordered the University of California (UC), as Defendant in the lawsuit, to cooperate with and facilitate the Plaintiffs in scheduling and conducting public amplified events involving amplified public address, speech and music in People's Park and specifically on the People's Stage, a bandstand that had been planned, built and operated by People's Park Council with the knowledge and consent of the University, through the Berkeley campus administration. The University was blocked and restrained from interfering with amplified events staged by the Plaintiffs, particularly People's Park Council, except as to reasonably notice requirements and guidelines for time, place and manner, as arranged and agreed by the parties. Such events, notably including the annual celebration of the People's Park anniversary in April and May, had been conducted without interruption from 1974 through and including the 50th Anniversary in spring of 2019, and only postponed for the first time this year, 2020, in light of the ongoing novel Coronavirus requirements for social distancing. Inflicting construction and destruction upon the sacred ground of People's Park would eliminate a vibrant and significant public forum for the expression of free speech, music and culture, important for the local community, the campus, the country, and the world.

**2. NATIVE PLANTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS:** The gardens and landscape in People's Park began as a student project of the University of California Berkeley campus, including student field studies, individual studies, and community participation, commenced during April, 1974. The program, coordinated by the student-community People's Park Project/ Native Plant Forum (ASUC) [hereinafter referred to as "PPP/NPF"], has involved development of organic community gardens, organic composting and mulching, urban

ecosystems, and California native-plant landscaping. This work has been accomplished almost entirely by volunteers, including students, neighbors and other community members, as well as UC work-study students working under the direction and supervision of the PPP/NPF Field Coordinator. The development of community gardens and landscaping with native plants specimens, was aided at times by the director and staff of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, the U.C. Botanical Gardens, local merchants, neighborhood groups, the California Native Plant Society, and elements of what is now the U.C. College of Natural Resources. Gardens and landscaping on the East End of the Park are organized ecologically, according to California native plant communities, including many rare and valuable specimen plants. Located on the West End of the Park are community garden beds, wildflowers, groundcovers, succulents, and full-grown shade trees, including the "Fred Cody Redwood Grove" also known as the "Council Grove." Benches, tables, bulletin boards, and children's play equipment have been placed for the use and enjoyment of the public. The threatened construction/ destruction project would eliminate irreplaceable living specimen plants, valuable California native landscaping, vibrant community gardens, and vital fresh air, aggravating the local and global greenhouse imbalance, impoverishing the land and neighborhood, diminishing species diversity, and further depleting the last vestige of open space in the densely-populated South Campus area of Berkeley, California.

**3. URBAN CREEKS AND DRAINAGE:** A main fork of Derby Creek runs through People's Park, largely underground, from Bowditch Street towards Telegraph Avenue. (By my own personal observation of the physical terrain and drainage infrastructure, and after consulting existing maps, it appears that the northern-most major fork of Derby Creek runs generally northeast to southwest through the Park, from Bowditch Street not far from its intersection with Haste Street, down toward the adjacent building on the western border of People's Park, in the general direction of the intersection of Dwight Way and Telegraph Avenue.) The existence of the 2.8 acres of open space on People's Park allows rain water to penetrate, feed and vitalize the earth, contributing to the water table and the land's productivity. It had long been the intention of the People's Park Council, PPP/NPF, and the Land Conservancy for People's Park, in cooperation with the Urban Creeks Council, to one day raise and open Derby Creek in at least part of its natural course through People's Park, in order to restore nature and enrich the environment. The threatened or proposed construction/ destruction project would inevitably foreclose all restoration plans and most likely kill the creek forever.

**4. PUBLIC COMMITMENTS AND DUTIES:** The threatened or proposed construction/ destruction project would tend to violate long-standing arrangements, commitments, and contractual agreements, including but not limited to certain Letters of Agreement and Understanding negotiated, agreed upon, and executed by authorized officers of the University of California, including the Vice Chancellor and Associate Vice Chancellor of the Berkeley campus administration, and by authorized representatives of the People's Park Council and PPP/NPF. The trust, confidence, and constructive community relations that have heretofore largely prevailed between the U.C. Berkeley administration, on the one hand, and the larger community, including students, neighbors, gardeners, musicians, community leaders, park advocates and park users, on the other hand, would be forfeited, and all the positive community relationships around People's Park would be sacrificed, if People's Park, encompassing the existing park improvements, uses, and living trees, birds and other plant and animal lifeforms, were to be damaged, destroyed, or compromised in any way. All parties must acknowledge, consider, and uphold values reflected in the existing cultural and human relationships involving People's Park, including personal and public meetings and communications, gardening, landscaping, and recreational uses, all of which have evolved and developed over the years in compliance with binding written undertakings among the parties.

I sincerely hope these ideas and issues can and will be seriously considered, along with many other salient comments and discussion regarding scoping and environmental impact assessment. These comments are hereby submitted in the public interest, to conserve

**environmental quality and resources, for the pursuit of enlightened public policy, and for the preservation of People's Park as a user-developed and community-controlled public open space.**

Thank you,

**DAVID L. AXELROD,  
Attorney for and Member of  
People's Park Council**



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP Public Comment Letter by homeowner on Panoramic Hill**

1 message

**steven chainey** [REDACTED]

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 4:53 PM

To: "planning@berkeley.edu" &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

Raphael Breines, senior planner, physical &amp; environmental planning,

University of California, Berkeley, 300 A&amp;E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

TO: Mr. Raphael Breines and Chancellor Carol Christ,

There are many issues of concern contained within the 2005 to 2020 LRDP EIR, LRDP EIR Supplements 1 through 5, and the UC Berkeley Physical Design Framework- November 2009. Many environmental impacts can be avoided, minimized, or in some way mitigated by thoughtful planning and design. But there is one overarching public safety impact that that can only be worsened by the build out and enrollment expansion of the LRDP and its supplemental add-ons. That is the elevated risk of wildfire within and adjacent to the Hill Campus, and the exacerbated chaos of an unrehearsed mass evacuation of the UC and surrounding residential hill populations. Every new building, student and faculty housing, and sports facility on the east side of UCB concentrates more and more people and vehicles into a confined canyon and hillside *with no corresponding increase in a transportation network that will serve as an evacuation corridor* and wildfire fighting access route.

Although the Centennial Avenue corridor has recently had a much-needed reduction of vegetative fuel and firebreak setbacks, the roadway and feeder streets have the same capacity as before in the previous century. And yet the recent and cumulative effects of LRDP projects since 2005, the 20-percent proposed jump in the student population, and the loss of off-street parking capacity due to completed and proposed projects in Strawberry Canyon and on Clark Kerr Campus will unavoidably increase vehicular and pedestrian traffic and crowd size at high-density events. Has the university thoroughly and honestly considered the cumulative effect all these consequences will have under an unplanned wildfire disaster? Has the university thoroughly and honestly considered how these consequences elevate the risk of loss of homes and loss of life to hillside residents directly affected by the university's unmitigable implementation of the LRDP? Has the university considered the whole and not merely the numerous parts of LRDP?

Sincerely,

Steve Chainey, resident and homeowner on Panoramic Hill

[REDACTED] Panoramic Way, Berkeley, CA 94704



Office of the City Manager

May 15, 2020

Via Email to [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Raphael Breines  
Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
300 A&E Building  
Berkeley, CA 94720

**Subject: Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report  
University of California, Berkeley Long Range Development Plan Update  
and Housing Projects #1 and #2**

Dear Mr. Breines:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the Notice of Preparation (“NOP”) for the Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) for the University of California, Berkeley Long Range Development Plan (“LRDP”) Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 (collectively, “the Project”). The NOP provides notice of the EIR that the University must prepare for the LRDP under Education Code section 67504, as well as for two proposed housing projects, respectively located west across Oxford Street from the UC Berkeley Campus Park and in People’s Park at the southwestern corner of the intersection of Bowditch Street and Haste Street.

The NOP identifies a broad range of probable environmental impacts from the significant expansion in enrollment that the University anticipates. The projected population of 48,200 students and 19,000 faculty and staff in the 2036-37 academic year represents an increase of total campus headcount of more than 30%, when compared to the projections analyzed in the 2020 LRDP. The new LRDP must fully account for the significant environmental impacts of unanticipated enrollment growth that has already occurred on campus as well as the impacts of additional, significant future growth proposed by the University.

In particular, the University is planning for an increase of an additional 8,900 students and 3,600 faculty, over and above the unplanned increase in campus population that has already taken place. This additional increase in campus population, combined with the University’s inability to meet the housing goals in the 2020 LRDP, will add to the significant, adverse environmental impacts of unplanned campus population growth unless aggressive measures are taken to mitigate those impacts.

The City expects that the EIR will thoroughly evaluate the environmental impacts of unplanned and anticipated growth in the campus population, as well as proposed housing projects, and will mitigate those impacts, consistent with the requirements of Education Code section 67504. Preliminarily, the City has identified the following impacts that must be evaluated and mitigated:

- **Public Services/Hazards & Hazardous Materials:** The City provides fire suppression, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical services for the University. The EIR must address the impact of the unplanned and anticipated future growth of the campus population on these services, as well as other public safety services provided by the City, and the University must mitigate the environmental and fiscal impacts of its population growth and development.
- **Traffic & Transportation/Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** The EIR must evaluate the impact of increased campus population and proposed development on Vehicle Miles Traveled and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as the impact that increased travel within the City of Berkeley has on the City's ability to provide and maintain adequate infrastructure for bicycle, pedestrian, and motor vehicle travel. We expect a robust analysis of Vehicle Miles Traveled and robust mitigation measures, including enforceable transportation demand management programs. In addition, Level of Service or other metrics analysis may be necessary for intersections to analyze safety for motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. The University must consider the City's Pedestrian Plan, Bicycle Plan and Vision Zero policy in this analysis.
- **Population & Housing:** The EIR must evaluate impacts of unmet demand for student and staff housing on population and housing in the City of Berkeley, including the impact of campus population growth and proposed developments on displacement of Berkeley residents.
- **Utilities & Service Systems:** The increased campus population and housing development proposed by the University will place additional burdens on City of Berkeley sewer and storm drain systems and waste management services. The EIR must evaluate and mitigate these impacts.
- **Aesthetics/Land Use:** The EIR must consider City of Berkeley zoning and development standards, as well as area plans, around the University, and on University owned properties beyond the Campus Core or Clark Kerr Campus, in evaluating the impact of proposed and anticipated future development.
- **Cultural Resources:** The EIR must evaluate the impacts of the Project on historic resources (including buildings, districts, and landscapes) on and adjacent to University property.

We are optimistic that the preparation of the EIR will be an opportunity for the University to address these serious environmental impacts, for the benefit of both the campus and the broader community in the City of Berkeley. We hope the University will view the City as a partner in



Raphael Breines

May 15, 2020

Page 3

addressing these impacts and look forward to working with you on the planning and environmental review process for the LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dee Williams-Ridley

Dee Williams-Ridley  
City Manager



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

## LRDP EIR comments

1 message

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 4:56 PM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

**EAST BAY PESTICIDE ALERT'S COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO UC DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR UC BERKELEY'S LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ITS THREATS TO PEOPLE'S PARK, OXFORD TRACT, GILL TRACT, AND NEIGHBORS OF OXFORD TRACT submitted May 15, 2020**

**\*\* In Honor of James Rector, Alan Blanchard, and the thousands physically and mentally traumatized on Bloody Thursday, May 15, 1969 \*\***

Planning comments due 5/15/20, Bloody Thursday, when in 1969 James Rector was killed, Alan Blanchard was blinded, and thousands more were harmed, is extraordinarily tactless and one wonders who made this decision. It echoes the tone-deaf nature of UC's actions for over 50 years in regards People's Park, the Southside neighborhood overall, and students and community fed misinformation by the university year upon year about People's Park, and UC's actions to try to level it.

Both refusing to delay the NOP process in spite of even the Mayor asking for a delay, and in pushing forth with a deadline for comments on Bloody Thursday, and with many students gone from Berkeley due to the pandemic, this process is provocative at best! begin my comments by again bringing in the People's Park Committee's Scoping session comments which were read aloud 4/27/20 on a Zoom call:

**PEOPLE'S PARK COMMITTEE SCOPING COMMENTS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR UC BERKELEY LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE AND HOUSING PROJECTS AT PEOPLE'S PARK AND HILL CAMPUS 4/27/20**

1. LRDP Update must not be a programmatic EIR that automatically gives the green light to future projects not explicitly listed in the EIR. All future projects must continue to be subject to public input under CEQA.

2. The NOP claims 200 meetings and events with stakeholder groups and the public, but not all stakeholders were contacted. Homeless residents of the park weren't included. There was a 1/24/20 invitation-only meeting, at the Christian Science church by the park. Little effort was made to invite community groups like the People's Park Committee, Food Not Bombs, Suitcase Clinic, or others who provide resources at the park so few of the park community were able to participate. Except one town hall on the LRDP in April 2019, no public meetings about this process were held. Two public meetings in February and March 2020, were limited to Project #2 at People's Park, and didn't include other plans to be discussed in this EIR. Which stakeholders were invited to the other 196 meetings, and what parts of the LRDP Update did they cover?

3. The NOP insists on necessity of expansion of facilities and university population, even though Berkeley has sued UC for exceeding the agreed-upon number of students to be admitted. The number of beds planned for students and non-university affiliated people are vague, talking about construction 'up to' a certain number, without any minimum commitment. No mention of students who are homeless now, in need of housing, let alone non-university park residents. And no specifics about nonprofits who are supposed to develop and manage the housing projects proposed at People's Park. Who are these nonprofits, what is their proposed role, and what financial and other benefits would they derive from this project?

4. UC used the excuse of 'deferred maintenance', a concept mentioned in the NOP, to destroy the forested area of People's Park as well as trees all over campus, and the excuse of 'wildfire management' to deforest other areas in the East Bay hills, and use pesticides, long targeting the Hill Campus area. Even mature, tall redwoods are planned for demolition by UC in the Hill Campus. UC repeatedly has been taken to court by community members seeking to defend the Hill Campus forest. UC insists that since these forested areas are not state or federal forest, it's not necessary to discuss the impact of converting that forest to non-forest use, and because there may not be a formal habitat conservation plan, no habitat conservation activities are necessary in the project areas covered in the EIR, even though many animals, including falcons and hawks, utilize them as habitat.

5. The EIR is supposed to cover historic resources, and preserve historic legacy, and as such People's Park, a City of Berkeley Historic Landmark, must be preserved as a park, not replaced with buildings. The NOP refers to creating multi-purpose spaces, but People's Park already has multiple purposes and uses for humans and wildlife, which these plans would eliminate.\*\* THESE COMMENTS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE PEOPLE'S PARK COMMITTEE, including Russell Bates, Lisa Teague, Jessie McGinley, Michael Delacour, Max Ventura, Erick Morales, Andrea Prichett, Aidan Hill, Paul Prosseda, Ivar Diehl, Siobhan Lettow, Dawn Goldwasser, Tom Luce, Hali Hammer, Sheila Mitra-Sarkar, Charles Gary

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SOME PEOPLE'S PARK HISTORY**

User-development and Free Speech are at the center of People's Park's very beginnings, and continue unabated. They must continue unabated, and unobstructed by the University of California, and we need the City of Berkeley's support in ending UC's obstruction of our continued work to save this park. Open space and greenery are crucial in the ever-dense Southside, as is noted in the City of Berkeley's own 2011 Southside Plan:

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level\\_3\\_-\\_City\\_Council/2011/09Sep/Southside%20Plan.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_City_Council/2011/09Sep/Southside%20Plan.pdf), and the park has historical importance worldwide. People's Park Committee and others need to be able to continue providing concerts and events on our Free Speech stage and around the park, and others providing service need not to be obstructed by UC. An example of the mutual aid provided at People's Park is described in a May, 2020 article about Food Not Bombs' continued service in the park Monday-Friday:

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/05/12/who-is-feeding-peoples-park-residents-during-the-pandemic>. Because in interacting with Capital Strategies reps since April of 2019 and coming to learn how little any of them know of actual park history over the years or at present, here are some sources to give some more basic background: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People's\\_Park\\_\(Berkeley\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People's_Park_(Berkeley)) and <http://www.peoplespark.org>

[/wp/Also please see attached article Scheer, Robert "The Dialectics of Confrontation: Who Ripped Off the Park?"](http://wp/Also please see attached article Scheer, Robert 'The Dialectics of Confrontation: Who Ripped Off the Park?')

Ramparts, August 1969

### **UC HAS A HISTORY OF GREAT NEGLIGENCE**

UC has proven negligence again and again, such as in demolishing our user-developed bathroom attempts several times in the late 80's and early 90's. Finally, a bathroom was built because UC looked so bad in the media. Activists explained that as Reagan had dumped people in need out onto the streets in the 80's with no safety net and as more people found People's Park, neighbors were upset their yards were being used for people's toileting. Many of us got involved in doing what UC should have done which is to say, we gathered an architect, tools, dug trenches, laid pipe, and started building bathrooms for everyone's wellbeing. The murals on the outer walls have been viewed perhaps millions of times over the decades with one highlighting the history of People's Park's beginnings, and the longer history of The Commons in England in the mid-1600's.

Now in a worldwide pandemic, not only has UC refused the city Mayor (see attached letter from Mayor) and students who have scattered to all ends of the earth an appropriate delay in this EIR process, but acts as though it would ever be okay to plow forward against the wishes of major stakeholders, including students. And including some of our society's most vulnerable who call the park home, or come to the park regularly to have some basic needs met. In an astounding act of greed, during a pandemic where we knew sheltering-in-place was coming, UC sent students to the far corners of the world, in effect potentially spreading Covid-19 and were that not negligent enough, then consolidated students who could not afford to fly off, or chose not to mid-semester, into the fewest dorms possible rather than letting them have less physical contact, and less opportunities to spread virus. Plus this introduced many other people in a moving process to be potentially infected, or potentially to infect. As a parent and healthcare provider, I find it hard to fathom this level of disregard for anyone's health.

This EIR, in addition to answering to the many issues being brought to UC in resistance of building on the park, must answer the question of why UC has refused to maintain bathrooms over time. While a lot of pressure resulted in there now being toilet paper, the contractor who power washes now on a regular basis has not been contracted to wash with anything but water. Sinks do not allow most people a way to wash hands or other items hygienically, and there has not been soap for years until some soap pouches recently were thrown in now and then, but without a proper dispenser which would allow hygienic use. In the middle of a worldwide pandemic, and with some of the most vulnerable in our society at great risk should they contract Covid-19, or Influenza. <https://bit.ly/Maxtalkingaboutfaucets>. Why?

This EIR process must answer to the inappropriate behaviors of UC in all the decades leading up to this newest threat to build on the park. We accept no buildings or significant changes imposed by UC. We remember that inappropriate attempt to encroach on the park, obviously to provoke people with the unwanted volleyball courts, and built using old-growth Redwood in the midst of major campaigns to save some of the last old-growth Redwoods in Northern CA, some of the last in the world. UC caused trauma to the park community, and eventually

that massive waste of resources which we called The World's Biggest Litter Box, had to be removed.

#### **UC KILLED TREES IN PEOPLE'S PARK WINTER 2018/19:**

December, 2018: <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/12/28/cal-to-remove-42-trees-at-peoples-park-in-berkeley-to-address-long-deferred-maintenance>

<http://www.peoplespark.org/wp/details-on-tree-killing-at-peoples-park-december-28-2018/>

January, 2019: <http://www.peoplespark.org/wp/tree-attack-at-east-side-forest-of-peoples-park-in-early-morning/>

**REGARDING UC'S HISTORY OF TREE DECIMATION, AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TREES IN THE HILLS ALREADY DESTROYED BY UC WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MORE PLANNED (AREAS PESTICIDED FOR A DECADE + AFTER),** See attachment entitled: UC Fire Mitigation - Tree Removals (it's a pdf). Just a couple pages in is a chart that shows nearly 18,000 removed by 2007 and there are ongoing tree killings continuing in the hills. Also read up on that at: <http://treespiritproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Society-American-Foresters-NorCal-SaveEastBayHills-7.29.15.pdf>

The trees decimation in the park is part of the larger hills deforestation project which has been driven by UC all along. For history of that, and plans to denude our East Bay Hills of 90% of our trees, please read details here: <http://www.eastbaypesticidealert.org/wpad.html> and here: <http://www.eastbaypesticidealert.org/wildfire.html>

This is a plan to denude the hills of close to half a million healthy trees, along with pesticing repeatedly over at least a decade in each spot which has had trees removed. This is climate catastrophe designed by UC. Since UC Berkeley repeatedly has been sued and FEMA has agreed that UC is trying to get FEMA money for a gardening project (called a 'Native Plant Restoration Project') under the guise of wildfire safety, and since independent biologists and wildfire specialists who stand to make no money by taking one stand or another agree that removing big trees such as Eucalyptus, Monterey Pines, Acacias, or other hills trees would have a deleterious effect in terms of wildfire safety, why does UC persist in clearcutting trees in the Hill Campus area, and why did UC kill all the healthy trees it did winter before last in People's Park? Additionally, why is UC planning to down mature Redwoods just West of the Strawberry Creek pool? (See EIR Addendum comments which were submitted by EBPA in January, 2020, and are attached to this document)

#### **UC BERKELEY STANDS ALONE**

**CAMPAIGN TO PLANT ONE TRILLION TREES WORLDWIDE TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE** <https://www.trilliontreescampaign.org/why-trees/climate/>

#### **CLARIFICATION THAT TREES COOL THE SOIL AND SAFEGUARD AGAINST FIRE, AND EVERY TREE IS CALLED A 'FIRE MITIGATION FACTOR'**

This is quoted from the National Fire Protection Association Handbook by David Maloney, retired Oakland Firefighter, former Chief of Fire Prevention at the Oakland Army Base, and appointed to the 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Mayors' Task Force on Emergency Preparedness and Community Restoration, in his presentation beginning at time mark 1:23:14 of this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1i3RP7eDFc>

#### **DAYLIGHTING DERBY CREEK ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PEOPLE'S PARK**

Out of that volleyball fiasco came The People's Park Community Advisory Board, and public hearings which were attended by UC representatives. This resulted in the June, 1998 report entitled: Report to the University of California and the People's Park Community Advisory Board on the Feasibility of Restoring Derby Creek at People's Park, Berkeley, California. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pQe\\_APeAtsVFvV8ADMUST\\_IYL8Y50rKT/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pQe_APeAtsVFvV8ADMUST_IYL8Y50rKT/view?usp=drivesdk). UC had hired consultants who pointed out that it's a do-able project without negative hydrologic impacts, with many positives including, from the document: *opportunities to acknowledge the necessary integration of our communities to natural systems and to the region as a whole*. Also from the document: *enhancement of the vibrancy of the Southside neighborhood while incorporating public input, interest and vision and connection to a historical and cultural resource*. And another from the document: *enhancement of the aesthetic and environmental character of the park*.

This daylighting project would be in character with the daylighted Codornices Creek in Codornices Park and in The Berkeley Rose Garden, and in Live Oak Park, and the daylighted Strawberry Creek on the UC Berkeley campus. The ideas were drawn up when many were calling for closing Center St. to traffic between Oxford and Shattuck,

and the daylighting of the creek there. While this report refers to 'restoration', we avoid use of that word since it is of the 'Nativists' who, supported by pesticide companies which use xenophobic language saying things are 'invasive' and 'not native'. Their answer always is that pesticides are needed. To learn more about this from a biological point of view by a Conservation Biologist, and see some of that history of the Nativist pesticide agenda pushed by Monsanto and Dow-Elanco, and other pesticide companies, adopted by many creeks groups which innocently fall into line with "leaders" of the groups who in many cases seem not to understand biology, or how good-hearted people buying into a "need" for pesticide use are endangering us all, you can listen to this biologist here: <http://www.eastbaypesticidealert.org/wildfire.html> (scroll down just a bit to the video of 7/15/15 program: David Theodoropoulos).

We refer to 'daylighting', which is an accurate portrayal of the plan. It is combined with plans to hold the banks which East Bay Pesticide Alert suggests should include Eucalyptus trees which are part of the long history of this Southside neighborhood. Eucs were planted to hold the banks of San Leandro Creek well over 100 years ago, and have held the banks beautifully. We were in a huge fight a decade ago to save those Eucs which as part of the hills forest decimation project were planned for destruction by the county after county Flood Control had created danger by their negligence in avoiding doing maintenance work and letting plants vine up, creating fire ladders. Their answer was that they should destroy the trees, rather than do fire ladder maintenance, and then plant what they were calling 'native' plants, and the plan was to use herbicide pesticides in the creek. It actually was a Nativist plan to do what they called a 'Native Plant Restoration' project which in Sausal Creek in Dimond Park, in Oakland, turned into decimation of mature Redwoods, many about 100 years old, then creating hot circumstances not only around the creek but far from the creek in the lawn area of the park, even under the trees which remained in the lawn area. We support this project but without any pesticide use in the creek or park. We support an option to avoid trees being destroyed for this project, and support footbridges from Dwight Way into the park so that the creek should not act as a barrier to entrance into the park. This would recall the bridge at Live Oak Park, and another in the Berkeley Rose Garden. The option to reroute electricity so as not to intrude too dramatically on the lawn area is the straightforward option we promote.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE, EUCALYPTUS, AND DERBY CREEK IN THE PARK**

Humans have created massive climate change and UC's nefarious action of winter 2018/19 in demolishing 42 healthy trees resulting in a heating up and drying up of the Eastside forest released a lot of carbon which had been sequestered, and created a different microclimate than the wet, moist forest. Eucs are beloved throughout California and have a history of being planted as windbreaks and for shade up and down the state, and in the East Bay Hills as people were beginning to settle the hills with houses. They've been planted on university campuses such as UC Berkeley, Mills, and Stanford. Palo Alto streets are lined with these gracious trees. They offer shade, a place for raptors and owls to rest, and overwintering habitat for Monarch butterflies, as well as nectar for wildlife. Therefore, EBPA calls for some Eucs to be part of this project to hold the banks. They thrive here in spite of climate change because they do such an excellent job storing water in their roots and releasing as needed, as do camels with water stored in their humps. Sure, add rip-rap and we're not opposed to including plants and trees some might call 'native' but we are completely opposed to a political decision to say something arbitrarily called 'native' is superior to something else which can thrive here. Acclimation is key, on a biological level. We have different conditions in the East Bay than existed hundreds of years ago. Even at the point Eucs were planted in the East Bay Hills in the early 1900's, conditions differed greatly with lower population, few cars spewing exhaust, no widespread use of toxic pesticides, and a generally healthier population eating real, nutritious food so whatever toxics existed then were less likely to overwhelm people's systems. East Bay Pesticide Alert and many grassroots groups, many of them part of The Coalition to Defend East Bay Forests, have been resisting and in EIR processes around UC for over 1-1/2 decades regarding hills trees decimation and pesticing, participated in by many agencies, and the City of Oakland, and driven from the start by UC: UCB in the East Bay Hills, and in S.F., UCSF has led the charge to destroy the Eucalyptus cloud forest on Mt. Sutro.

#### **ANY CHANGES AT PEOPLE'S PARK MUST NOT DISPLACE THE POOR**

If the creek project should go forward, it must not be used as an excuse to try to push people out of the park who are homeless, houseless, or poor, and who depend on the park for relaxation, one of the most potent supports to our immune systems, and the mutual aid people receive provided by Food Not Bombs, The Suitcase Clinic, The Free Clinic, The People's Park Committee, and the many other individuals and groups which provide services to people in need.

#### **WHY HAS UC TARGETED THE GREEN SPACES?**

UC has targeted People's Park, Oxford Tract, and Gill Tract, the three locales where students can work on



agricultural pursuits, and act as crucial green spaces in dense, urban neighborhoods. Why? Threat to Oxford Tract <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/04/05/should-uc-berkeleys-oxford-tract-be-developed-for-student-housing>. For almost 100 years, UC Berkeley science faculty and students have relied on the expansive fields, greenhouses and lab space at Berkeley's Oxford Tract, stretching between Hearst Avenue and ...

### **SAYING THESE GREEN SPACES ARE NEEDED FOR HOUSING IS DISINGENUOUS**

UC owns land all over Berkeley and beyond, as pointed out clearly in its documents shown during the April 27th NOP Scoping session via Zoom. Saying it needs People's Park's 2.8 acres makes plain UC's obsession with killing the park and its green space and community. Especially now, in the middle of an earth-shattering pandemic response leading to talk of more online teaching and less in-person education, what is not needed is to race forth and keep threatening our needed green space south of campus. This space is needed more than ever, as evidenced by its use during this pandemic for relaxation (again, this is crucial to a healthy immune system) and for access for poor people to food at least 5 days a week when other sources have dried up. This space is serving multi functions, including as a place to sleep for those without homes. It is much safer than being in dangerous close quarters inside at a shelter.

### **POTENTIAL STUDENT HOUSING SITES ACCORDING TO UC:**

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2017/01/31/uc-identifies-9-potential-sites-student-housing-berkeley> Map showing proposed and possible sites for housing: <http://www.peoplespark.org/wp/innovative-student-housing-architecture-can-help-protect-peoples-park/>

Additionally the chancellor's mansion, which has roughly the same footprint at People's Park is vacant and could provide student housing: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/New-Cal-chancellor-shuns-campus-pricey-mansion-11274196.php>

Refers to 50-plus acres at Clark-Kerr campus: <https://www.integralgroup.com/projects/clark-kerr-campus/>  
Also mentions 50-plus acres: <http://www.cswst2.com/uc-berkeley-clark-kerr-campus-infrastructure-renewal-berkeley-california/>

### **MORE NEGLIGENCE: PRIVATIZATION, SEISMIC RETROFITTING NOT DONE, AND OVER-ENROLLMENT**

UC cries "Wolf!" at every turn, and has for the past decade +. While UC reps say they have no money and need to hand over projects to privatization, in reality they ought to have plenty when we consider what they have chosen NOT to do in terms of seismic retrofitting. The author of this L.A. Times article <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-08-29/how-would-uc-berkeley-fare-in-a-big-earthquake-officials-looked-and-its-scary> points out that UCLA has only about 3,000 more students than UC Berkeley and UCLA has put 2.8 billion into seismic retrofits while UCB has put in 1 billion. It suggests lack of concern for the safety of students, professors, and staff at UC Berkeley. Referencing 1997 Seismic studies... 23 years ago: <https://www.berkeley.edu/administration/facilities/safer/findings.html> and <https://www.berkeley.edu/administration/facilities/safer/background.html>

UC has chosen not to retrofit 68 buildings on Campus Park, 62 of which are designated lethal risk "serious", and 6 of which are designated "severe", the second worst possible designation of potential risk to life.

It's not so much lack of housing possibilities in Berkeley, but lack of honestly affordable housing. UC's dorms and other housing often is MORE EXPENSIVE than other wildly expensive Bay Area housing. None of the UC housing plans are for anything resembling reasonable-cost housing. This is nothing new. But any housing crisis in the East Bay has been dramatically affected by UC's over-enrollment of nearly 10,000 over by 2019 what was agreed upon in the 2005 Long Range Development Plan for 2020. The City of Berkeley sued in 2019 relating to all the infrastructure cost to the city, and UC paying only a tiny fraction of the actual cost of 21 million yearly (paying only 1.8 million yearly now). <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/06/17/city-sues-uc-berkeley-for-not-studying-impacts-of-34-student-enrollment-increase>.

UC profits from housing, and UC-related housing being so expensive results in homeless students, some living in People's Park, and some in RV's, vans, and cars. Great distress ensues, and academic outcomes are threatened.

### **Homeless UC students:**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/UC-Berkeley-is-making-the-student-housing-crisis-13680589.php>  
<https://www.dailycal.org/2019/02/28/legislators-local-activists-work-to-alleviate-student-housing-crisis/>

Privatization supports no one but the people holding title to buildings or land. UC should not be in the business of

handing over state resources to privately-owned entities which profit at the expense of students whose whole lives may be negatively affected by student loans they take out to pay for that housing. If they have children, that generation may suffer from the impact of such student loans.

One thing is for sure: UC students, particularly UC Berkeley students get a clear education in Capitalism and who gets the spoils.

UC has threatened Walnut St. tenants (right by Oxford Tract) with loss of their historic, rent-controlled housing in the midst of this pandemic. Upcoming eviction alert given 4/17/20, in the midst of statewide shelter-at-home orders: <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/05/04/uc-berkeley-is-in-negotiations-to-purchase-and-potentially-tear-down-a-111-year-old-rent-controlled-apartment-building> "Oh, no," Thompson said when *Berkeleyside* called her to ask for details about 1921 Walnut St. She lashed out at UC Berkeley. "All they are doing is destroying everything in sight."

### **INCREASED HOMELESSNESS IN BERKELEY AND RELATIONSHIP TO UC'S OVER-ENROLLMENT, WITHOUT HAVING HAD HOUSING BUILT TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS**

Increased homelessness in Berkeley: <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/04/05/berkeley-now-estimates-there-are-2k-homeless-people-who-come-through-the-city-in-a-year> and

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/07/23/berkeleys-homeless-population-jumped-13-in-past-two-years>

### **UC HAS A LONG HISTORY OF BEING A BAD NEIGHBOR TO THE REST OF BERKELEY**

2005 City lawsuit against UC: <http://www.cp-dr.com/articles/node-415>

### **NOT ONLY HUMANS, BUT WILDLIFE DEPENDS ON PEOPLE'S PARK**

Our falcon and hawk friends depend on the tall trees and the open space at People's Park when hunting for their food. They are part of the web of life in the Southside. A few days ago when I was at the park, 3 caterpillars climbed their way up and over me on their adventures. The gardens and trees at People's Park are a wonderland for many kinds of flora and fauna and provide respite for many people, also, on a daily basis. When students are in town, they play frisbee, hula hoop, play basketball, eat lunch, play music, and hang out enjoying the sun.

East Bay Pesticide Alert submitted extensive comments in December, 2019, on the UC Vegetation Management Plan EIR Scoping, and in January, 2020, on the LRDP Addendum about the Strawberry Creek Recreation Center plans to destroy mature, healthy Redwoods. Both of those comments are attached and we submit them as part of this EIR process as what is planned at People's Park is part of this larger deforestation project and must be answered to in that context, as well as other contexts asserted in other comments submitted.

Sincerely,

Maxina Ventura, Berkeley

for East Bay Pesticide Alert, and a member of the People's Park Committee

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Scheer, Robert "The Dialectics of Confrontation: Who Ripped Off the Park?" Ramparts, August 1969
- City of Berkeley's request for delay of process
- January, 2020 EBPA comments to UC NOP for EIR on Vegetation Mgmt. which includes extensive historical data and photos of Eucalyptus and tall trees and Olmstead's Landscape Architecture design for Campus Park (the UC campus), and photos showing hills tree development
- January, 2020 EBPA EIR comments on Strawberry Recreation Center EIR ADDENDUM
- Jan, 2020 comments made to Regents, Herbicides
- People's Park Committee members' individual comments submitted as part of the Scoping session with the addition of one PPC member's Letter to the Editor printed in the East Bay Times, and another's 2018 letter talking about costs were the park destroyed
- Document of people's comments on postcards in response to what they love about People's Park which they made out last year at our 50th anniversary shows and also at those two Capital Strategies open houses

\*\*\*\* PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT\*\*\*\*

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**8 attachments**

**UC LRDP EBPA EIR comments.pdf**  
142K



**PP Ramparts.pdf**  
3742K



**UC NOP EIR LRDP, city, delay.pdf**  
88K



**UC NOP EIR Veg. Mgmt..pdf**  
534K



**UC softball EIR.pdf**  
458K



**UC Regents, Herbicides.pdf**  
367K



**UC PPC NOP comments.pdf**  
226K



**UC EIR Postcards.pdf**  
48K



# Scoping Comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for UC Berkeley's Long Range Development Plan Update and Housing Projects at People's Park and Elsewhere

Isis Feral  
May 15, 2020

The following comments are an expansion of shorter comments I submitted for the April 27, 2020 public online scoping session.

Many of my comments below are identical or similar to comments I submitted previously, on December 20, 2019 during the scoping period for the **Hill Campus Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan EIR** (appended here in their entirety), on April 12, 2019 on the Upper Hearst Development for the Goldman School of Public Policy **Draft Supplemental EIR for the 2020 LRDP EIR**, on March 22, 2016, during the attempted **Hill Campus Fire Risk Reduction Addendum to the 2020 LRDP EIR**, and on June 17, 2013 on the **East Bay Hills Draft EIS** for the FEMA Wildfire Pre-Disaster and Hazard Mitigation funding requested by the university, the City of Oakland, and the East Bay Regional Park District.

As the plans for this EIR follow largely the same or similar trajectory as these previous projects, I continue to oppose the proposed actions for the same reasons as I did before, as well as additional ones especially concerning the threat against People's Park.

The LRDP 'updates' described in the NOP, consist of projects that have long been strongly opposed by local residents, and a declaration that the EIR will be programmatic and apply to unspecified future projects. A Programmatic EIR is a bureaucratic legal maneuver to eliminate further CEQA review and public involvement in similar objectionable projects in the future, and an attempt to enable yet more encroachment of UC facilities on unwilling communities.

The LRDP Update must not be a Programmatic EIR. All future projects must remain subject to CEQA review and their own EIR, including extended periods of public input!

Some of the unpopular projects described in the NOP are already part of other EIR processes underway, as well as past environmental reviews that were challenged successfully and stopped in court. They are part of repeated attempts to deforest the Hill Campus and other green spaces, constant expansion of university development, and yet another threat against People's Park, an important historical landmark.

Some of the actions proposed in related environmental reviews, such as the Hill Campus vegetation management EIR, use public safety as an excuse to promote the development described in this NOP, but instead they threaten public safety, increase fire danger, and contribute to ecological devastation. These reviews consistently avoid addressing the health and environmental hazards of removing large numbers of trees from the hills, and of spreading toxic pesticides. They also do not take into consideration the impact of other agencies that are cutting trees and applying poisons on connected lands.

I oppose the expansion of UC Berkeley, its history of taking over surrounding towns, and burdening local infrastructure. The increase of the university population already violates agreements with the City of Berkeley, and is contributing to a housing crisis. The proposal in this NOP is not an effort to find solutions for these existing housing problems, but to expand the university and bring in more students, further compounding the problem.

\*\*\*\*

The arrogance of UC's sense of entitlement to grab land from neighboring communities is evident in Figure 4 of the NOP, a map entitled UCB LRDP "Draft Land Use Plan", which designates a large segment of Berkeley city streets as "Mixed Use (Other Campus Use)": [https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/nop\\_ucberkeley\\_lrdpupdatehousingprojects-04.06.2020.pdf](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/nop_ucberkeley_lrdpupdatehousingprojects-04.06.2020.pdf) (page 10)

The timing of this NOP in the midst of a global public health crisis is also disrespectful of the needs of the community, and compromises the required public process. In fact as I rush to submit these comments by the deadline, an elder family member is in a medical crisis complicated by the current situation. Even Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, who has been supportive of some of these projects, has requested that public comment be postponed until after the shelter-in-place order is lifted: <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/04/16/city-community-groups-protest-uc-berkeleys-plan-to-update-long-range-plan-in-middle-of-pandemic>

The increase in the university population cannot be downplayed as negligible, but violates prior agreements with the City of Berkeley already, has been challenged in court (<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/06/17/city-sues-uc-berkeley-for-not-studying-impacts-of-34-student-enrollment-increase>), and further increase would have a devastating impact on long-term residents of the city and surrounding towns.

As the university population has been increasing, long-term Berkeley residents are being displaced, with many ending up in the streets. Increasingly even UC students are becoming homeless, neglected by an overpriced, overcrowded public university ([https://housing.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/HousingSurvey\\_03022018.pdf](https://housing.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/HousingSurvey_03022018.pdf), and

[420/](#)), and then chased out of town by abusive city policies against parking the vehicles they live in at public sidewalks (<https://sf.curbed.com/2019/3/27/18283608/berkeley-rv-parking-ban-homeless-nimby>). Though no one suggests to new students who do have housing to leave their cars at home, and take advantage of Bay Area public transit instead of further cluttering local streets with additional traffic, and taking up garage space that could be used for housing.

UC's constant expansion causes not just a burden on housing in the city, but with the temporary nature of the ever changing university population, city policy is also influenced when students get involved in local politics, then move back out of the area after they finish their limited few years of school, and leave long-term residents with the fallout of the decisions they influenced. We've seen this particularly with the student newspaper, for example when the Daily Cal has made election recommendations with longterm implications on the local ecology, and its editorial staff played gatekeeper to prevent rebuttals from locals who understood the issues from decades of living here better than they did.

The NOP claims 200 events and meetings with stakeholders were held, but communities who would be most directly affected by the proposed projects only saw very little of these gatherings. There were no meetings held with the entire People's Park community, for which the park itself would have been an ideal venue, community stage and all.

But the university treats the park with disdain, neglecting maintenance of bathrooms, even now in this public health crisis, with sinks typical for prisons that are more likely to spread disease than protect against it (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCmRP5W-MEM>), and two years ago, without warning, in an early morning assaults, killed dozens of trees, which changed the character and climate of the park, and destroyed its extensive forest of cooling shade, which provided habitat to human neighbors and wildlife alike (<http://www.peoplespark.org/wp/details-on-tree-killing-in-peoples-park-december-28-2018/> and <http://www.peoplespark.org/wp/tree-attack-at-east-side-forest-of-peoples-park-in-early-morning/> and <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/12/28/cal-to-remove-42-trees-at-peoples-park-in-berkeley-to-address-long-deferred-maintenance>). Hawks and falcons continue to use what's left of the grove as a green oasis where they can hunt in the middle of increasingly manicured urban surroundings.

Because there is no official habitat conservation plan, UC refuses to recognize that there's habitat that should be conserved. It also does not acknowledge that some of these projects constitute a conversion of forest land to non-forest use, because UC does not recognize urban forests, like Hill Campus and what's survived the deforestation of the People's Park grove. The NOP declares these environmental review categories not relevant to the EIR process and does not plan to address them.

UC did the same in the NOP for the Hill Campus vegetation management EIR that's underway now, declaring tree removal done for different reasons off topic, even though environmental impact can only be determined when all activities are considered together ([https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/final\\_nop\\_hill\\_campus\\_wildland\\_vegetative\\_fuel\\_management\\_plan\\_o.pdf](https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/final_nop_hill_campus_wildland_vegetative_fuel_management_plan_o.pdf)). The university is fragmenting the environmental analysis into multiple EIRs, which can only skew the results, because the projects involve a lot of the same, overlapping activities, and cumulatively have a greater impact than individually.

UC Berkeley has repeatedly shown that it does not let environmental laws get in the way of its plans to keep expanding its development and profits, and is especially determined to kill every tree in its path. Back in 2005 the university even partnered with the City of Oakland in violating the city's own restrictive pesticide policies more than once, when it felled trees on behalf of the city, and illegally applied toxic chemicals to the remaining stumps: [https://web.archive.org/web/20131014141102/http://oep.berkeley.edu/pdf/FireProjects/OtherDocs/ARfire\\_2005.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20131014141102/http://oep.berkeley.edu/pdf/FireProjects/OtherDocs/ARfire_2005.pdf) and [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1416861153335-5f909f406dofa9b986a86e1fb31ab9d5/Final\\_EIS\\_Sections\\_1\\_-\\_11\\_508\\_reduced.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1416861153335-5f909f406dofa9b986a86e1fb31ab9d5/Final_EIS_Sections_1_-_11_508_reduced.pdf) (section 4.5, page 19)

The Hill Campus this EIR also targets was one of several agencies' projects, already reviewed in FEMA's East Bay Hills EIS, which together would have destroyed half a million trees on thousands of acres on university, East Bay park district, and City of Oakland land (<http://www.saveeastbayhills.org/the-clear-cutting-plan.html>). Under the guise of fire hazard mitigation, UC attempted to appropriate public emergency funds for this same development scheme proposed here.

In 2014, before the EIS finished reviewing the projects, UC illegally clearcut Frowning Ridge, another of the proposals to FEMA. In 2016, UC's projects, including Hill Campus, were stopped in court by hills residents, as was the addendum to the previous LRDP EIR with which UC tried to sneak the project past CEQA: <https://milliontrees.me/2017/06/15/another-legal-victory-in-the-long-fight-to-save-our-urban-forest/>

I oppose any further felling of trees, the all too often accompanying pesticide applications, and the development of the Hill Campus, Oxford Tract, and People's Park, and other forests and green spaces that provide us with breathable air. UC wants to pave them over with tall buildings at the edge of active earthquake faults, all under the guise of housing and public safety, while it neglects not only its own homeless students, but also the seismic safety of its already existing buildings (<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-08-29/how-would-uc-berkeley-fare-in-a-big-earthquake-officials-looked-and-its-scary>).

The construction of the proposed projects would cause massive pollution, including toxic dust, and noise from idling trucks and other equipment. After months of disturbing

residents from the peaceful enjoyment of their homes, and making nearby businesses less safe for workers and patrons, the final result would be ugly monsters of buildings in place of green spaces, and especially at People's Park it would drastically alter the character of the historic neighborhood. The NOP specifies one of its goals is to "preserve the campus's historic legacy of landscape and architecture", but does not do the local community the same courtesy ([http://berkeleyheritage.com/essays/around\\_people's\\_park.html](http://berkeleyheritage.com/essays/around_people's_park.html) and [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning\\_\(new\\_site\\_map\\_walk-through\)/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/map\\_cc2.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_(new_site_map_walk-through)/Level_3_-_General/map_cc2.pdf)).

People's Park has its own historic legacy! It is a vital public commons where our community gathers for events, where displaced people who lack housing and otherwise struggle for survival can take a much needed rest in the shade of the trees, where grassroots activists share food and resources, and are tending the soil and growing a garden: <http://reclaimingquarterly.org/100/RQ100-28-PeoplesPark.pdf>

So today, ironically on this 51st anniversary of Bloody Thursday , I warn policy makers that continued attempts to develop People's Park would almost certainly be met with resistance from the community, as all previous attempts over the last five decades have (<https://www.peoplespark.org/wp/history/>). Those who were killed and injured by violent police actions against the community that defended the park as our public commons, would not be properly honored by symbolic memorials, but require that People's Park once and for all be declared a protected historical landmark that belongs to the community, not the university.

Finally, for now, I am appending my scoping comments for UC Berkeley's current Hill Campus vegetation management EIR, because the actions proposed in the LRDP Update are not separate, and their cumulative impacts must be considered all together:

## **Comments on the University of California Berkeley Hill Campus Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan Environmental Impact Report Scoping Period**

Isis Feral  
December 20, 2019

Many of my comments below are identical or similar to comments I previously submitted on the attempted Hill Campus Fire Risk Reduction Addendum to the 2020 Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR), on March 22, 2016. Some I submitted prior to that, in my June 17, 2013 comments on the East Bay Hills Draft

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Wildfire Pre-Disaster and Hazard Mitigation funding requested by the university, together with the City of Oakland and East Bay Regional Park District.

As the plans for this EIR are largely the same as the addendum, as well as the university's FEMA projects, which were both challenged successfully and stopped in court, I continue to oppose these proposed actions on the same basis as I did before.

The proposed actions do not accomplish the purpose stated in the Initial Study and Plan. They do not protect life, but instead increase fire danger, threaten public safety, and contribute to ecological devastation.

The Initial Study does not address the health and environmental hazards of removing large numbers of trees from the hills, and of spreading toxic pesticides. It also does not take into consideration the impact of other agencies that are cutting trees and applying poisons on connected lands.

Any vegetation management that requires an Environmental Impact Report under the California Environmental Quality Act is too drastic!

## **TOXIC CHEMICALS**

Authors of the Initial Study claim that "herbicide use is currently limited", but what does that mean precisely? What pesticides are already in use now, and how would this Plan increase that use? Herbicides are proposed for every single "Identified Treatment Project" without exception.

It seems that there is really not even an inkling of understanding of how pesticides work beyond how they kill the intended target.

The Plan includes "various combinations of the treatment activities", but does not discuss that grazing and herbicide use should not be combined, because it harms the grazing animals.

There appears to be no concern about how these herbicides affect flammability, or what resulting fumes might endanger firefighter and the community when pesticided areas do burn.

There is no mention of air quality problems from herbicide applications. While we associate drift by air especially with spraying of chemicals, which is proposed in this Plan, drift also happens by water, soil, and contact. Drift occurs from all herbicide applications no matter the application method.



There is also no acknowledgement that herbicides do affect the loss of top soil, because they poison the soil and its organisms. They can also decrease groundwater supplies, since they have been found in watersheds and groundwater, and such poisoning obviously causes a decrease of usable groundwater.

Pesticides are hazardous to both human and ecological health. As is usually the case with pesticides, more hazards have been identified since the toxicological profiles at the following links were assembled from the research available at that time. Summarized are some of the specific dangers of the herbicides planned for use in this project:

### **Triclopyr**

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ncap/pages/26/attachments/original/1428423464/triclopyr.pdf>

Triclopyr is the active chemical ingredient in products like Garlon. Acute exposure symptoms include, but are not limited to, difficulty breathing, lethargy, incoordination, weakness, and tremors, as well as skin sensitization, increasing subsequent exposure symptoms. In lab animals an increased incidence of breast cancer, kidney damage, various reproductive problems, and genetic damage, was observed. Triclopyr's breakdown product 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol (TCP) disrupts nervous system development, and in lab tests, it accumulated in fetal brains when exposed during pregnancy.

Triclopyr also causes complex ecological impacts, including, but not limited to, interfering with nitrogen cycling, and inhibiting the growth of beneficial mycorrhizal fungi that aid nutrient uptake in plants. It has been observed to reduce the diversity of mosses and lichens. The breakdown product TCP is toxic to soil bacteria. Triclopyr is mobile and persistent in soil, has contaminated wells, streams, and rivers, and has the potential to contaminate ground water. Increased growth of algae has been observed after triclopyr applications. It is highly toxic to fish, affects oyster larvae, and disturbs frog behaviors that help them avoid predators. It also decreases the survival of bird nestlings, is toxic to spider mites, and affects other beneficial insects and spiders by killing plants they depend on for food and shelter.

### **Glyphosate**

<https://web.archive.org/web/20090423133524/http://www.alternatives2toxics.org/catsoldsite/round.htm> and  
<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ncap/pages/26/attachments/original/1428423381/glyphosate.pdf>

Under pressure from students who were concerned about pesticides, glyphosate was suspended from UC campuses, but only temporarily, and with exceptions, including for



projects such as these. This ban should be made permanent across the entire campus, without exceptions, along with ending pesticide use altogether.

Glyphosate is the active chemical ingredient in products like Roundup. Roundup also contains the surfactant polyethoxylated tallowamine (POEA), which is even more toxic than glyphosate, and the combination of the two is more toxic than either chemical on its own. Acute exposure symptoms include, but are not limited to, eye and skin irritation, blurred vision, skin rashes and blisters, headache, nausea, dizziness, numbness, elevated blood pressure, heart palpitations, coughing, congestion, and chest pains. Extended exposures have been associated with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, miscarriages, premature birth, and other reproductive harm. In lab animals there was an increase in testicular, kidney, pancreas and liver tumors, as well as thyroid cancer. Studies have shown glyphosate to be mutagenic, and to cause chromosome and DNA damage.

Since the above linked toxicological profiles were published, many other hazards of glyphosate have been identified, and a couple of years ago the World Health Organizations International Agency for Research on Cancer finally classified glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen (<http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol112/mono112-09.pdf>). Numerous lawsuits in favor of victims of cancer due to glyphosate poisoning have been won since, and many more are in the courts now.

Glyphosate also causes complex ecological impacts, including, but not limited to, inhibiting the growth of nitrogen-fixing bacteria and mycorrhizal fungi, reducing seed quality, and making plants more susceptible to disease. Glyphosate drifts extensively, and is mobile and persistent in soil. Its persistence in soil varies widely, from days to months, but has been found to persist on some forest sites for as long as 3 years. It has been found in both ground and surface water, has found its way into streams and rivers, and contaminated wells. Both glyphosate and POEA are toxic to fish. Roundup has been shown to kill various beneficial insects, such as species of parasitic wasps, lacewings, ladybugs, predatory mites and beetles. Glyphosate also reduces the growth of earthworms, and affects other beneficial insects, spiders, birds, and wildlife by killing plants they depend on for food and shelter.

### **Imazapyr**

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ncap/pages/26/attachments/original/1428423389/imazapyr.pdf>

Imazapyr is the active ingredient in products like Stalker. Acute exposure symptoms include, but are not limited to, eye and skin irritation. It is corrosive and can cause irreversible eye damage. Acute effects on lab animals included bleeding and congested lungs, congestion of kidneys, liver, and the intestine. Chronic exposure in lab animals caused fluid accumulation in the lungs, kidney cysts, abnormal blood formation in the

spleen, increase in brain, adrenal gland, and thyroid cancers. Quinolinic acid, a breakdown product of imazapyr, causes eye, skin, and respiratory irritation, and is a neurotoxin which causes nerve lesions and symptoms similar to Huntington's disease.

Imazapyr is very mobile and persistent in soil. It has been shown to persist in soil for well over a year. It can disrupt nutrient cycling by slowing down the decomposition of plant material. Imazapyr has contaminated both surface and ground water. Ozone degradation, to remove pesticides from drinking water, removes only half of the contamination. Imazapyr is highly toxic to fish.

### **Surflan**

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080827224318/http://www.alternatives2toxics.org/catsoldsite/surf.htm>

The active ingredient of Surflan is oryzalin. It is rated a possible human carcinogen. A contaminant during manufacture, N nitrosodipropylamine (NDPA) is a confirmed human carcinogen, and there are also concerns about another contaminant, ammonium 3,5 dinitro 4 di(n propyl)amino benzene sulfonate. In exploited lab rats oryzalin caused thyroid, skin, breast, and other tumors. It targets the liver, blood, blood forming tissue, and is toxic to bone marrow. In animals tests there were adverse changes in blood chemistry, cholesterol levels, anemia, liver, spleen and bone marrow, as well as chromosome mutations. Prolonged exposure can cause irritation and allergic reaction, and higher temperatures may generate irritating vapors when inhaled.

As airborne dust oryzalin has severe explosive potential. One-half remains intact in soil for 30-160 days. It is not very soluble in water, but may reach aquatic systems with silt and soil particles it adsorbs to. It is toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates, and has a tendency to bioconcentrate in aquatic organisms.

### **Undisclosed ingredients and chemical mixtures**

In addition to active ingredients and their breakdown products, herbicides contain a large percentage of so-called "inert" ingredients, which are kept undisclosed, protected as "proprietary" by trade secret laws, though chemical companies have the laboratory equipment to easily determine the ingredients in a competitor's product, while it's the public that is being kept in the dark. Anything but benign, as one might expect "inert" to imply, these secret ingredients are frequently even more toxic than the so-called "active" ingredients listed on the label. In fact, the combination of chemicals is specifically designed to interact synergistically to achieve greater toxicity than each chemical on its own (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1764160/pdf/ehp0114-001803.pdf>).

Some inert ingredients, such as the surfactant POEA in Roundup, have been identified.

POEA causes eye burns, skin redness and swelling, blistering, nausea, and diarrhea. Another ingredient in some Roundup products is isopropylamine, which causes injury to the tissue of mucous membranes and upper respiratory tract, wheezing, laryngitis, headache, and nausea. The details about most other inert ingredients and their effect is being withheld from the public, including from medical workers. Some herbicides to be used in the Plan are likely to also to be mixed with undisclosed chemical dyes.

Contamination during manufacture further adds to the danger of chemical use. POEA is contaminated during manufacturing by 1,4 dioxane, which is recognized as a carcinogen under Proposition 65. As mentioned previously, oryzalin is contaminated by NDPA, which is also a confirmed human carcinogen.

Synergistic effects also come into play when herbicide products are being combined, as UC does, and proposes in this Plan, mixing imazapyr with either triclopyr or glyphosate. Mixing can also occur when different herbicides are used near each other, and chemicals combine as they drift by air, water, soil, and physical contact. Because chemical residues can persist in the environment for a long time, and herbicide products break down into various chemical components, subsequent applications of different herbicides can also combine into yet new, unintended mixtures. Synergism can exponentially increase chemical toxicity (<https://web.archive.org/web/20171225122004/http://www.ourstolenfuture.org/newscience/synergy/mixtures.htm>).

## **Dose response**

Manufacturers and other proponents of pesticides often downplay environmental health hazards, by claiming that they are using negligible quantities of the chemicals. While this is debatable on many levels, it is also irrelevant. Some effects, specifically endocrine disruption, a common malady in the age of plastic, are subject to a nonmonotonic dose response, where decreasing exposure levels can actually cause greater impacts (<https://web.archive.org/web/20171006092345/http://www.ourstolenfuture.org/newscience/lowdose/nonmonotonic.htm>). Disruptions of the endocrine systems are far reaching, and can cause a vast number of reproductive problems, various cancers, and can impair immune and neurological functions.

In addition to all the other negative environmental health effects, glyphosate has also been shown to be an endocrine disruptor (see <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19539684> and <http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/breaking-glyphosate-roundup-carcinogenic-parts-trillion-range>). Endocrine effects of the other pesticides in this program have not been adequately studied, and with a large percentage of the ingredients undisclosed, so are their effects.

Body burden studies show that chemicals accumulate and persist in our bodies over time

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20161221071716/http://www.ewg.org/sites/bodyburden1/>), including chemicals to which we were exposed by drift or extensive cross-contamination. Most alarming are findings that chemical injuries are being passed on over generations (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090109144254/http://www.organicconsumers.org/Politics/toxins060605.cfm>).

Chemical exposures have harmed countless people, causing fatal or disabling illnesses, including, but not limited to, lung diseases, cancers, neurological disorders, reproductive harm, immune deficiencies, and increased sensitization to chemicals. They can cause multi-organ effects and can impact every system of the body. For millions of people already disabled by exposure to toxic chemicals, herbicide applications present especially severe health risks and direct barriers to access. They deny access to natural areas to those of us who have been injured, who struggle to breathe in the inner cities, and who are most in need of refuge from urban pollution. Obstacles to access to public spaces for people with disabilities are a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The authors of the Initial Study claim that public services, schools, parks, and public facilities would not be impacted, but pesticides are an access barrier for people with disabilities, and therefore there would be an impact. In fact, the Scoping Meeting the university held for the EIR was not accessible. Not only is public transportation to the UC Botanical Garden very limited, and requires a substantial uphill hike, along roads that wheelchair users can't easily maneuver, especially after dark, but there is also a great deal of pesticide use at the garden, which excludes people who were injured and disabled by pesticides, and who are among the most urgently interested in this process.

Among the cooperating entities and experts consulted in the production of the Plan and EIR, where are the environmental health physicians, who have worked with victims of pesticide poisoning and other toxic injuries? Will the EIR include calculations of the potential medical expenses of members of the community who are injured by the increase of pesticide use in the area?

### **Risk Assessment vs Precaution**

The approach of estimating "safe" exposure levels is typical of toxic industries and government agencies to defend their toxic actions. It's based on Risk Assessment methodology, which determines what is an "acceptable" or "negligible" risk, as public and environmental health is weighed against "economic" benefits for some, and life and health of others is sacrificed. This is the methodology used in environmental reviews, and automatically turns an EIR into an adversarial process

The "acceptable risk" this methodology refers to are real people like myself, who have been injured and disabled by pesticide exposures previously, and others who are

particularly vulnerable to the effects of poisoning. It's not realistic to expect that injured people not take personal offense at this approach. Loss or reduction of profits of the agencies and companies involved is never deemed a "negligible" or "acceptable risk".

The polar opposite approach to Risk Assessment is the Precautionary Principle, which essentially makes decisions on the basis of "better safe than sorry", and puts the burden of proof that an action is truly safe on those who propose it, instead of on the potential or actual victims of the action. This is the approach that should be employed in this EIR.

Being a community means that we don't exclude and abandon the most vulnerable among us. Wrapping "science" in Risk Assessment terminology is used to divide and conquer, to turn us against each other, and to teach us that it's okay to risk the well-being of others for our own perceived comforts. It has nothing to do with science, and everything to do with the selfish aims of some.

Another claim in the Plan is that there is no conflict with any local policies, but the university pesticide use is in conflict with current Cities of Oakland and Berkeley pesticide policies. Berkeley does not use herbicides, and Oakland is prohibited from using them in the hills for this purpose.

## **DEFORESTATION AND XENOPHOBIA**

While the stated intent of the Initial Study for the Plan is to reduce wildfire risk and manage "vegetative fuel" in the Hill Campus, it repeatedly mentions "exotic plant removal" and plans to "restore native vegetation". Since the Plan is not for a restoration project, but for fire safety, the implication is that the plants targeted for removal are somehow more of a fire hazard than plants that are not considered "exotic"

But perpetuating this myth and singling out so-called "non-native" or "exotic" plant species for eradication, is something the 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Mayors' Task Force on Emergency Preparedness & Community Restoration, which was tasked with investigating the causes of the 1991 Oakland fire, explicitly advised against in its conclusions ([http://www.hillsconservationnetwork.org/Additional\\_Resources\\_files/sc001635e6.pdf](http://www.hillsconservationnetwork.org/Additional_Resources_files/sc001635e6.pdf)).

As recalled by retired Oakland firefighter Dave Maloney, who was appointed to the 1991 Task Force, it was not trees, but human structures that were primarily to blame for the spread of that fire: [http://www.contracostatimes.com/montclarion/ci\\_12946185](http://www.contracostatimes.com/montclarion/ci_12946185)

"The Task Force Report concluded that the spread of the fire was mostly due to the radiant heat generated by burning houses. A burning house has a sustained radiant heat transmission of 2,500-3,000 degrees. The spread of the fire was not due primarily to burning trees — eucalyptus or any other species."



The vilification of eucalyptus, acacia, and Monterey pines as more fire prone than other trees, let alone the native grasslands that UC hopes will replace some of what is now forested, is based entirely on ideology, not on science or common sense, and is counter to the warnings by experts like Maloney and others, which are being willfully and dangerously ignored by UC and other proponents of nativism and "Invasion Biology".

Dense forests keep winds from spreading fires, and the moisture from many inches of annual fog drip keep fires from starting in the first place. Trees do not catch fire easily, unlike grasslands, where most wildfires start, as did the one in 1991. The fire risk are humans, not plants. Most fires are started by humans, and often it is houses that set trees ablaze, not the other way around.

It is worth noting that the native bay laurel is also considered a highly flammable plant, with higher combustible oil content in its leaves than the much vilified eucalyptus, but is not targeted in the Plan. While I by no means advocate that the Plan should target bay trees, or any trees at all, it further demonstrates the contradictions and prejudicial reasoning that drives this Plan.

Conservation biologist David Theodoropoulos has done extensive research and field work that has exposed the field of "Invasion Biology" as a pseudoscience (<http://dtheo.org/InvasionBiology.htm>). In 2015 he gave a thorough and eye-opening presentation during a discussion about the FEMA projects, along with Maloney and others, debunking both the "nativist" and "invasionist" belief system in general, as well as the tree removal projects in the East Bay hills specifically, to a large community hall packed to capacity. I urge all honest policy-makers to take the time to view this important event, which is posted online in its entirety here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1i3RP7eDFc>

Neither science nor democracy are involved in this belief system, and it is certainly not something that a university should base its policies on. Xenophobia and ecocide do not represent environmentalism. But that is the ideology that much of the analysis in the UCB 2020 LRDP EIR, the attempted Hills Campus Addendum, and the FEMA EIS was based on, as is this Initial Study and Plan. It is not based on sound evolutionary science, as Stephen Jay Gould explained in his article "An Evolutionary Perspective on Strengths, Fallacies, and Confusions in the Concept of Native Plants" (linked from and summarized here: <http://milliontrees.me/2010/12/01/stephen-jay-gould-examines-the-concept-of-native-plants/>)

Proponents of the FEMA projects, lead by now former UCB Environmental Projects Manager Tom Klatt, who is now retired, but had been advising various local agencies to use herbicides for years, and who has been the driving force behind these projects in the East Bay Hills, came together at a 2013 forum. One of the most vocal supporters of these projects, Jon Kaufman, a member of the Board of Directors of the Claremont Canyon

Conservancy, demonstrated the common lack of logic of this framework quite well: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4Wmlze2xms>

"Another concern was, aren't you going to be altering the ecosystem? Aren't there plants and wildlife and things on this hillside now that you're going to destroy when you remove the eucalyptus trees. Well guess what, that ecosystem was destroyed when those eucalyptus trees were planted a hundred years ago....What they're going to do in fact is restore it and make this area what it was intended to be in the first place." (58:21)

Aside from the misleading claim that these projects were about restoration, for which there were never any provisions in the EIS he was promoting, one is left to wonder just precisely who "intended" this area to be the way he believes it should be: Mr. Kaufman? God? The government? UC Berkeley?

Mr. Kaufman's notion that ecocide somehow fixes previous ecocide is more than a little troubling. By this logic, people of European descent should be killed as to magically reverse the genocide of the native people who were here before the European invasion. It is particularly perverse that this hostility toward non-native species is largely promoted by people of European descent, who all too frequently refer to themselves as natives of the Bay Area.

In contrast, the native community has a very different attitude towards so-called non-native plant life, as expressed by the defenders of Sogorea Te, the native burial ground in Vallejo, when it was also being threatened:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20150912091317/http://protectglencove.org/about/>

"The Master Plan also calls for an aggressive extermination of non-native plant species. Procedures detailed in the Plan describe cutting down trees and applying herbicide to their exposed trunks and remaining root systems. The Plan also calls for years of ongoing herbicide application. Elders in the local Native community say that *All Life is Sacred*. We oppose extermination of the trees and plants that have taken root on this Sacred Burial Ground, regardless of whether they are endemic species or relative newcomers."

## Endangered Species

Ironically, the tree destruction that is fueled by nativism is actually a threat to already endangered native species in the East Bay hills. Herbicides threaten the California Red-Legged Frog, and the Presidio Clarkia, whose habitats are not adequately protected against the drift these chemicals the university uses are known for, regardless of application method. Both the Alameda Whipsnake and Alameda Pallid Manzanita are fire-dependent



and threatened by the exclusion of fire from their habitat. The Pallid Manzanita specifically cannot reproduce without fire to sterilize the soil and scar its seeds.

It's important to understand that wildfires are a necessary part of the ecology in wildfire zones, where species evolved to be fire-dependent. The fact is that these native species are threatened with extinction because of human development, chemical vegetation management practices, and aggressive wildfire prevention, the very actions this Plan promotes. The entire xenophobic framework of native vs. non-native species is full of such contradictions.

While eucalyptus trees originated as far away as Australia, Monterey pines, which are also targeted by this Plan, originated merely 80 miles from here, and are listed as endangered, and should be treasured and preserved as such wherever they are found.

Eucalyptus, the most vilified of the targeted trees, are no hazard to native species, but actually contribute to keeping endangered species alive. They are a particularly important supply of nectar for bees and other imperiled pollinators, because they bloom year-round (<https://sutroforest.com/eucalyptus-myths/>). They are a preferred overwintering site for monarch butterflies (<https://milliontrees.me/2013/11/01/monarch-butterflies-in-california-need-eucalyptus-trees-for-their-winter-roost/>), which are becoming endangered primarily due to few nectar sources in the fall, and habitat fragmentation, including by logging along their migration route (<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2016/04/beyond-milkweed-monarchs-face-habitat-nectar-threats>).

While the authors of the Initial Study admit that the Plan is likely to have significant impact on special-status species, they insist that it will not have any noteworthy effects on forest resources, and will not result in loss of forest land.

Getting all twisted up in semantics and convoluted policy definitions, they rationalize removing the majority of trees that are considered "exotic" by conveniently defining forests as "land that can support 10 percent native tree cover". The authors seem to imply that the forested areas that are there now are not "natural", because most of the trees at some time originated from elsewhere, and therefore are not really a forest, and therefore clearcutting all those "exotic" trees will turn the tiny number of native trees into a forest all on their own.

But nativist contradictions are once again evident, because earlier in the Initial Study authors admit that the Plan would alter the structure of the forest.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

The authors of the Initial Study insist that the Plan would have no substantial effect on land

use and planning, but the East Bay Hills projects have always been at their core about development, and UCB's plans even say so in the title of the primary "Long Range Development" plan. The university has in the past indicated that it intends to build student and faculty housing in the Plan area, and there have long been plans to expand campus facilities, as well as the LBNL which is adjacent to the area.

While I understand and sympathize with the desire to live in a natural environment, and I certainly don't want anyone to get hurt in a fire, I strongly oppose any further destruction of precious forests so that people can feel more comfortable building (and perpetually rebuilding) their flammable wooden houses in a natural wildfire zone. If people are afraid of trees they shouldn't choose to live in a forest.

In requesting FEMA funding to mitigate fire danger of the already existing structures in the hills, a more reasonable focus would have been on replacing roofs with fire resistant materials. But in addition to safer roofs, it is absurd that timber construction of exquisitely flammable tinderboxes continues to be permitted in natural wildfire zones. Any fire mitigation project should first focus on what provided the primary fuel for the 1991 fire: the human-built structures.

A few years ago, when Oakland firefighters saved the building I live in, they told us that the entire six unit residential structure would have been gone within another 2-3 minutes. Compare that with the couple of hours it can take to burn through a strawbale wall, or the clay-firing effect of fire on an earthen wall. Even thick layers of earthen plaster would increase the fire resistance of existing timber structure, and should be undertaken by all residents in the hills. In traditional societies plastering homes at regular intervals is an activity that brings communities together, and for a university could be a tremendous teaching opportunity.

For some of the fire tests performed on strawbale structures, please see:

\* [https://web.archive.org/web/20141231212625/http://www.one-world-design.com/straw\\_bale\\_fire\\_safety.asp](https://web.archive.org/web/20141231212625/http://www.one-world-design.com/straw_bale_fire_safety.asp)

\* [https://web.archive.org/web/20120616182644/http://earthgarden.com.au/strawbale/fire\\_test.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20120616182644/http://earthgarden.com.au/strawbale/fire_test.html)

\* <http://www.potkettleblack.com/natbild/fire.html>

Cob or rammed earth, natural building methods similar to adobe, but seamless and monolithic, instead of bricks mortared together, essentially turn to ceramic in fires. In fact, Nader Khalili, founder of the California Institute of Earth Art and Architecture (Cal-Earth) in Hesperia, experimented with the Geltaftan building method, where he turned earthen

structures into their own kiln, burning them from the inside to create ceramic houses ([https://web.archive.org/web/20120328115956/http://archnet.org/library/sites/one-site.jsp?site\\_id=260](https://web.archive.org/web/20120328115956/http://archnet.org/library/sites/one-site.jsp?site_id=260)).

A relevant example of what happens to earthen structures in a fire is this image of Harbin Hot Springs, a retreat center in Lake County that was consumed by the 2015 Valley Fire, in which you can see that the portions of the temple walls that were built with earth remain standing, while every bit of wood in the structure was destroyed: <https://www.facebook.com/PosterityProductions/photos/a.891054524322216.1073741881.137782922982717/891055130988822/> (an image of the intact temple before the fire can be seen here: <https://inhabitat.com/sunray-kelleys-harbin-hot-springs-temple-in-napa-valley-is-made-from-natural-materials/>))

Both strawbale and cob structures have also done very well in seismic tests, and thus are suitable for building in the Bay Area:

Strawbale shake tests:

\*<https://web.archive.org/web/20110416205659/http://naturalhomes.org/earthquakestraw.htm>

Cob shake tests:

\* <http://www.builtinbliss.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/01a.-The-Stanley-Park-Earthen-Architecture-Project-Shake-Te.pdf>

\* <http://www.builtinbliss.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/01b.-The-Stanley-Park-Earthen-Architecture-Project-Shake-Te.pdf>

A better use of the funds being spent on this EIR, and eventually the destructive implementation of the Plan, would be to relocate residents who don't feel comfortable living in the woods to a place where they feel safer, fund earthen building practices in the hills for those who want to stay, and for the responsible agencies to ensure that streets and water hydrants are accessible when fire suppression is necessary for saving lives and homes, and that the fire departments are properly funded.

Some dire mistakes were made by the Oakland fire department in 1991, specifically walking away before the danger of reignition was over, which is what caused that fire to get out of control. The fire department has since learned to remain alert longer, though it's a lesson that should be reinforced every fire season.

We have not had a major fire in the hills since 1991, primarily because of improvements in

the fire department, as well as in building practices. Many of the human-built structures in the hills have since been built with less flammable materials, particularly roofs are no longer built with wooden shingles.

## **INCREASED FIRE DANGER**

The Plan's stated intent is to reduce wildfire risk, but the proposed actions are more likely to dramatically increase fire danger. In addition to clearcutting moisture-rich forests and turning them into dry, flammable grasslands, as well as removing windbreaks, giving Diablo winds free rein to drive fires into our communities, large piles of chipped, dead vegetation are to be spread over large areas, and herbicides planned for use increase the flammability of vegetation, and may themselves be flammable.

The manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for Garlon, a triclopyr product the university has used, for example, indicate that these chemicals are fire hazards, and produce toxic fumes when they do burn. They are mixed with carrier oils that may contribute further to their flammability and toxicity.

The warning that toxic vapors will be released if involved in a fire is very common for pesticide products, and is also true for other herbicides to be used in this project (and already used extensively in other UC projects). It shows that chemical use in fire prone areas is particularly irresponsible. (Pesticide labels and MSDS can be found here: <http://www.cdms.net/LabelsSDS/home/>)

Experiments by community activists also show that herbicides in general make vegetation more flammable than vegetation that was not exposed to herbicides ([http://www.dontspraycalifornia.org/Cheriel Response.html](http://www.dontspraycalifornia.org/Cheriel%20Response.html)).

The Plan also claims that it would not cause any new source of substantial light or glare that would affect day or nighttime views in the area, but when you cut down a lot of trees you necessarily create a new source of substantially brighter light in formerly shaded area, which do adversely affect daytime views of the area. Removing trees also lets the glare from city lights be seen more widely in the area at night. More importantly, the sunlight that would now saturate the denuded area would increase fire danger by removing the source of shade and moisture that inhibits fires.

### **Respecting those who keep us safe**

Firefighters have long complained about the exploitation of their labor, and the expectation that they risk their lives to protect property that was knowingly placed in the path of inevitable destruction, so for example said one:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20131002190712/http://firechief.com/wf-public-education/dj-vu-all-over-again>

"I strongly support the concept of individual freedom except when it costs me, and other taxpayers, unreasonable amounts of our tax dollars to indulge the foolishness of those who chose to build and live in those areas like Hurricane Alley and the interface. More importantly, I can't support that choice when those folks expect me and my fellow firefighters to place ourselves in unnecessary risk to save the property that they did not take the basic precautions to protect from wildfire. "

In fact, national wildfire policy in general has come under attack in recent years, and in a lawsuit by the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE), the father of a firefighter killed on the job said:

<http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/archive/?date=20031015&slug=wildfires15>

"The problem is we've got these kids out there dying for something that is scientifically bankrupt. We are subverting nature, causing more damage than good, and we are taking kids' lives. That is just so wrong.'

The lawsuit argues that wildfire is a natural phenomenon in forests throughout North America, but the Forest Service policy of trying to put out nearly all wildfires has created conditions that have produced huge wildfires in recent years."

All the East Bay Hills projects, including this Plan, follow a similar trajectory, as they attempt to impose unreasonable controls on these natural phenomena, and in the process do more harm than good, increasing fire danger instead of reducing it, and destroying ecosystems instead of protecting lives.

In 2016, in response to the proposed FEMA projects, Dave Maloney published another report analyzing these types of projects. It is a devastating prediction of the reach of the next fire, if these projects keep being implemented in the East Bay hills. His report is the most urgently important document for UC policy-makers to read in consideration of this EIR: <https://defendeastbayforests.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/nextfiremaloney.pdf>

## **CONCLUSION**

The Initial Study promotes a one-sided, unchallenged ideology that is not scientifically sound, and lacks alternative perspectives from experts in relevant fields, like conservation biologist David Theodoropoulos on "invasiveness", permaculturist Tao Orion on alternatives to toxic vegetation management, and retired firefighter David Maloney on fire safety.

When the university joined with the City of Oakland and the EBRPD in targeting the East Bay Hills for clearcutting, the three agencies had to submit to a combined EIS, because their projects were adjacent to each other, and together expanded the scope of the impact they would have cumulatively. The same remains true now, with the projects discussed in this Plan. They cannot be considered in isolation of other, similar projects in the East Bay hills. Oakland is currently working on an EIR for such a project, the park district continues destroying trees and applying pesticides, as is PG&E. And the university is already conducting similar activities in the Plan area and surroundings, which authors of the Initial Study insist are not to be discussed in this EIR.

Vegetation management is not a primary issue in fire safety. The real wildfire danger to human life needs to be addressed elsewhere than in our last forested areas, but in human homes that encroach upon them. I vote for the No Project option, and for diverting vegetation management funding earmarked for tree removal and pesticides to where it's most needed, for structurally securing homes and facilities, and for firefighting.

The Plan claims that the goal is to protect life. Chopping down forests and poisoning the environment accomplish the opposite. Instead of endorsing and enabling these actions, the EIR should reflect the real dangers this project poses to public and environmental health, and put on the environmental record the actions that the university has already undertaken, including illegally clearcutting on Frowning Ridge before the FEMA EIS which was reviewing the impacts of removing trees from that site was completed, so that the officials responsible can be held accountable for the environmental devastation they are perpetrating on our ecosystem.





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP EIR comments**

2 messages

**Carolyn Goldwasser** [REDACTED]

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 9:23 AM

To: Planning@berkeley.edu

Cc: ICE Daughter Dawn Goldwasser [REDACTED]

To the Regents of the University of California: Please consider the needs of all the people to have access to the Nature that is People's Park. There are about fifty different kinds of mature trees there; the park is an historical landmark and most of these trees were planted at least 40 years ago. It takes decades of dedicated care to produce such a park. My children and grandchildren have played there on the swings and on the stage. We have participated in the afternoon public community free meal, helped to maintain some of the community garden areas, and led singing at some music festivals there.

I and one of my sons are graduates of UC campuses, UCLA, 1968 for me and UCSC, 2001 for him. I was very saddened last time I visited UCLA to find so many of the beautiful natural areas on that campus had been taken away and replaced by massive buildings. People need to connect to nature daily as a part of being healthy and educated.

The life long advantages to all students to be able to communicate with Nature and non students in this nearby public park are great, and far exceed any monetary gain the UC might realize in the short term.

I understand that there may be an historic creek flowing underground there, which could "be daylighted", adding a lovely water feature to the park. I helped as a member of the PTA at Jefferson Elementary School in Berkeley "daylight" an underground creek in the playground there in the 1970's. It added so much joy to the experience of the children during their recreation activities.

Please see the value that is People's Park to all the people, including your students, for their growth in mind and spirit. Do not build buildings there. Please keep it as a park. The Trust for Public Lands has access to grants for daylighting creeks; volunteers do most of the work.

If you must build something, perhaps the new campus at Merced might be a wise place to build. The Amtrak train goes nearby, and infrastructure for students to get from the train to the campus easily without private cars, would be worthwhile. I'm visualizing a rail bed with hand-pumping covered carts attached to it, for students to use their muscles to manually power themselves and their luggage between the train station and the campus.

Please acknowledge to me that you have received and read and considered these comments. I appreciate California having a public University, and having the opportunity to participate in decision making. Sincerely, Carolyn Goldwasser  
Sent from my iPhone

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, May 18, 2020 at 10:41 AM

To: Carolyn Goldwasser [REDACTED]

Your comment has been recorded.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](http://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)

phone: (510) 643-4793

email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)





Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP EIR comments**

2 messages

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**Dawn Goldwasser** [REDACTED]  
To: Planning@berkeley.edu

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 12:38 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

My mother, as a graduate of the UC, bought me a "Cal" hat and I wear it with pride. My grandfather was a scientist and on occasion he worked at your Lawrence labs. As a supporter of Cal, I'd like to respectfully express objection to the proposed project for building on UC owned property People's Park. I understand that this issue has been topical longer than I have personally been alive, but I'd like to point out that besides being a world famous landmark, the 'People's Park' green-space itself has potential for being a lovely park.

Although it is currently a place where people experiencing homelessness seek to create makeshift shelters - this issue is a problem that should be dealt with adequately. A building project there at this time will not fix the homeless issue and seems inhumane from this prospective. Furthermore the green-space is a priceless jewel and once the homeless problem is fixed the green-space could be a lovely part of a up and coming neighborhood.

The juxtaposition of plenty of green-spaces with modern buildings and clean streets would make Berkeley a premier neighborhood for both visitors and residents alike. Just modern building are not enough - with every reduction of green-spaces the entire East Bay loses it's value, it's not a city such as San Francisco, and it will never be - but because of this the East Bay (Berkeley especially), is loved for it's green-spaces, so why not keep the green-spaces alive? The green-spaces help provide oxygen and fresh air for our current and future generations.

Will you please send an acknowledgment that this comment has been received, thank you.

Sincerely,

Dawn Goldwasser

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>  
To: Dawn Goldwasser [REDACTED]

Mon, May 18, 2020 at 10:49 AM

Your comment has been recorded.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**LRDP EIR comments**

2 messages

**manekeyneko** [REDACTED]

To: planning@berkeley.edu

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 11:08 AM

Please email to confirm receipt of comments.

REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR UC BERKELEY LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE AND HOUSING PROJECTS AT PEOPLE'S PARK AND HILL CAMPUS 5/15/20

It is unconscionable that the UC is ignoring Mayor Arreguin's request that UC Capital Strategies delay and/or prolong the window for public comment on NOP and EIR until the lift of Covid Quarantine, likely in June. Refusal to honor this request voids any legitimacy of the development proposal at People's Park. The NOP insists on the necessity of expansion of facilities and university population, even though Berkeley has sued UC for exceeding the agreed-upon number of students to be admitted. The number of beds planned for students and non-university affiliated people are vague, talking about construction 'up to' a certain number, without any minimum commitment. No mention of students who are homeless now, in need of housing, let alone non-university park residents. And no specifics about nonprofits who are supposed to develop and manage the housing projects proposed at People's Park. Who are these nonprofits, what is their proposed role, and what financial and other benefits would they derive from this project? UC Berkeley has an shocking backlog of necessary earthquake retrofitting to do on existing buildings at the campus and elsewhere. It's horrendous that UC Capital Strategies is not focusing on ensuring the safety of current buildings and instead distracted with shiny new projects. Now in the middle of an earth-shattering pandemic response leading to talk of more online teaching and less in-person education, what is needed more than ever is green space, as evidenced by its use during this pandemic for relaxation, (which is crucial to a healthy immune system) and for access for poor people to food at least 5 days a week when other sources have dried up. This space is serving multi functions, including as a place to sleep for those without homes. It is much safer than being in close quarters indoors at a shelter. Lastly, building on People's Park will be more trouble than it's worth when it is likely to sit barely occupied due to exorbitant rents, less in person classes, and the class struggles it will surely amplify.

Sincerely, Siobhan Lettow

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>  
To: "manekeyneko ." [REDACTED]

Mon, May 18, 2020 at 10:46 AM

Your comment has been recorded.

[Quoted text hidden]

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## Proposed People's Park Development- LRDP EIR

2 messages

Tom Luce [REDACTED]  
To: "planning@berkeley.edu" <planning@berkeley.edu>

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 1:08 PM

Re: Proposed People's Park Development

May 15, 2020

On May 2, 2018 Berkeleyside reported that UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ intended to release firm plans to develop People's Park. <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/05/02/uc-berkeley-plans-to-construct-housing-in-peoples-park> People's Park had celebrated its 49th anniversary on April 29, 2018. Since the Chancellor's announcement, the People's Park Committee, of which I am a member, and other groups like Suitcase Clinic and the People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group, have worked to save this landmark Southside green space from development. My name is Thomas Luce, since 2005 living at [REDACTED] Fairview St., [REDACTED] Berkeley, Ca 94703. At age 82 now and a native Vermonter I was in tune at home with the developments of People's Park and Kent State, etc. and wish to see it continued as a perpetual monumental park as part of a series of national historic events. Please acknowledge receipt of these comments.

Thank you, sincerely,

Tom Luce [REDACTED]

- **People's Park has been a City of Berkeley landmark since 1984.** A copy of the application for landmark status is available here: <https://archive.org/details/2526HastePeoplesPark/page/n21/mode/2up>. The park was granted protected landmark status by the Landmarks Preservation Commission as City of Berkeley Landmark #88, on November 19, 1984. [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Home/Landmarks\\_Preservation\\_Commission.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning_and_Development/Home/Landmarks_Preservation_Commission.aspx) A link to the Secretary of the Interior's standards for treatment of Historic Properties is available here: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm> People's Park is a valued and acknowledged historic resource for the Berkeley community, yet the University refuses to honor this protected status. See: Daily Cal staff report, 3/1/19, 'An intersection of housing and history: A look at People's Park', <https://www.dailycal.org/2019/03/01/an-intersection-of-housing-and-history-a-look-at-peoples-park/> See Daily Cal op-ed by Carol Denney, 7/3/17, 'People's Park still matters as a historical landmark': <https://www.dailycal.org/2017/07/03/peoples-park-still-matters-landmark/> See also: Daily Cal op-ed by the People's Park Committee, 9/14/2018, 'People's Park is a historical monument worth fighting for'. <https://www.dailycal.org/2018/09/14/peoples-park-is-a-historical-monument-worth-fighting-for/>
- **People's Park is valuable open space in an increasingly population-dense urban neighborhood.** See Daily Cal op-ed by the People's Park Committee, 9/18/2019, 'People's Park is an important community space and should not be developed': <https://www.dailycal.org/2019/09/17/peoples-park-is-an-important-community-space-and-should-not-be-developed/>
- **People's Park is a valuable resource for all residents of Berkeley, but particularly for the unhoused community.** Terri Compost, longtime People's Park activist, and author of 'People's Park: Still Blooming' (a partial PDF is available here: <file:///home/chronos/u-23096858cde4d974770e29c97376e2676572441c/MyFiles/Downloads/People's%20Park.%20Still%20Blooming-%20T.%20Compost.pdf>) wrote an open letter to City of Berkeley and University of California officials on 6/6/2018 analyzing some of the services the Park provides. I copy it in its entirety here:

### How much would it cost to replace the services People's Park provides?

As plans are being proposed to build on People's Park, we must assess how, where and who would pay to replace the services the Park currently provides, mostly free of charge. Getting rid of People's Park will not get rid of the problems of poverty and homelessness in our community. It will aggravate it. Of course the Park has not created these problems but it has held and tried to alleviate some. If the Park is built upon we will need to consider how to replace the following services:

1. Day time drop in Center for 50-200 people: new facility \$1,000,000 yearly staff: \$300,000 possible

locations: Clark Kerr Campus? Shattuck Ave?

2. Community cultural gathering venue holding at least 300 that allows free amplified concerts and events up to 10 times per year (a very important part of local free speech): 10 free leases of the Greek Theater or building an electrified stage at Willard Park or building a new venue on campus or at the sports facilities behind Willard pool? Or at the sports courts between Channing, College and Haste?
3. Free Food Service for around 75 people per day: Cost estimate \$6 x 75 x 365 = \$164,250 per year. Maybe at Willard, Ohlone, UC Campus or Live Oak Parks?
4. Distribution of free clothes: Small Free clothes store or box located on Southside. \$750,000 initially, \$150,000 annually
5. Mental Health counselors: It would be very difficult to replace the peer counseling and socialization people benefit from their time in People's Park. Weekly sessions with therapists would likely be much less effective than the current situation and multiple further problems and costs will likely arise. At a bare minimum Mental Health worker hours 100/ week @ \$50/hour = \$5000/ week, \$260,000/ year
6. Day time napping area. Lack of sleep among the disenfranchised is dangerous and costly, as all humans cannot function without proper sleep. Napping areas would need to be provided on campus, other parks or in open nearby facilities.
7. Sports facilities for basketball, frisbee, yoga etc.. Either new sports areas open to the public will need to be built or there will need to be accommodations for open use at current facilities.
8. Smoking areas could be set up along Telegraph, perhaps at the site of the old Berkeley Inn on Haste. Benches along Shattuck and Telegraph could be added.
9. Community Garden plots and Food and Herbal Medicine grown in the Park. We would need to allocate a significant lot to accommodate a new community garden. The local food and medicine grown and the soothing nature of gardening cannot be replaced by money. Investment into property for community gardens will be needed and will likely be expensive with the growing cost of nearby real estate.
10. Carbon offsets and Oxygen bars. The current green plants in the Park absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. To compensate currently built upon areas would need to be transformed to trees and plants, though it would take time to reach the maturity of People's Park's vegetation so a further compensation would be required to stay carbon neutral.
11. Emergency gathering sites. Loss of open areas will increase danger in times of earthquakes, fires or other disasters. Leaving other open areas near the dense population around the current Park is recommended otherwise locals will need to run to campus or Willard Parks.
12. Water drainage. The almost 3 acres of permeable land and plantings absorb considerable water during the winter rains. That resource would be lost and runoff will need to be channeled away perhaps through new drains. Derby creek resurfaces in the Park during wet periods flowing through the southwest quarter of the Park.
13. Natural settings for calming and reconnecting with nature and community. Priceless
14. Public Bathrooms. Berkeley has suffered for years looking for sites for public bathrooms which are still woefully inadequate. The University or would need to allocate funds and land for building and upkeep of bathrooms if the Park is removed. Funding will be needed for the difficult community process of siting more bathrooms as well.

Frankly it is far less expensive to keep the People's Park, allowing a place where anyone who needs it, can rest their bones. Berkeley and UC are unprepared and likely unable to provide the services the current Park does. Our community will suffer greatly if people who now use the park seek what they need for healthy, happy lives elsewhere. Telegraph Ave, UC Campus or Willard Park used as such will not make anyone happy. The Park is the last refuge for folks not accepted in other parts of Berkeley. Taking that away would be a grave and inhumane mistake. Terri Compost [REDACTED]

- **People's Park is providing assistance and support to the unhoused community during the COVID-19 shutdown.** See Berkeleyside, 5/12/20, 'Who is feeding People's Park residents during the pandemic?' by Cirrus Wood, <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/05/12/who-is-feeding-peoples-park-residents-during-the->

pandemic

- **There is strong student support for saving People's Park.** See Daily Cal, 'Breaking down barriers: How the Suitcase Clinic breaks down barriers between communities', 4/8/18 by Elizabeth Neoman, <https://www.dailycal.org/2018/04/08/suitcase-clinic-bridges-divide-communities/>. See Daily Cal, 'Suitcase Clinic hosts panel discussion of People's Park, past, present, future', <https://www.dailycal.org/2018/10/21/history-is-too-important-suitcase-clinic-hosts-panel-discussion-of-peoples-parks-past-future/>. See Berkeley Public Health, 2019, 'Suitcase Clinic celebrates 30 years at People's Park, Berkeley', <https://publichealth.berkeley.edu/news-media/school-news/the-suitcase-clinic-celebrates-30-years-at-peoples-park/>. See Daily Cal, 5/8/19 'UC Berkeley removes Free Box despite student support', <https://www.dailycal.org/2019/05/08/uc-berkeley-removes-freebox-in-peoples-park-despite-student-support/>. See Daily Cal editorial 5/16/19, 'With removal of Free Box at People's Park, UC Berkeley disregards community, student wishes', <https://www.dailycal.org/2019/05/16/with-removal-of-freebox-at-peoples-park-uc-berkeley-administration-disregards-community-student-wishes/>. See Daily Cal 2/12/20, 'Protesters interrupt People's Park open house on proposed housing', <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/02/12/protesters-interrupt-peoples-park-open-house/>. See Daily Cal, 4/9/20, 'Community members attend second People's Park open house', <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/04/09/community-members-attend-second-peoples-park-open-house/>. See Daily Cal, 4/23/20, <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/04/23/final-open-house-for-peoples-park-development-takes-place-online/>.
- **People's Park could be a part of a vibrant historic district including many architectural treasures and landmarks.** See Berkeleyside op-ed by the People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group, 2/18/20: <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/02/18/opinion-berkeleys-southside-is-densely-populated-and-needs-open-space-so-dont-build-on-peoples-park>
- **Improvements, like daylighting Derby Creek, could highlight a proposed historic district.** In 1998, the University of California commissioned a study on the potential daylighting of Derby Creek through People's Park. The plan can be found here [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pQe\\_APeAtsVFvV8ADMUST\\_IYL8Y50rKT/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pQe_APeAtsVFvV8ADMUST_IYL8Y50rKT/view).
- **To be a responsible member of the Berkeley community, the University must not develop People's Park.** In these days of accelerating climate change and the "new normal" of the pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, it is short-sighted and foolish to destroy an existing park with fully mature trees in order to construct tall, high-density, student housing. The preservation of open space and the nurturing of more (not fewer) trees is vitally important not only for the students, faculty and staff of the entire UC Berkeley community, but also for the larger City community. UC Berkeley should be working to actively save the planet.

On Fri, May 15, 2020 at 1:00 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Here is what I'm sending once I hopefully get the formatting fixed on the document:

EAST BAY PESTICIDE ALERT'S COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO UC DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR UC BERKELEY'S LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ITS THREATS TO PEOPLE'S PARK, OXFORD TRACT, GILL TRACT, AND NEIGHBORS OF OXFORD TRACT submitted May 15, 2020



\*\* In Honor of James Rector, Alan Blanchard, and the thousands physically and mentally traumatized on Bloody Thursday, May 15, 1969 \*\*

Planning comments due 5/15/20, Bloody Thursday, when in 1969 James Rector was killed, Alan Blanchard was blinded, and thousands more were harmed, is extraordinarily tactless and one wonders who made this decision. It echoes the tone-deaf nature of UC's actions for over 50 years in regards People's Park, the Southside neighborhood overall, and students and community fed misinformation by the university year upon year about People's Park, and UC's actions to try to level it.

Both refusing to delay the NOP process in spite of even the Mayor asking for a delay, and in pushing forth with a deadline for comments on Bloody Thursday, and with many students gone from Berkeley due to the pandemic, this process is provocative at best

I begin my comments by again bringing in the People's Park Committee's Scoping session comments which were read aloud 4/27/20 on a Zoom call:

PEOPLE'S PARK COMMITTEE SCOPING COMMENTS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR UC BERKELEY LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE AND HOUSING PROJECTS AT PEOPLE'S PARK AND HILL CAMPUS 4/27/201. LRDP Update must not be a programmatic EIR that automatically gives the green light to future projects not explicitly listed in the EIR. All future projects must continue to be subject to public input under CEQA.2. The NOP claims 200 meetings and events with stakeholder groups and the public, but not all stakeholders were contacted. Homeless residents of the park weren't included. There was a 1/24/20 invitation-only meeting, at the Christian Science church by the park. Little effort was made to invite community groups like the People's Park Committee, Food Not Bombs, Suitcase Clinic, or others who provide resources at the park so few of the park community were able to participate. Except one town hall on the LRDP in April 2019, no public meetings about this process were held. Two public meetings in February and March 2020, were limited to Project #2 at People's Park, and didn't include other plans to be discussed in this EIR. Which stakeholders were invited to the other 196 meetings, and what parts of the LRDP Update did they cover?

3. The NOP insists on necessity of expansion of facilities and university population, even though Berkeley has sued UC for exceeding the agreed-upon number of students to be admitted. The number of beds planned for students and non-university affiliated people are vague, talking about construction 'up to' a certain number, without any minimum commitment. No mention of students who are homeless now, in need of housing, let alone non-university park residents. And no specifics about nonprofits who are supposed to develop and manage the housing projects proposed at People's Park. Who are these nonprofits, what is their proposed role, and what financial and other benefits would they derive from this project?

4. UC used the excuse of 'deferred maintenance', a concept mentioned in the NOP, to destroy the forested area of People's Park as well as trees all over campus, and the excuse of 'wildfire management' to deforest other areas in the East Bay hills, and use pesticides, long targeting the Hill Campus area. Even mature, tall redwoods are planned for demolition by UC in the Hill Campus. UC repeatedly has been taken to court by community members seeking to defend the Hill Campus forest. UC insists that since these forested areas are not state or federal forest, it's not necessary to discuss the impact of converting that forest to non-forest use, and because there may not be a formal habitat conservation plan, no habitat conservation activities are necessary in the project areas covered in the EIR, even though many animals, including falcons and hawks, utilize them as habitat.

5. The EIR is supposed to cover historic resources, and preserve historic legacy, and as such People's Park, a City of Berkeley Historic Landmark, must be preserved as a park, not replaced with buildings. The NOP refers to creating multi-purpose spaces, but People's Park already has multiple purposes and uses for humans and wildlife, which these plans would eliminate.\*\* THESE COMMENTS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE PEOPLE'S PARK COMMITTEE, including Russell Bates, Lisa Teague, Jessie McGinley, Michael Delacour, Max Ventura, Erick Morales, Andrea Prichett, Aidan Hill, Paul Prosseda, Ivar Diehl, Siobhan Lettow, Dawn Goldwasser, Tom Luce, Hali Hammer, Sheila Mitra-Sarkar, Charles Gary

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SOME HISTORY

User-development and Free Speech are at the center of People's Park's very beginnings, and continue unabated. They must continue unabated, and unobstructed by the University of California, and we need the City of Berkeley's support in ending UC's obstruction of our continued work to save this park. Open space and greenery are crucial in the ever-dense Southside, as is noted in the City of Berkeley's own 2011 Southside Plan:

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level\\_3\\_-\\_City\\_Council/2011/09Sep/Southside%20Plan.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_City_Council/2011/09Sep/Southside%20Plan.pdf), and the park has historical importance worldwide. People's Park Committee and others need to be able to continue providing concerts and events on our Free Speech stage and around the park, and others providing service need not to be obstructed by UC. An example of the mutual aid provided at People's Park is described in a May, 2020 article about Food Not Bombs' continued service in the park Monday-Friday:

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/05/12/who-is-feeding-peoples-park-residents-during-the-pandemic>

Because in interacting with Capital Strategies reps since April of 2019 and coming to learn how little any of them know



of actual park history over the years or at present, here are some sources to give some more basic background:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People's\\_Park\\_\(Berkeley\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People's_Park_(Berkeley)) and

<http://www.peoplespark.org/wp/>

Also please see attached article Scheer, Robert "The Dialectics of Confrontation: Who Ripped Off the Park?" Ramparts, August 1969

#### UC HAS A HISTORY OF GREAT NEGLIGENCE

UC has proven negligence again and again, such as in demolishing our user-developed bathroom attempts several times in the late 80's and early 90's. Finally, a bathroom was built because UC looked so bad in the media. Activists explained that as Reagan had dumped people in need out onto the streets in the 80's with no safety net and as more people found People's Park, neighbors were upset their yards were being used for people's toileting. Many of us got involved in doing what UC should have done which is to say, we gathered an architect, tools, dug trenches, laid pipe, and started building bathrooms for everyone's wellbeing. The murals on the outer walls have been viewed perhaps millions of times over the decades with one highlighting the history of People's Park's beginnings, and the longer history of The Commons in England in the mid-1600's.

Now in a worldwide pandemic, not only has UC refused the city Mayor (see attached letter from Mayor) and students who have scattered to all ends of the earth an appropriate delay in this EIR process, but acts as though it would ever be okay to plow forward against the wishes of major stakeholders, including students. And including some of our society's most vulnerable who call the park home, or come to the park regularly to have some basic needs met.

In an astounding act of greed, during a pandemic where we knew sheltering-in-place was coming, UC sent students to the far corners of the world, in effect potentially spreading Covid-19 and were that not negligent enough, then consolidated students who could not afford to fly off, or chose not to mid-semester, into the fewest dorms possible rather than letting them have less physical contact, and less opportunities to spread virus. Plus this introduced many other people in a moving process to be potentially infected, or potentially to infect. As a parent and healthcare provider, I find it hard to fathom this level of disregard for anyone's health.

This EIR, in addition to answering to the many issues being brought to UC in resistance of building on the park, must answer the question of why UC has refused to maintain bathrooms over time. While a lot of pressure resulted in there now being toilet paper, the contractor who power washes now on a regular basis has not been contracted to wash with anything but water. Sinks do not allow most people a way to wash hands or other items hygienically, and there has not been soap for years until some soap pouches recently were thrown in now and then, but without a proper dispenser which would allow hygienic use.

<https://bit.ly/Maxtalkingaboutfaucets>. In the middle of a worldwide pandemic, and with some of the most vulnerable in our society at great risk should they contract Covid-19, or Influenza. Why?

This EIR process must answer to the inappropriate behaviors of UC in all the decades leading up to this newest threat to build on the park.

We accept no buildings or significant changes imposed by UC. We remember that inappropriate attempt to encroach on the park, obviously to provoke people with the unwanted volleyball courts, and built using old-growth Redwood in the midst of major campaigns to save some of the last old-growth Redwoods in Northern CA, some of the last in the world, UC caused trauma to the park community and eventually that massive waste of resources which we called The World's Biggest Litter Box, had to be removed.

#### UC KILLED TREES IN PEOPLE'S PARK WINTER 2018/19:

December, 2018:

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/12/28/cal-to-remove-42-trees-at-peoples-park-in-berkeley-to-address-long-deferred-maintenance>

<http://www.peoplespark.org/wp/details-on-tree-killing-at-peoples-park-december-28-2018/>

January, 2019:

<http://www.peoplespark.org/wp/tree-attack-at-east-side-forest-of-peoples-park-in-early-morning/>

REGARDING UC'S HISTORY OF TREE DECIMATION, AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TREES IN THE HILLS PLANNED FOR DESTRUCTION (AREAS PESTICIDED FOR A DECADE + AFTER), See attachment entitled: UC Fire Mitigation - Tree Removals (it's a pdf). Just a couple pages in is a chart that shows nearly 18,000 removed by 2007 and there are ongoing tree removals continuing in the hills. Also read up on that at:

<http://treespiritproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Society-American-Foresters-NorCal-SaveEastBayHills-7.29.15.pdf>

The trees decimation in the park is part of the larger hills deforestation project which has been driven by UC all along. For history of that, you can read up here: <http://www.eastbaypesticidealert.org/wpad.html> and here: <http://www.eastbaypesticidealert.org/wildfire.html>

This is a plan to denude the hills of close to half a million healthy trees, along with pesticing repeatedly over at least a decade in each spot which has had trees removed.

Since UC repeatedly has been sued and FEMA has agreed that UC is trying to get FEMA money for a gardening project (called a 'Native Plant Restoration Project') under the guise of wildfire safety, and since independent biologists and wildfire specialists who stand to make no money by taking one stand or another agree that removing big trees such as Eucalyptus, Monterey Pines, Acacias, or other hills trees would have a deleterious effect in terms of wildfire safety, why does UC persist in clearcutting trees in the Hill Campus area, and why did UC kill all the healthy trees it did winter before last in People's Park. Additionally, why is UC planning to down mature Redwoods just West of the Strawberry Creek pool? (See EIR Addendum comments which were submitted by EBPA in January, 2020, and are attached to this document.

#### CAMPAIGN TO PLANT ONE TRILLION TREES WORLDWIDE TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

<https://www.trilliontreescampaign.org/why-trees/climate/>

#### CLARIFICATION THAT TREES COOL THE SOIL AND SAFEGUARD AGAINST FIRE, AND EVERY TREE IS CALLED A 'FIRE MITIGATION FACTOR'

As quoted from the National Fire Protection Association Handbook by David Maloney, retired Oakland Firefighter, former Chief of Fire Prevention at the Oakland Army Base, and appointed to the 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Mayors' Task Force on Emergency Preparedness and Community Restoration, in his presentation beginning at time mark 1:23:14 of this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1i3RP7eDFc>

#### DAYLIGHTING DERBY CREEK ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PEOPLE'S PARK

Out of that volleyball fiasco came The People's Park Community Advisory Board, and public hearings which were attended by UC representatives. This resulted in the June, 1998 report entitled: Report to the University of California and the People's Park Community Advisory Board on the Feasibility of Restoring Derby Creek at People's Park, Berkeley, California. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pQe\\_APeAtsVFvV8ADMUSl\\_YL8Y50rKT/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pQe_APeAtsVFvV8ADMUSl_YL8Y50rKT/view?usp=drivesdk)

UC had hired consultants who pointed out that it's a do-able project without negative hydrologic impacts, with many positives including, from the document: opportunities to acknowledge the necessary integration of our communities to natural systems and to the region as a whole. Also from the document: enhancement of the vibrancy of the Southside neighborhood while incorporating public input, interest and vision and connection to a historical and cultural resource. And another from the document: enhancement of the aesthetic and environmental character of the park.

This daylighting project would be in character with the daylighted Codornices Creek in Codornices Park and in The Berkeley Rose Garden, and in Live Oak Park, and the daylighted Strawberry Creek on the UC Berkeley campus. The ideas were drawn up when many were calling for closing Center St. to traffic between Oxford and Shattuck, and the daylighting of the creek there. While this report refers to 'restoration', we avoid use of that word since it is of the 'Nativists' who, supported by pesticide companies who use xenophobic language saying things are 'invasive' and 'not native'. Their answer always is that pesticides are needed. To learn more about this from a biological point of view by a Conservation Biologist, and see some of that history of the Nativist pesticide agenda pushed by Monsanto and Dow-Elanco, and other pesticide companies, adopted by many creeks groups which innocently fall into line with "leaders" of the groups who in many cases seem not to understand biology, or how good-hearted people buying into a "need" for pesticide use are endangering us all, you can listen to this biologist here: <http://www.eastbaypesticidealert.org/wildfire.html> (scroll down just a bit to the video of 7/15/15 program: David Theodoropoulos).

We refer to 'daylighting', which is an accurate portrayal of the plan. It is combined with plans to hold the banks which East Bay Pesticide Alert suggests should include Eucalyptus trees which are part of the long history of this Southside neighborhood. Eucs were planted to hold the banks of San Leandro Creek well over 100 years ago, and have held the banks beautifully. We were in a huge fight a decade ago to save those Eucs which as part of the hills forest decimation project were planned for destruction by the county after county flood control had created danger by their negligence in avoiding doing maintenance work and letting plants vine up, creating fire ladders. Their answer was that they should destroy the trees, rather than do fire ladder maintenance, and then plant what they were calling 'native' plants, and the plan was to use herbicide pesticides in the creek. It actually was a Nativist plan to do what they called a Native Plant

Restoration project which in Sausal Creek in Dimond Park, in Oakland, turned into decimation of mature Redwoods, many about 100 years old, then creating hot circumstances not only around the creek but far from the creek in the lawn area of the park, even under the trees which remained in the lawn area.

We support this project but without any pesticide use in the creek or park. We support an option to avoid trees being destroyed for this project, and support footbridges from Dwight Way into the park so that the creek should not act as a barrier to entrance into the park. The option to reroute electricity so as not to intrude too dramatically on the lawn area is the option we promote.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE, EUCALYPTUS, AND DERBY CREEK IN THE PARK

Humans have created massive climate change and UC's nefarious action of winter 2018/19 in demolishing 42 healthy trees resulting in a heating up and drying up of the Eastside forest released a lot of carbon which had been sequestered, and created a different microclimate than the wet, moist forest. Eucs are beloved throughout California and have a history of being planted as windbreaks and for shade up and down the state, and in the East Bay Hills as people were beginning to settle the hills with houses. They've been planted on university campuses such as UC Berkeley, Mills, and Stanford. Palo Alto streets are lined with these gracious trees. They offer shade, a place for raptors and owls to rest, and overwintering habitat for Monarch butterflies, and well as nectar for wildlife.

Therefore, EBPA calls for some Eucs to be part of this project to hold the banks. They thrive here in spite of climate change because they do such an excellent job storing water in their roots and releasing as needed, as do camels with water stored in their humps. Sure, add rip-rap and we're not opposed to including plants and trees some might call 'native' but we are completely opposed to a political decision to say something arbitrarily called 'native' is superior to something else which can thrive here. Acclimation is key, on a biological level. We have different conditions in the East Bay than existed hundreds of years ago. Even at the point Eucs were planted in the East Bay Hills in the early 1900's, conditions differed greatly with lower population, few cars spewing exhaust, no widespread use of toxic pesticides, and a generally healthier population eating real, nutritious food.

East Bay Pesticide Alert and many grassroots groups, many of them part of The Coalition to Defend East Bay Forests, have been resisting and in EIR processes around UC for over 1-1/2 decades regarding hills trees decimation and pesticing, participated in by many agencies, and the City of Oakland, and driven from the start by UC, UCB in the East Bay Hills. In S.F., UCSF has led the charge to destroy the Eucalyptus cloud forest on Mt. Sutro.

#### ANY CHANGES AT PEOPLE'S PARK MUST NOT DISPLACE THE POOR

If the creek project should go forward, it must not be used as an excuse to try to push people out of the park who are homeless, houseless, or poor, and who depend on the park for relaxation, one of the most potent supports to our immune systems, and the mutual aid people receive provided by Food Not Bombs, The Suitcase Clinic, The Free Clinic, The People's Park Committee, and the many other individuals and groups which provide services to people in need.

#### WHY HAS UC TARGETED THE GREEN SPACES?

UC has targeted People's Park, Oxford Tract, and Gill Tract, the three locales where students can work on agricultural pursuits, and act as crucial green spaces in dense, urban neighborhoods. Why? Threat to Oxford Tract

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/04/05/should-uc-berkeley-oxford-tract-be-developed-for-student-housing>

For almost 100 years, UC Berkeley science faculty and students have relied on the expansive fields, greenhouses and lab space at Berkeley's Oxford Tract, stretching between Hearst Avenue and ...

#### SAYING THESE GREEN SPACES ARE NEEDED FOR HOUSING IS DISINGENUOUS

UC owns land all over Berkeley and beyond, as pointed out clearly in its documents shown during the April 27th NOP Scoping session via Zoom. Saying it needs People's Park's 2.8 acres makes plain UC's obsession with killing the park and its green space and its community. Especially now, in the middle of an earth-shattering pandemic response leading to talk of more online teaching and less in-person education, what is not needed is to race forth and keep threatening our needed green space south of campus. This space is needed more than ever, as evidenced by its use during this pandemic for relaxation (again, this is crucial to a healthy immune system) and for access for poor people to food at least 5 days a week when other sources have dried up. This space is serving multi functions, including as a place to sleep for those without homes. It is much safer than being in dangerous close quarters inside at a shelter.

#### POTENTIAL STUDENT HOUSING SITES ACCORDING TO UC:

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2017/01/31/uc-identifies-9-potential-sites-student-housing-berkeley>

Map showing proposed and possible sites for housing:

<http://www.peoplespark.org/wp/innovative-student-housing-architecture-can-help-protect-peoples-park/>

Additionally the chancellor's mansion, which has roughly the same footprint at People's Park is vacant and could provide student housing:

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/New-Cal-chancellor-shuns-campus-pricey-mansion-11274196.php>

- Refers to 50-plus acres at Clark-Kerr campus:

<https://www.integralgroup.com/projects/clark-kerr-campus/>

Also mentions 50-plus acres:

<http://www.cswst2.com/uc-berkeley-clark-kerr-campus-infrastructure-renewal-berkeley-california/>

#### PRIVATIZATION, SEISMIC RETROFITTING NOT DONE, AND OVER-ENROLLMENT

UC cries "Wolf!" at every turn, and has for the past decade +. While UC reps say they have no money and need to hand over projects to privatization, in reality they ought to have plenty when we consider what they have NOT chosen to do in terms of seismic retrofitting. The author of this L.A. Times article <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-08-29/how-would-uc-berkeley-fare-in-a-big-earthquake-officials-looked-and-its-scary> points out that UCLA has only about 3,000 more students than UC Berkeley and UCLA has put 2.8 billion into seismic retrofits while UCB has put in 1 billion. It suggests lack of concern for the safety of students, professors, and staff at UC Berkeley. Referencing 1997 Seismic studies... 22 years ago:

<https://www.berkeley.edu/administration/facilities/safer/findings.html>

<https://www.berkeley.edu/administration/facilities/safer/background.html>

UC has chosen not to retrofit 68 buildings on Campus Park, 62 of which are designated lethal risk "serious", and 6 of which are designated "severe", the second worst possible designation of potential risk to life.

And it's not so much lack of housing possibilities in Berkeley, but lack of honestly affordable housing. UC's dorms and other housing often is MORE EXPENSIVE than other wildly expensive Bay Area housing. None of the UC housing plans are for anything resembling reasonable-cost housing. This is nothing new. But any housing crisis in the East Bay has been dramatically affected by UC's over-enrollment of nearly 10,000 over by 2019 what was agreed upon in the 2005 Long Range Development Plan for 2020. City of Berkeley's June, 2019, lawsuit over UC's over-enrollment and its lack of fair pay-in to the city for the costs of services it uses <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/06/17/city-sues-uc-berkeley-for-not-studying-impacts-of-34-student-enrollment-increase>. The City of Berkeley sued in 2019 relating to all the infrastructure cost to the city, and UC paying a tiny fraction of the actual cost of 21 million yearly (paying only 1.8 million yearly now).

UC profits from housing, and UC-related housing being so expensive results in homeless students, some living in People's Park, and some in RV's, vans, and cars. Great distress ensues, and academic outcomes are threatened. Homeless UC students:

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/UC-Berkeley-is-making-the-student-housing-crisis-13680589.php>

<https://www.dailycal.org/2019/02/28/legislators-local-activists-work-to-alleviate-student-housing-crisis/>

Privatization supports no one but the people holding title to buildings or land. UC should not be in the business of handing over state resources to privately-owned entities which profit at the expense of students whose whole lives may be negatively affected by student loans they take out to pay for that housing. If they have children, that generation may suffer from the impact of such student loans. One this is for sure: UC students, particularly UC Berkeley students get a clear education in Capitalism and who gets the spoils.

UC has threatened Walnut St. tenants with loss of their historic, rent-controlled housing in the midst of this pandemic: UC Berkeley is negotiating to buy and ... - [berkeleyside.com](https://www.berkeleyside.com). Upcoming eviction alert given 4/17/20, in the midst of statewide shelter-at-home orders.

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/05/04/uc-berkeley-is-in-negotiations-to-purchase-and-potentially-tear-down-a-111-year-old-rent-controlled-apartment-building>

"Oh, no," Thompson said when Berkeleyside called her to ask for details about 1921 Walnut St. She lashed out at UC Berkeley. "All they are doing is destroying everything in sight."

#### INCREASED HOMELESSNESS IN BERKELEY AND RELATIONSHIP TO UC'S OVER-ENROLLMENT, WITHOUT HAVING HAD HOUSING BUILT TO ACCOMMODATE:

Increased homelessness in Berkeley:

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/04/05/berkeley-now-estimates-there-are-2k-homeless-people-who-come-through-the-city-in-a-year>

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/07/23/berkeley-homeless-population-jumped-13-in-past-two-years>

UC HAS A LONG HISTORY OF BEING A BAD NEIGHBOR TO  
THE REST OF BERKELEY

2005 City lawsuit against UC:

<http://www.cp-dr.com/articles/node-415>

NOT ONLY HUMANS, BUT WILDLIFE DEPENDS ON PEOPLE'S PARK

Our falcon and hawk friends depend on the tall trees and the open space at People's Park when hunting for their food. They are part of the web of life in the Southside. A few days ago when I was at the park, 3 caterpillars climbed their way up and over me on their adventures. The gardens and trees at People's Park are a wonderland for many kinds of flora and fauna and provide respite for many people, also, on a daily basis. When students are in town, they play frisbee, hula hoop, play basketball, eat lunch, play music, and hang out enjoying the sun.

East Bay Pesticide Alert submitted extensive comments in December, 2019, on the UC Vegetation Management Plan EIR Scoping, and in January, 2020, on the LRDP Addendum about the Strawberry Creek Recreation Center plans to destroy mature, healthy Redwoods. Both of those comments are attached and we submit them as part of this EIR process as what is planned at People's Park is part of this larger deforestation project and must be answered to in that context, as well as other contexts asserted in other comments submitted.

Sincerely,

Maxina Ventura, Berkeley

for East Bay Pesticide Alert

[REDACTED]

ATTACHMENTS:

- Scheer, Robert "The Dialectics of Confrontation: Who Ripped Off the Park?" Ramparts, August 1969
- City of Berkeley's request for delay of process
- December, 2019 EBPA comments to UC NOP for EIR on Vegetation Mgmt. which includes extensive historical data and photos of Eucalyptus and tall trees and Olmstead's Landscape Architecture design for Campus Park (the UC campus), and photos showing hills tree development
- January, 2020 EBPA EIR comments on Strawberry Recreation Center EIR ADDENDUM
- People's Park Committee members' individual comments submitted as part of the Scoping session with the addition of one PPC member's Letter to the Editor printed in the East Bay Times, and another's 2018 letter talking about costs were the park destroyed
- Document I plan to put together tomorrow typing out the hundreds of postcards people made out last year at the anniversary shows and also at those two Capital Strategies open houses

//////////

Email to: [Planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:Planning@berkeley.edu) by Friday 5 p.m., and in the subject line put something like LRDP EIR comments. Ask for acknowledgment that they've received comments.

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Maxina Ventura  
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peoples-park-committee mailing list  
[peoples-park-committee@lists.sonic.net](mailto:peoples-park-committee@lists.sonic.net)  
<https://lists.sonic.net/mailman/listinfo/peoples-park-committee>

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<https://lists.sonic.net/mailman/listinfo/peoples-park-committee>

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Tom Luce  
[REDACTED] Fairview St. [REDACTED]  
Berkeley, Ca 94703-2317  
[REDACTED]

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <[planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)>

Mon, May 18, 2020 at 10:51 AM

To: Tom Luce [REDACTED]

Your comment has been recorded.

[Quoted text hidden]

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+++++

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Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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## Public Comment: People's Park Development Plans

2 messages

Jessica McGinley [REDACTED]

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 4:32 PM

To: Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

The last online open house presented the most recent updates for construction on the park, framing the building plans as a justifiable compromise between the University's goals of increasing student housing and the community's desire to maintain the integrity of the unique, open, and green space. However, this characterization is grossly misleading, as the completion of this project will result in the displacement of our community's most vulnerable and marginalized residents, as well as all the essential services and community events that utilize this space. Please clarify the cost of the proposed housing for each student.

The University has aggressively and forcefully continued to pursue the development of this project, even during a time where the Berkeley community is experiencing greater hardship due to the global pandemic. Public comment on the proposed plan is allowed until May 15th; an unacceptable and insufficient amount of time given that Berkeley is under a Shelter-In-Place order until at least May 31st. This insensitivity, especially coming from a renowned institution like Berkeley, has been addressed by Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Berkeley City Council, and numerous neighborhood groups. Despite Mayor Arreguin's statement to Chancellor Carol Christ requesting that "the campus delay the public comment period until after the Shelter-In-Place order is lifted," the University refused to extend the public comment period, demonstrating the University's disregard and deviance from their own outlined principles for the LRDP.

We, as students of the University of California, Berkeley, strongly urge the University to consider alternative spaces of which UC has many which, in fact, are called 'opportunity sites' in their own documents that would effectively address the need for student housing while being cognizant of potential community displacement and environmental upheaval. There has been a severe lack of transparency from the university regarding the negative social consequences that would result from development on People's Park. Some questions and demands that we ask of the University to increase transparency and honesty:

**- How much will the cost of the proposed housing be for each student?**

- We demand that you are honest with regards to the "supportive housing" as it is guaranteed affordable housing, and a slight chance for some supportive housing. Supportive housing DOES NOT equal affordable housing. Stop using this to justify displacement of the current residents of the park as I talked with RCDC and even the supportive housing (if it is built) will not house them. **You cannot continue to say that this proposed housing will house the homeless people in the park.**

**- Which students will be eligible to live in the proposed housing?**

**- What will happen to the Food Not Bombs services that are provided at the park every weekday?**

**- Have you talked to the current residents of the park about the proposed plans?**

**- What meaningful involvement SPECIFICALLY has been made to include students and community members in this conversation? (documented dates and places and how they were advertised)**

**- Will another public restroom be built to replace the one that would be destroyed?**

The loss of this physical space would not only destroy a green space, but would be erasing decades of rich cultural, historical, and social history. For more than 50 years, People's Park has promoted community gathering, relationship-building, and environmental preservation through events such as weekly gardening parties, concerts, People's Park Committee meetings, and celebratory events like the Suitcase Clinic's 30th Anniversary Solidarity Party.



We firmly believe in preserving the park as a green space that is accessible to all University students and community members for the following reasons:

1. Historical Legacy

- a. The park is an integral aspect of the Free Speech Movement that the University is known for as well as the Anti-War Movement and many other monumental coalitions. University students and Berkeley community members have advocated, been arrested, and died for the park's existence, and it is disrespectful to their legacy and the legacies of the movements that fostered in the park if it were demolished.
- b. The mural that testifies the historical and cultural significance of the park will be destroyed alongside the development of the park.

3. Environmental Preservation

- a. It is one of the few green spaces left in the district and we have an obligation to save the land.
- b. In the event of an emergency evacuation, People's Park is the only free open, safe space in that area.
- c. Gardening: community members and students come together weekly to garden at the park. The garden in the Park stretches along the entirety of one side of the park; it will be close to impossible to replicate a garden of that extent anywhere near or on campus.

4. Displacement of Community and Services

- a. While the construction plans include "affordable housing," the University's plans show that this supportive housing is only for formerly unhoused folx, thus excluding the park's current population from this housing.
- b. Food Not Bombs is a service that provides free meals at the park every weekday to Berkeley's homeless and food insecure population. The development of the park would interrupt and possibly discontinue this essential service.
- c. A lot of the garden in People's Park is used to grow foods that members of the community are welcome to take and the rest is donated. Student Groups also use this space to organize farm to table events. Construction on this park will put a stop to this important supply of food.
- d. Many people rely on the public restrooms at the park everyday. Development on the park creates more barriers for marginalized folx who do not have access to clean restrooms and sinks.

As has come further into the public eye during this pandemic, UC has no interest in providing housing simply because it's needed; so much profit is culled from each form of housing that, now in having to make at least partial refunds, UC's facing significant financial losses. UC's aggressive pursuit of private investors doesn't serve UC students, the City of Berkeley, and certainly does not serve those who would be dislocated from the park if this building proceeds.

As both students of the University of California, Berkeley and as residents of the city of Berkeley, we all play a role in the displacement of marginalized folx. It is our responsibility to ensure that we do not further contribute to this crisis. We must understand the consequences that come with the loss of People's Park if it were to be built on. We will not only be disrespecting the individuals that rely on the park for services and a place to rest, but we would also be insulting and dishonoring the people that built the park, fought for its continuance, and died to preserve it for all people.

People's Park is an easy target for the University due to the obstacles that prevent the Park's community from advocating for themselves. While it may seem reasonable to choose this space to build on due to the lack of awareness of its historical and cultural significance and the supposed benefits of the project, as the student community of the University, we must not allow ourselves to be complicit in the University's wrongdoings. Thus, we collectively urge and request the University to research and pursue their alternative sites to address the housing crisis—**building on People's Park would do more harm than good.**

Signed,

Jessie McGinley, concerned and disappointed Undergraduate Student

Many other concerned and disappointed students that are not aware of the public comment period due to lack of advertising on the University's behalf


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**Jessica McGinley** [REDACTED]  
To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 4:56 PM

Undergraduate Student, Austine Peng would also like to sign off on this statement

[Quoted text hidden]

| Environmental Criteria that must be quantified | Additional information and citations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Comments</b><br><b>51 years of BENEFITS must be quantified</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Micro-climate                                  | <p>Trees achieve this effect by providing shade and evapotranspiration to cool and create micro-climates. (EPA, 2007)</p> <p>Buildings during summer, thereby reducing the need to run air conditioners and consume electricity</p>                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Heat Island Reduction                          | <p>Trees and other heat island reduction measures can combine to reduce building carbon emissions by 5-20 percent (Akbari and Konopacki, 2003).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Island reduction calculator would give us the true benefit of People's Park in reduction of Heat Islands.</p> <p><b>Not measured for 51 years.</b></p>                                                                                                                              |
| Carbon Sequestration                           | <p>A young sapling can sequester anywhere from 1.0 to 1.3 lbs. carbon each year, while a 50 year old tree can sequester over</p> <p>100 lbs. annually (DOE 1998).</p> <p>With the sequestration of many trees put together, urban trees can be a significant sink for carbon dioxide. The rate of net sequestration per area of tree cover can be as high as 0.29 kg C/sq. m tree cover (EPA 2008).</p> | <p>100 lbs times 30 trees = 3,000 lbs annually lost.</p> <p><b>3,000X49 years= 147,000 lbs lost by cutting the trees.</b></p> <p><b>NOT CALCULATED for 51 years:</b> The rate of net sequestration per area of tree cover can be as high as 0.29 kg C/sq. m tree cover (EPA 2008).</p> |
| Wastewater recycling and stormwater retention  | <p>Green spaces in urban areas has been identified as a pathway for reducing the energy use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with water delivery by providing a medium for wastewater recycling and increased stormwater retention (Anderson, 2003; Kramer and Dorfman, 2000).</p>                                                                                                               | <p><b>51 years of stormwater retention without any "Measures" to get funding for its creation must be measured.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                |

| Environmental Criteria that must be quantified | Additional information and citations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ground Water Recharge                          | <p>Much of the surface of urban areas is rendered impermeable by buildings, surface coverings. Because of this covering, the classical view of the effect of on groundwater is that recharge is reduced. For example,</p> <p>"... groundwater outflow ... decreases with urbanization, with direct recharge increasing." (Douglas, 1983)</p> <p>and similarly from Lindh (1983)</p> <p>"Infiltration to the groundwater is markedly reduced ... with less water in the aquifer, wells may have to be deepened"</p> <p>In fact urbanization alters all parts of the hydrological cycle so much that analysis of the effects on groundwater is possible</p> <p>The <b>most direct and quantifiable impact on water resources is through the increase in ground- water recharge that is associated with the high permeability of green spaces</b>, compared with the low permeability surfaces of densely developed areas. The benefit to water resources is dependent on the spatial area and the <b>"type" of green space</b>.</p> | <p><b>51 years of BENEFITS must be quantified</b></p> <p><b>Green spaces are never TAKEN AWAY.</b> People's Park is aiding in <b>water conservation, mitigation of the urban heat island effect, and the reduction of greenhouse gases.</b></p> <p><b>51 years of ground water recharge must be quantified.</b></p> |
| Food Security                                  | <p><a href="https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/05/12/who-is-feeding-peoples-park-residents-during-the-pandemic?fbclid=IwAR3pSg2hhw31ttMNwLOxAvYBw9fD6XaFf3XLG0rWLR6i7YQ-SC9rtuJeQNs">https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/05/12/who-is-feeding-peoples-park-residents-during-the-pandemic?fbclid=IwAR3pSg2hhw31ttMNwLOxAvYBw9fD6XaFf3XLG0rWLR6i7YQ-SC9rtuJeQNs</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p><b>Must Quantify this economic benefit for 51 years and most importantly during pandemic. The measurement will be different for pandemic.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                |



Shelter in Place



Must Quantify this economic benefit for 51 years and most importantly during pandemic. The measurement will be different for pandemic.

Importance of green surroundings for mental health and stability must be measured.

|            |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                        |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recreation | <p>Local recreational activities within walking distance</p>  | <p>Recreation within walking distance for 51 years has reduced Green House Gas Emissions (GHG).</p> <p>Must quantify the benefits.</p> |
| Landmark   | <p>Please read comments sent in People's Park Committee and the Historical Landmark Committee</p>                                                | <p>Quantify the value</p>                                                                                                              |



## Importance of Derby Creek Daylighting



People's Park Committee

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May 8 · Edited · 🌐

In 1998 the University of California commissioned a report to examine the possibility of bringing Derby Creek to daylight in People's Park. This is a concept drawing from the report.

Sheila Mitra-Sarkar, Ph.D.





Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

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## Public Comment on new EIR for People's Park & Hill Campus deforestation

1 message

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sandra morey [REDACTED]

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 11:28 AM

To: planning@berkeley.edu

People's Park is a historical landmark that brings many tourists from all over the world to the Telegraph Avenue small businesses. It should be preserved and can be done in a manner that reminds us of the ongoing struggle to keep the open spaces we have left of what once was a heavily wooded neighborhood in Berkeley, both on and off the campus. I lost a dear friend in the struggle between community people and the Berkeley Police. He was not shot, but he lost his motorcycle helmet to a thief and was in an accident on his way home. That could have happened any time, but he was there to add his voice to the thousands of other voices protesting making People's Park into a sports field for athletic classes at UCB. I also feel that deforesting Hill Campus is a bad idea. Yes, more affordable housing is needed in Berkeley, but there are many old trees there that harbor wildlife, provide lovely recreational walking, nurture our children and provide healthy seeds for fighting off some of the blights that affect our local trees. I do think there are many other ways to provide new housing in Berkeley

Sandra Morey  
Oakland CA.



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP NOP**

1 message

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**Jennifer Pearson** [REDACTED]  
To: Planning@berkeley.edu

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 5:04 PM

Mr. Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
300 A & E Building  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA. 94720-1382

'Necessity is the mother of Invention'

Dear Sirs and Madams:

World-wide Covid 19 virus challenges all of us to change old ways to survive. Planners can facilitate in building institutions of learning in communities to sustain populations—institutions that create and invent principles and practices for the sustainability and advancement of humanity.

As a Berkeley homeowner over half a century, I respectfully suggest you find the resilience to creatively call on us in the community to provide you with a broad spectrum of alternative s: new ideas; new knowledges; new procedures to address the current challenges that are forcing ALL of us to re-imagine our liveability in this densely populated City of Berkeley.

The above proverb defined in the Oxford Dictionary:

"When the need for something becomes imperative, you are forced to find ways of getting or achieving it."

Concluding stanzas in poem by Irish clergyman philosopher George Berkeley 1685-1753)

"On the Prospect of Planting Arts and Learning in America"

'Westward the course of Empire takes its way;  
The first four acts already past,  
A fifth shall close the drama with the day;  
Time's noblest offspring its the last."

The pandemic 'drama' impacts any future goals. We learn from facing the decay of dense cities with high virus infection numbers, and unexpected death statistics. We can collaborate to develop a different knowledge growth that will re-vision design principles, shelve old models to change planning strategies.

Such can can be achieved by collaborating with 'the wisest heads and noblest hearts' of the Berkeley UCB Campus community to address unanswered questions.

Increasing student, faculty and staff populations no longer requires physical footprint expansion with building housing that intensifies crowding—density. Instead, we need to collaborate in collecting data on the successes of distance learning. albeit—forced by the pandemic

Thanking you for your kind attention

Sincerely, Jennifer Mary Pearson. May 15, 2020

██████████ Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94709  
May 15, 2020

Mr. Raphael Breines, Senior Planner  
300 A & E Building  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA. 94720-1382

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Thanking you for your kind attention

  
Sincerely, Jennifer Mary Pearson. UCB Alumnus:  
BA Criminology; MSW Social Welfare, Ph.D. Education

## People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group

To protect, preserve, and enhance public understanding of the significant architectural and cultural landmarks and historic events unique to the Southside campus area through outreach, research, and education and cultural community projects.

P.O. Box 758  
Berkeley Main Post Office  
Berkeley, California 94704  
Harvey Smith peoplesparkhxdist@gmail.com

May 15, 2020

To: Raphael Breines, Senior Planner Physical & Environmental Planning, University of California, Berkeley, (UC Berkeley) 300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Via: Email, planning @Berkeley.edu

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) for LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR (Program EIR) per compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

### Scoping Comments:

At a time when COVID -19 has had the effect of upsetting the regular patterns of community and academic life, both the timing and the proposed plans within the Program EIR appear questionable. To begin, it would seem contrary to the purpose of CEQA, in the face of the COVID-19 shutdown, that this Scoping period has been rushed and, in fact, finalized without the opportunity for even Berkeley's Boards and Commissions to participate. Most significantly, however, in regard to the proposed Program EIR, it would seem completely relevant that UC Berkeley itself is in flux as to future plans, including the uncertainty of financial solvency and future enrollment.

Upfront, the Program EIR appears to misrepresent UC Berkeley's legal obligation in compliance with CEQA. The notice for the Scoping Session portrays the Program EIR as *one* project, incorporating a Long Range Development Plan and "two campus developments." It would seem that, in fact, there are actually *three separate projects* — 1) a proposed LRDP Update, 2) a large commercial/residential development project *geographically* within Berkeley's zone of the Downtown Area Plan, and 3) a complex housing development project *geographically* on People's Park within Berkeley's zone of the Southside Area Plan. Each of the three projects, separately, entails potential and specific environmental impacts and, thus, it would appear that each is deserving of separate, full and adequate environmental analysis.

In regard to Housing Project #2, as outlined in the Notice of Preparation (NOP), please consider

the following comments.

### Aesthetics

Housing Project #2, as initially described in the NOP – to accommodate “up to 1,200 beds” for student and “up to 125 apartments” - would have a significant effect on the aesthetics of the area by substantially degrading and obstructing publicly accessible views and the existing open space and visual character of the district resulting in a substantial, demonstrable negative aesthetic effect.

Anyone who has noted the many campaigns of Berkeley citizens opposing attempts to impose density and highrise buildings might be surprised that UC Berkeley is proposing another 16 story tower or a cluster of high-rises, potentially defacing some of the most spectacular architecture identified in Berkeley. It is an additional insult to Berkeleyans, who opposed gigantic building projects that obstructed the views of the bay from the Campanile, that UC Berkeley now wants to deface some of the most spectacular architecture in the South campus with a looming monolith.

The disregard for the existing context and scale of the Southside neighborhood is in clear contradiction of this its statement in section 4.1-6 of the 2020 LRDP EIR:

*While future University housing projects must have adequate density to support reasonable rents, they must also be designed to respect and enhance the character and livability of the areas in which they are located. To the extent feasible, University housing projects in the 2020 LRDP Housing Zone should not have a greater number of stories nor have lesser setback dimensions than could be permitted for a project under the relevant city zoning ordinance as of July 2003.*

While aesthetic considerations can include questions of taste, the important concentration of historic resources in the People’s Park neighborhood, including those of religious origins, would suffer a significant loss of collective aesthetic identity if a contemporary housing complex of such density and heights were to be built on People’s Park. There would be actual shadows from any proposed buildings of height, but even more oppressive would be the diminution of a special place unique to California, lost forever, perhaps, in newly created canyons that would overwhelm the distinction of historic Haste, Bowditch and Dwight Streets.

Furthermore, at this time it seems important to consider that any City review of potential changes to the Southside Plan re-consider up-zoning, including allowing for cumulative buildings of height, will not be proceeding in the immediate future. Thus, it stands that the population density provided for in the City's Southside Plan makes preservation of People's Park, the only public open space in an increasingly crowded and congested neighborhood, an aesthetic necessity.

## Biological Resources

Environmental impacts will result through conflict with local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources with Berkeley. The City's Oak Tree Removal Ordinance No. 6,905-N.S. declares a moratorium of coast live oak tree removal. People's Park not only has coast live oaks, but many other valuable trees. Although UCB has removed trees without lawful notice to the city's Landmark Preservation Commission or the community at large, many trees of the original planting representing California's biomes are still healthy and in place. These include coastal redwoods, Douglas fir, giant sequoias, Monterey pine, blue oak, iron wood (rare), valley oak, incense cedar and boxelder maple. Their destruction would have a substantial adverse effect.

The gardens and landscape in People's Park began as a UCB student project in April 1974 and including student field studies, individual studies, and community participation. The program was coordinated by the student-community People's Park Project/ Native Plant Forum (ASUC). Community gardens and landscaping with native plants specimens was aided at times by the director and staff of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, the U.C. Botanical Gardens, local merchants, neighborhood groups, the California Native Plant Society, and elements of what is now the U.C. College of Natural Resources.

## Hydrology and Water Quality

Housing Project #2 could substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area through the alteration of the course of Derby Creek that runs below the surface of the park. Major construction on the site would clearly have impact on this underground stream and could potentially affect both upstream and downstream city runoff patterns and systems and contribute to San Francisco Bay pollution. The existence of the 2.8 acres of open space on People's Park also allows rain water to penetrate and contribute to the water table. These issues need to be addressed.

## Recreation

The reduction of recreation space in the most densely populated area of Berkeley would need to be adequately addressed in the EIR. This is the only open space in the Southside neighborhood, and it has been used historically as a place of recreation. It includes a basketball court and open space for playing catch or Frisbee. The stage is used for performances of all kinds and the grassy areas for picnics. Innumerable rallies and events have been held in the park in its over fifty-year history. It is known to provide irreplaceable natural space for enjoying wildlife and native plants, contemplative moments important to mental health referred to as "forest bathing", or "shinrin-yoku" in Japanese culture, where bird song, hearing the rustle of leaves in the trees, and the feel of the earth while gardening create a sense of harmony.

## Cultural Resources

Since c.1968 when the powers of eminent domain were used by the university to clear the roughly 2.8-acre site proposed for Housing Project #2, the site has been identified as People's Park, a significant historic resource. It is protected by a 1987 Superior Court order designating it as a "quintessential public forum" requiring the university to allow regular amplified public concerts which the proposal appears to ignore. It is both a designated City of Berkeley Landmark, #84, and listed on the California State Inventory of Historic Resources as a "3-S" i.e. "appears eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places." Furthermore, the People's Park site is entirely surrounded by designated properties of significance, including structures from Berkeley's early settlement days (Woolley House, 1876) and Bernard Maybeck's First Church of Christ, Scientist, Berkeley, a National Historic Landmark.

Housing Project #2, as outlined, would cause physical demolition/destruction of People's Park as an historical resource. It would also cause significant negative impacts upon each of the identified surrounding resources. When considering and discussing these impacts within the EIR, it seems important to consider UC Berkeley's 2020 LRDP Cultural Resources Objective which states that UC Berkeley shall "...plan every new project to respect and enhance the character, livability, and cultural vitality of our city environs." (p. 4.4-52)

Additionally Berkeley's General Plan Policy UD-10 regarding its relationship with the University of California strongly supports actions to maintain and retrofit its historic buildings, including "... strongly oppose any University projects that would diminish the historic character of the campus or off-campus historic buildings."

And, among other directives, the California Public Resources Code, broadly similar to provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, requires state agencies "... to preserve and maintain, when prudent and feasible" (Historical Resources, sec. 5024) properties which are eligible for the National Register.

The CEQA Guidelines do require discussion of reasonable alternative locations for Project #2, which, as proposed, would cause substantial cumulative adverse change to the significance of People's Park as an historic resource, as well as to the surrounding significant historic resources. Such project alternatives would be expected to include project re-location(s), or a no project alternative.

A serious, feasible and significant alternative proposal could be to design and to propose development of People's Park (perhaps with the Project #2 donor/investment funds) so as to enhance all its natural and historic features, as well as to enhance the surrounding historic



resources, and to the benefit of the already dense campus population and Berkeley's citizens in the Southside.

Were the University of California to demonstrate a true concern for the environmental impact suffered by its students and the citizens of Berkeley due to its over-enrollment of approximately 10,000 students over its 2020 LRDP it could, as we herein demand, offer the 2020LRDP as an alternative project in the 2020 LRDP Update. Similar to the mandatory no-build alternative this would be a no-increased enrollment alternative. This would be in line with CEQA guideline 15002 (3).

We are opposed to Project #2 since its implementation involves the physical demolition of People's Park. People's Park is a City of Berkeley registered landmark (#84) and on the California State Inventory of Historic Resources at category 3S ("appears eligible for placement on the National Register"). The demolition of People's Park will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CCR Section 15064.5 and such a change will have a significant effect on the environment. We note that such environmental degradation is in direct contradiction of the 2020 LRDP Cultural Resources Objective p. 4.4-52 which states that UC Berkeley shall "plan every new project to respect and enhance the character, livability, and cultural vitality of our city environs."

Additionally, the General Plan of the City of Berkeley contains Policy UD-10 on its relationship with the University of California that strongly supports actions by the University to maintain and retrofit its historic buildings, and strongly opposes any University projects that would diminish the historic character of the campus or off campus historic buildings.

By proposing Project #2 and, in all likelihood, claiming that "in furtherance of their educational mission" the environmental impact of destroying People's Park is "significant and unavoidable," the university intends to nullify its stated commitments to the protection of historic resources and to its cooperation with the City of Berkeley. People's Park has national significance in both the campaigns for Free Speech, anti-war protests, Third World students' rights, and in the beginning of a movement for community control of community resources that swept the nation in the 1970's. The destruction of this cultural resource has the significant environmental effect of diminishing the vitality of the Park's cultural role as a proclamation for justice, a cri de coeur that resounds worldwide in the over 100 People's Parks people have built to sanctify the struggle for peace, freedom, and justice. Thus, the destruction of this cultural resource will, in effect, cause worldwide environmental damage insofar as it will erode their historic integrity and make those other People's Parks more vulnerable to developmental destruction.

The historical importance of the park is further amplified by today's political situation. In 1968-1969 Ronald Reagan's use of fear tactics, class division, and repressive police and military force

to deal with events at People's Park in Berkeley mark a turning point on a political timeline that today is manifested by the race hatred and disdain for truth and common decency seen in the political landscape.

People's Park's historic significance is manifested by its Free Speech stage, by the community gardens, by the trees and roses planted as memorials to Park activists, and by the table where East Bay Food Not Bombs has served free meals every week day for 29 years. The park is resplendent with traditional gatherings and traditions at risk if displaced, which need addressed in any impact statement. In 1987, Alameda County Superior Court entered Summary Judgment in favor of the People's Park Council, People's Park Project/ Native Plant Forum (ASUC), and four (4) other individual Plaintiffs, which established and recognized the status of People's Park as a "quintessential public forum" for freedom of speech, assembly and public expression. UC Berkeley's plan for Project #2 will completely destroy all the cultural resources of People's Park, thus destroying the Park itself. It would be hard to find another instance more demonstrative of the rightfulness of CEQA's finding that destroying a cultural resource, such as People's Park, is a significant environmental impact.

The uncontested national historic significance of People's Park (its 3S rating by the State Historic Preservation Office indicating that it is eligible for listing on the National Register) should be reason enough for UC Berkeley to find an alternate location for the housing included in Project #2. The university describes in its publications at least eight other university owned properties that are feasible alternative sites to People's Park, and has additional nearby locations which should be included as alternatives. Many of those are within the one mile radius from UC Berkeley that allows students to use non-polluting means of transportation to campus. None of them would create the amount of community resistance, legal and police costs, or civil disruption as will building over People's Park.

We contend that it is exactly those costs and disruptions that are obstacles to the university finding the donor for whom they are searching to provide the capital to build Project #2. Thus, building its first individual project in this LRDP on an alternative site can be seen as more than a feasible alternative. It is a highly more efficient alternative.

Considering the many ways described above that demonstrate the significant obstacles lying in the path of completing Project #2 in a timely and efficient manner, we find the extremely negative environmental impact of Project #2 as currently sited to be unquestionably avoidable. People's Park is surrounded by 16 other historic resources. One of them, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, designed by Bernard Maybeck in 1910 is a stunning architectural achievement and is on the National Register. The 16 story tower or building cluster that UC Berkeley intends to build on lot 1875-2 will aesthetically degrade the immediate physical environment in terms of views, appropriate scale and sunlight of all these historic resources surrounding People's Park.

It is therefore, in consideration of the environmental effects on People's Park and the 16 surrounding historic resources that the People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group proposes the following alternate project to replace UC Berkeley's Project #2.

The People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group proposes the preservation and improvement of the park, already a registered historical landmark, as part of a historic district that includes the sixteen other registered historical landmarks that are in the immediate neighborhood. The district would commemorate the heritage of Berkeley's extraordinary role in the events of the 1960s, as well as the larger story of town/gown relationships in the South Campus area. This would be consistent with the university's commitment to public service and provide significant educational and research opportunities based on programs that involve close community relationships and cooperation. A model for such programs is the native plant garden some of which still exists in the east end of the park. Perhaps the university and community could join in establishing a multi-discipline Bernard Maybeck Town/Gown Institute to sponsor and promote these efforts. The institute would be named for the distinguished architect who was an instructor at UC Berkeley and the architect of the First Church of Christ, Scientist that is among the neighborhood's most famous architectural historical landmarks. And the institute might be located in the former Anna Head School, now a university property that is another historical landmark and, like the Christian Science church, located across the street from the park.

It is inconceivable that the university, with its vast resources and talented students and faculty, should not be able to create a public open space that welcomes students, neighborhood residents, and visitors without displacing the poor and the homeless traditionally welcomed at the park. Accomplishing this would be a noble work of public service, education, and scholarship. We urge the university to join with the city and the South Campus community to preserve and promote People's Park as the heart and soul of a vital historic district.

Although our primary focus is Housing Project #2, we also feel the EIR should address the Project #1 and the potential loss of the landmarked 1952 Oxford Street property, a City of Berkeley landmark which is listed on the California State Historic Resource Inventory. Designed by renowned architect Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr., in 1930, it is unique in its architectural character and could be incorporated into a contemporary design for housing. The project should be examined regarding the appropriateness of for-profit housing in a housing crisis and evaluated in light of the loss of landmarks representing commercial buildings of special merit and character.

### Land Use and Planning

Land use and planning are not adequately assessed because the adverse impact on the existing character of the vicinity is not considered, the project ignores the Berkeley Public Parks and Open Space Preservation Ordinance of 1986 and the 2011 Southside Plan, and the City of

Berkeley has not completed its new Southside Plan.

Housing Project #2 removes 2.8 acres of green, public park and natural open space from use by the Southside community, other Bay Area community members, and UC Berkeley students. The importance of preserving that open public space, the world famous People's Park, in regard to its recreational, biologic, disaster response, and cultural uses is discussed in other parts of our comments. Our intention here is to speak to the environmental impacts of the land use and planning policy issues.

In 1986 the people of Berkeley passed Measure L in order to protect and increase the open public space and natural landscapes in Berkeley. UC Berkeley has, in many official documents referred to in other sections of our comments, pledged to cooperate with the city of Berkeley in questions of land use and "Plan every new project as a model of resource conservation and environmental stewardship" (2020 LRDP p. 4.4-52). We find the UCB's plan to remove the use of this open public space and natural landscape from true public use to be in direct contradiction of such cooperation agreements.

The environmental detriments of Housing Project #2 are made even more egregious in light of the current pandemic and its effects. On May 13, 2020, the chancellor of the California State University system announced that there would be minimal on-campus fall classes. It is very likely that the University of California at Berkeley will announce similar changes. With significantly fewer incoming freshman, for whom this project is being built, intelligent planning would dictate cancelling or putting this project on hold. Responsible land use would preserve valuable, irreplaceable open public space as an environmental enhancement instead of building a 16 story concrete tower or cluster of highrises that might sit empty on a former park.

UC Berkeley does not duly respect its commitments to preserve and respect the public open spaces and natural landscapes of the city of Berkeley and is not incorporating the most up to date information in its current land use decisions. The 2011 Southside Plan of the city of Berkeley in its stated goal of bringing higher density development to the Campus Edge and the Telegraph Avenue Spine also sought to establish land use policies that are "sensitive to existing land use patterns" (p. 56). That same plan also contains Policy LU-B3 which commits the city to "retain People's Park as a public open space 'commons' for the Southside." The 2011 Southside Plan can be seen as a land use plan adopted to mitigate the potential of gross overdevelopment and extreme population density in this already very densely populated area of Berkeley. Housing Project #2 conflicts with both the existing land use patterns in the Southside, the 2011 Southside Plan and Measure L and therefore has a significant environmental impact.

We find that the city's commitment to sensible and clearly defined growth in the South Campus area and its commitment to preserving the open public space and cultural resource of People's

Park suggests the alternative proposal of UC Berkeley's transferring People's Park to the City of Berkeley for the park's higher use as a green public commons.

### Population and Housing

Population and housing are major issues in Berkeley, but while future projections can be difficult, UCB has disregarded even its own plans and overenrolled. The 2020 LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and Housing Project #2 (2020Update) will have a substantial environmental impact in both the Population and Housing elements of the EIR for the proposed programmatic level. Housing Project #2, in particular, raises questions of potential cumulative negative harm to an already dense Southside area, adversely affecting both the health and safety of UCB's students and the city's citizens. Accordingly, it is significant that litigation is currently in the courts regarding, in large part, the question of UCB's over-enrollment.

The 2020 Update could bring 9,000 new students and 3,600 new faculty into the Berkeley/Oakland area. An unknown additional number of university employees will also result from the population increases called for in this 2020 Update. (This analysis excludes the new students and employees that were already Berkeley/Oakland residents.)

The 2020 Update proposes the addition of 11,700 new student housing beds and 385 employee housing units by their target date of 2036-37. Here it is critical to notice that whereas the 2020 LRDP proposed a student headcount of 33,450 by its target date of 2020, the actual census of UC Berkeley in 2018-19 was 39,000. Paired with those figures the 2020 LRDP called for the addition of up to 2,500 new student housing beds to the existing 8,700 beds and as of 2018 only the 750 beds in the David Blackwell residence have been created. In short, from 2003 to 2018 UC Berkeley increased its enrollment by 5,550 while creating only 750 beds. As the 2020 Update cites a possible enrollment of 48K by 2036-37, the demand for many thousands of additional student housing beds will have dire negative environmental impacts, unless UC Berkeley does far better in meeting its expected creation of beds than it did between 2003 and 2018.

We assert that in the current housing market of the UC Berkeley environs with its extremely high rents and drastic scarcity of affordable rentals, that the possible increase of approximately 13,000 new residents (students, faculty, and UC Berkeley employees) will displace substantial numbers of current Berkeley/Oakland residents.

UC Berkeley needs to create 15,600 student housing beds by 2036 according to the March 18, 2020 issue of *Berkeleyside*. The first two Housing Projects proposed in the 2020 Update (Gateway and the People's Park) will likely face considerable community opposition. The development on People's Park places a 16 story tower or a cluster of highrises in the middle of a

mixed neighborhood of stores, historic resources, and multiperson and single family residences. The project and its 1,200 residents will exacerbate the already overly dense area, overwhelm the built scale of the neighborhood and, like the Gateway project, destroy a registered city of Berkeley landmark.

UC Berkeley's plan to mitigate the displacement of substantial numbers of current residents by building those 15,600 new student housing beds is further hampered by the significant indebtedness of UC Berkeley. The debt it currently carries prevents the university from considering development protocols that would expose it to more debt risk. Thus, UCB has resorted to Public-Private-Partnerships (P-3) that, in the desperate need for risk abatement, transfer the public resources to for-profit private developers. This, we submit, although not an environmental impact, is a disturbing violation of the trust the people of California place in UC Berkeley to provide wise stewardship for public resources. Such various arrangements for financial gain on behalf of both UCB and private interests may drive development and detrimental impact and, thus, need to be discussed fully in the CEQA review.

UC Berkeley now states that they have found a donor to finance the Gateway project and are looking for one to get the People's Park project out of the ground. Lacking capital for the new housing envisioned in Housing Project #2 and considering the many other obstacles facing UC Berkeley, we are very doubtful that UC Berkeley will be able to accomplish their proposed mitigations and that the substantial displacement of housed residents will result in serious environmental impact.

Although there is no category for quality of life specified in the CEQA EIR process, it is relevant within the consideration of Population and Housing that the EIR should evaluate how the proposed increases in UC Berkeley's enrollment will impact the livability of people at UC Berkeley and in city of Berkeley. The unfettered growth of UC Berkeley has created a marked deterioration in quality of life and the availability of recreation, park, and natural open space. Whereas the 2020 LRDP Draft EIR states on page 4.1-13 that the objective of the university is to "plan every new project to respect and enhance the character, livability, and cultural vitality of our City Environs" neither that respect nor enhancement will happen in the Southside.

The population increases from ever-increasing student enrollment will bring about more traffic and more pollution. Students, for many of the reasons described above, now live in smaller and smaller spaces, where they rent a bed not even a room, where they get grab fast food and rarely sit down for a meal. A lesser quality of life, potentially merging into actual mental health issues, is the result of excessive student enrollment.

The proposed three new buildings on People's Park may soon find three more 12 story structures nearby in accord with the city of Berkeley's proposed Southside Re-Zoning plan. Working with

a former member of the city of Berkeley Planning Commission, we have been informed that there are likely over 30 highrise projects in the design, planning, or review pipeline for Berkeley. However many of all these highrise buildings are constructed they, along with current and future UC Berkeley building projects, will have a pronounced negative environmental impact on population density.

The up zoning of the Southside by the Berkeley's Land Use and Planning Department is described in city documents as an attempt to relieve the university's pressing need for student housing. Yet the proposed Southside plan has not even published its NOP, let alone conducted a public scoping session. We contend that Housing Project #2's environmental impacts cannot be properly assessed without the EIR for the Southside Plan and that the cumulative impacts of Housing Project #2 and the buildings resulting from the Rezoning of the Southside would "open" the Southside to an entirely new scale of development and thereby indirectly induce substantial population growth. We contend that such a population increase is a significant environmental impact.

UC Berkeley is recognized worldwide as a pre-eminent institution of higher learning and as such needs to recognize that it cannot continue its irresponsible growth in enrollment and the associated environmentally destructive development.

Accordingly the EIR should include and seriously analyze a no-student/faculty increase alternative. Since enrollment has substantially exceeded the previous LRDP's projection for 2020, and given the dramatic changes in California's demographic and economic realities, no-increase is certainly a realistic, pragmatic and environmentally responsible alternative. Even if overall UC system-wide growth does occur, it can be accommodated at less crowded campuses than UC Berkeley and in less congested communities than Berkeley. Under a no-increase alternative, UC Berkeley could concentrate its capital resources on dealing with seismic and other problems with existing structures rather than embark upon a massive new building program. It is time to cap UC Berkeley enrollment and faculty so that the university and the community may come into a healthy, creative balance.

### Wildfire

The proposed Housing Project #2 is located near areas or lands classified as a very high fire hazard severity zone, which will expose people in dense housing to significant risk. The wildland-urban interface is a very real threat in Berkeley, illustrated by the 1923 fire and the 1991 fire. The more recent Camp Fire of 2018 and Santa Rosa Fire of 2019 make the wildfire risks ever more evident for Berkeley. Climate change science shows that fire seasons will be longer and more intense in California. A map included the Berkeley City Council Draft Southside Plan of 2011, "Fault Location and Hazardous Fire Zone," shows People's Park is



located two blocks from the edge of the wildfire zone. The 2011 draft plan states that emergency response “in Berkeley faces several ongoing challenges citywide which affect the City’s ability to respond to a disaster in the Southside.” The open space of People’s Park is at least a temporary sanctuary in times of disaster, whether it is a fire or earthquake, and a potential site for offering or coordinating emergency services. The plan also points out that the “top floors of the tallest dormitory buildings are beyond the reach of the Berkeley Fire Department’s tallest ladders,” clearly showing a 16 story building or any cluster of high rise buildings on the site is a major safety hazard.

### Public Services

No adequate assessment of the additional demand on public services is given, or the effect of the elimination of open space, particularly its loss as a safe shelter in a highly seismically active area. In this regard, it is significant that the City is currently in litigation regarding the already substantial burdens placed upon the City’s public service operations due to burdens of UCB’s population increases. One of the issues in the lawsuit is the city’s need to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times that increased population in the neighborhood would call for and the lack of adequate resources to address that need. It is critically important to analyze the burden on the city’s public services.

It is worth noting here that in potential times of disaster, People’s Park could as a critical community resource, serving as a designated sanctuary and emergency response area. Spoken of above, the map included in the Berkeley City Council Draft Southside Plan of 2011, “Fault Location and Hazardous Fire Zone,” shows People’s Park is located three blocks from the edge of a major earthquake fault. Also referred above is the value of the park as a sanctuary and emergency response area. The inevitability of a major earthquake is akin to the certainty of another major fire. Additionally, given climate change, construction on People’s Park runs the risk of exacerbating the problem of storm water run-off during big storms by disrupting natural hydrological patterns.

## Various Recommendations for the Campus Master Plan

3 messages

**Sam Siegel**

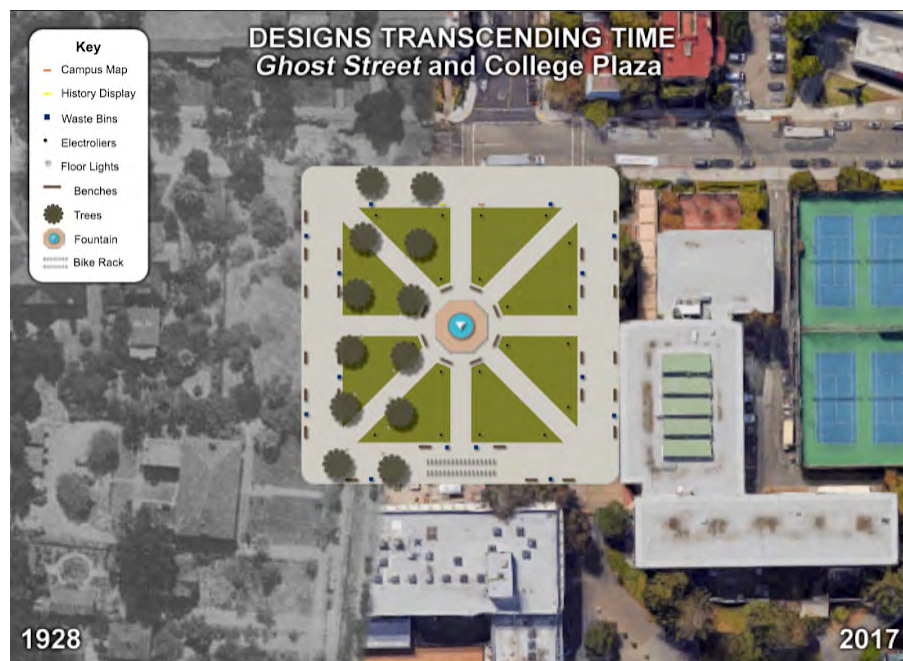
Fri, May 15, 2020 at 3:14 PM

To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

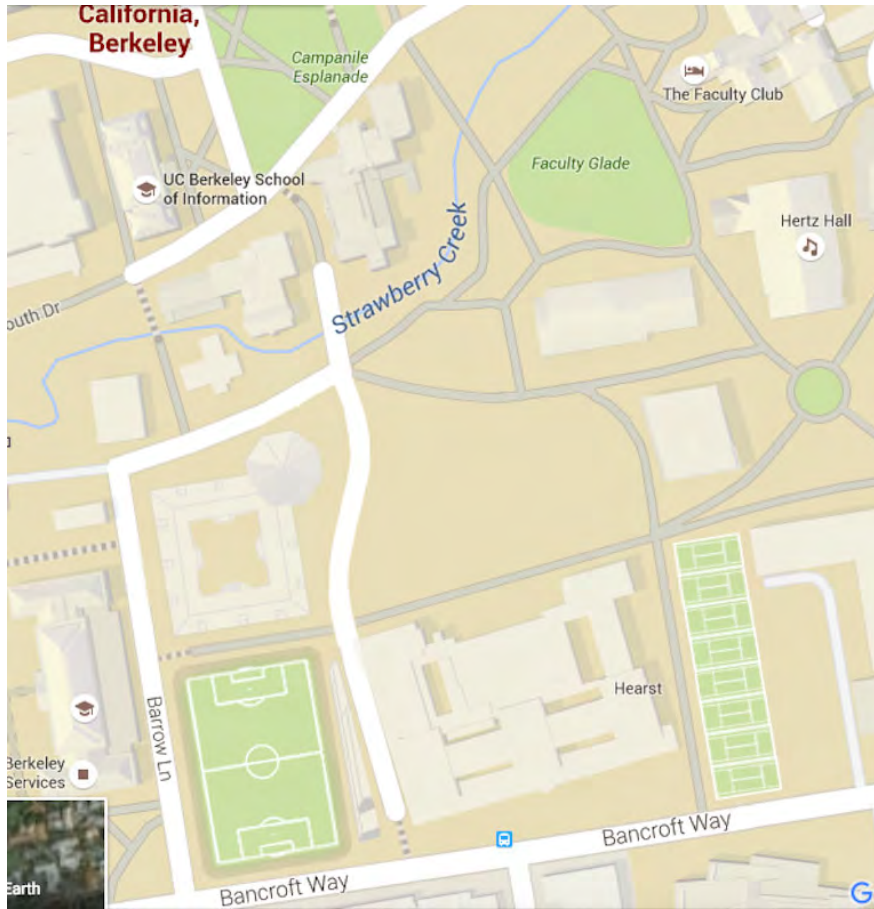
To Whom It May Concern,

This email contains a list of various master plan components and general philosophies I discussed with Capital Strategies during my time as an undergraduate at Cal. I am emailing them to the Planning Department for inclusion in official documentation.

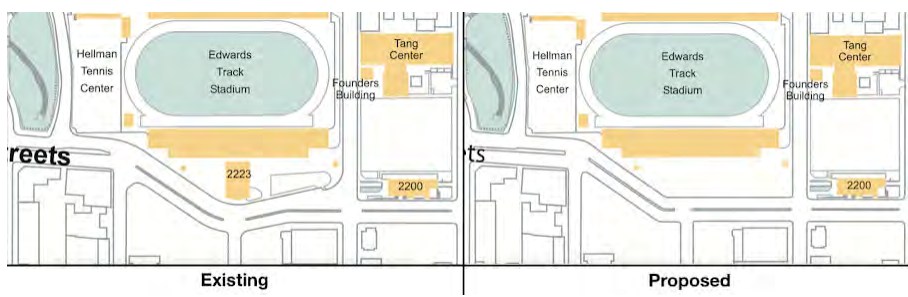
1. A traditional axial redesign for College Plaza, facilitating greater interaction mobility, beauty, and historical acknowledgement of the former residential College Avenue north of Bancroft, with memorial opportunities for plaques lining the "ghost street" telling the history of the homes that once stood there.

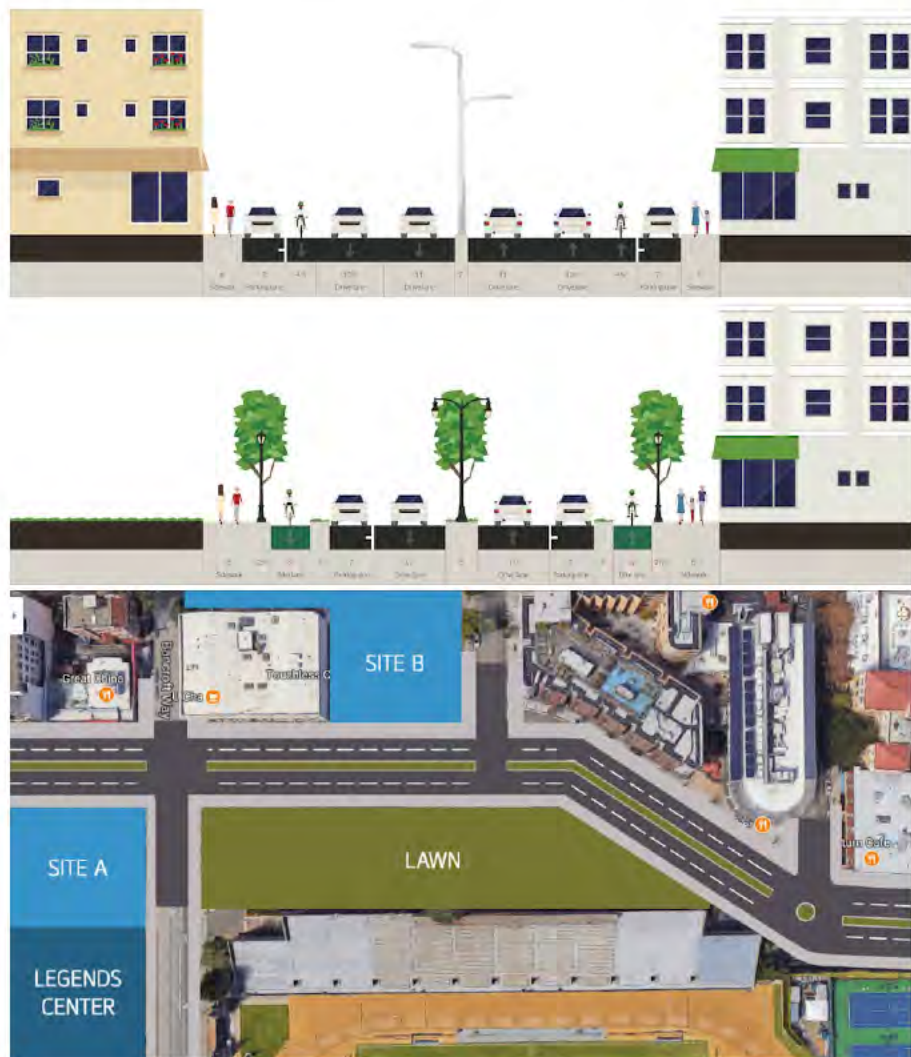


2. The replacement of Barrows Hall with a structure of more appropriate massing and style in conjunction with the restoration of Hearst Field West and simplification of pathways. This particular configuration highlights a replacement Barrows in a light Collegiate Gothic style to harmonize with the old Student Union complex to the north.



3. Realignment and redesign of the Oxford-Fulton corridor to straighten the ROW, improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, as well as provide additional space for landscaping and/or future development.





4. Extension of the Class of 1925 Plaza down to Strawberry Creek, and elimination of parking spaces and dumpster sites along Stephens and Moses Halls.
5. Demolition and replacement of the "greatest offenders" on the UC Berkeley campus, structures that are banal, dehumanizing, aesthetically displeasing, degrade the student experience and damage the image and brand of the University of California's historic flagship campus.

--  
**Samuel Siegel**  
 UCLA Luskin School, Class of 2020  
 UC Berkeley, Sesquicentennial Class of 2018

Sam Siegel [REDACTED]  
 To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 3:37 PM



Apologies,

The previous email was sent prior to completion.

Continuing the list:

5. Demolition and replacement of the "greatest offenders" on the UC Berkeley campus, structures that are banal, dehumanizing, aesthetically displeasing, degrade the student experience and damage the image and brand of the University of California's historic flagship campus.

These include: Evans Hall, Woo Hon Fai Hall, Wurster Hall, Barrows Hall, Moffitt Library, Davis Hall, the Bechtel Engineering Center, McCone Hall, University Hall. Other structures that should be evaluated for replacement at a later date include Simon Hall, the RSF, Kroeber Hall, Calvin Lab, Latimer Hall, Hildebrand Hall, Pimentel, and all campus garages.

6. Study for the construction of a funicular connecting the main UC campus to the Hill campus

7. Improved landscaping around Founder's Rock and the Big C, replete with bright nighttime lighting to showcase the monuments as the landmarks they are.

8. Restoration of Stephens Hall and Moses Hall, reintroducing the decorative elements along the roofline for the former and undoing insensitive interior modifications for both.

9. Restoring the original north-south flagstone walk along Faculty Glade and removing its Thomas Church-era asphalt replacement.

10. Abandoning the very-poor taste repurposing of Woo Hon Fai Hall into a BioTech incubator facility and following the original New Century Plan recommendation for demolition and replacement with a dormitory.

11. Adopting the comprehensive landscape restoration plan featured in the Landscape Heritage Plan, particularly removing most of the asphalt on campus and replacing it with historically-inspired pavers, pedestrianizing most of campus and restricting vehicular access, etc.

12. Redeveloping Unit 3 with infill housing in the same manner as Units 1 and 2, and constructing a second centralized dining hall facility, perhaps at the Ellsworth Garage.

13. **Broad focus on historic restoration.** The insensitive "updates" to buildings such as Wheeler Hall, which destroyed the original 1917 bathrooms, should never be repeated. The restoration of the Wheeler Hall auditorium to its original appearance prior to the 1969 fire, as well as the restoration of its lower lecture halls, is highly recommended. *Cal deserves an historic auditorium space on par with UCLA's Royce Hall.* The restoration of the skylit-lecture halls in South Hall, Hilgard, Haviland, Le Conte, Gilman, Wellman, and California Halls are also recommended, as is the returning of the marble Doe Library main desk, its hanging chandeliers in the north reading room library lobby, and the original lights in the Haviland Hall library. Although not entirely under the purview of the University, restoration of the lost woodwork Great Hall at International House is also advisable.

I am sure that I can continue to provide a number of recommendations for the master plan, and as previously stated, I would be more than happy to volunteer my expertise in historic preservation, planning, and design in the process of drafting a new LRDP. I will be graduating from the UCLA Luskin Urban Planning program in June, and will have the time and resources to assist in any way I can.

I envision a future UC Berkeley campus that honors and restores the vision of its great campus architects—John Galen Howard, George Kelham, and Arthur Brown Junior, while at the same time repairing the damage done by the postwar planning efforts of the A&E design-by-committee processes. UC Berkeley deserves to shine as the gem of California universities it was always meant to be. After 150 years, it's high time we make it happen.

Regards,  
Sam Siegel

[Quoted text hidden]

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Samuel Siegel [REDACTED]

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 3:52 PM

To: Planning Departmental <planning@berkeley.edu>

Addendum:

With regards to the Clark Kerr Campus, the restoration and repurposing of presently unoccupied historic structures from the old Schools of the Deaf and Blind, such as the old gym (Bldg 22)—which I noticed is disturbingly being evaluated for demolition—should be prioritized.

The demolition of pre-war buildings, which provide architectural character, quality and charm far greater than nearly anything completed by the University since then, should not be considered an option, as doing so is environmentally and culturally wasteful.

Adaptive reuse and sensitive additions to structures are far more appropriate to as historic a campus as Berkeley, rich in architectural heritage.

Regards,  
Sam

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[Redacted]

On May 15, 2020, at 15:37, Sam Siegel [Redacted] wrote:

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Continuing the list:

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Regards,  
Sam Siegel

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<Screen Shot 2020-05-15 at 2.56.38 PM.png>

2. The replacement of Barrows Hall with a structure of more appropriate massing and style in conjunction with the restoration of Hearst Field West and simplification of pathways. This particular configuration highlights a replacement Barrows in a light Collegiate Gothic style to harmonize with the old Student Union complex to the north.

<Screen Shot 2020-05-15 at 3.00.43 PM.png>

3. Realignment and redesign of the Oxford-Fulton corridor to straighten the ROW, improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, as well as provide additional space for landscaping and/or future development.

<Screen Shot 2020-05-15 at 3.07.28 PM.png>

<Screen Shot 2020-05-15 at 3.05.54 PM.png>

<Screen Shot 2020-05-15 at 3.03.22 PM.png>

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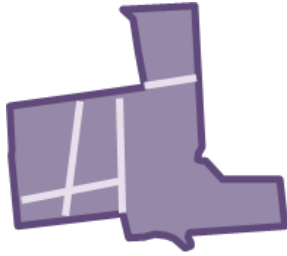
**Samuel Siegel**

*UCLA Luskin School, Class of 2020*

*UC Berkeley, Sesquicentennial Class of 2018*

[REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]



## **SOUTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSORTIUM**

15 May, 2020

Raphael Breines  
Senior Planner  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Berkeley  
300 A&E Building  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

**Re: Notice of Preparation dated 7 April, 2020 for UC Berkeley LRDP Update (“NOP LRDP Update”)**

Dear Mr. Breines,

The undersigned organizations hereby submit the following comments on the NOP LRDP Update that was released on 7 April, 2020.

Given the challenges in responding to the NOP during the Covid-19 Emergency we strongly object to the deadline, and reserve the right to object to any actions taken by UC Berkeley pursuant to the NOP. Please refer to our letter to President Janet Napolitano dated 10 April, 2020.

In addition we note that UC Berkeley has failed to conduct CEQA review of enrollment increases occurring since 2007, as alleged in two pending lawsuits entitled *Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods v The Regents of the University of California*, Alameda County Superior Case No. RG18902751 and *Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods v The Regents of the University of California*, Alameda County Superior Case No. RG19022887.

To commence a new CEQA analysis of the environmental impacts of further enrollment increases before completing legally valid CEQA review of enrollment increases occurring since 2007, as alleged in those lawsuits, would compound the University's legal errors regarding enrollment increases. Consequently we would urge UC to do a full study of the impacts of all enrollment increases above 33,450, which was the level studied in the 2005 EIR for the 2020 LRDP.

Best regards,

**Southside Neighborhood Consortium:**

Joan Barnett, President, Dwight-Hillside Neighborhood Association

George Beier, President, Willard Neighborhood Association

Phil Bokovoy, President, Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods

Lesley Emmington, President, Make UC a Good Neighbor

Mike Kelly, President, Panoramic Hill Association

Mark Humbert, President, Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association

Gianna Ranuzzi, President, Le Conte Neighborhood Association

Andrew Johnson, Bateman Neighborhood Association

Dean Metzger, President, Berkeley Neighborhoods Council

David Shiver, Stuart Street/Willard

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner

Mr. Breines:

We are vehemently opposed to construction of high density student housing on Oxford Tract. Dormitories housing up to 3000 students would dramatically impact the fragility of our neighborhood. We are concerned about the infrastructure and relationship with the City of Berkeley regarding a multitude of issues including parking, pollution, noise, traffic, trash, safety issues, and drainage from underwater creeks. General City of Berkeley services would be greatly impacted in our neighborhood. We do not believe that Oxford Tract is the solution to the student housing issue.

Actually the construction alone will be disruptive to us and our neighbors who are all in their 60's, 70's and 80's. Our neighbors and friends have lived here for 40, 50 or 60 years. We graduated from UC Berkeley (1970), purchased our home in 1982 and we raised our sons in Berkeley on Walnut Street. We are proud of our neighborhood and walk daily pass Oxford Tract. Walnut Street is a beautiful and peaceful neighborhood bordered by busy Shattuck Avenue and busy Oxford Street. We do have multiple unit apartment buildings so that there is currently a strong student presence. We just cannot imagine adding 3000 students on this block. Parking at present is impossible. Our concern is that the City of Berkeley may not be able to support additional infrastructure demands.

We appreciate the relevance and value of Oxford Tract for science research and educational purposes; we appreciate the open space which provides a release from the density of the surrounding blocks which is essential and valuable. We appreciate the community garden at the northwest corner of the tract. Construction will be destructive to the environment at this location. My understanding is that the plot was gifted to the University after the fire in the 1920's in Berkeley with the covenant that this land would not be built upon.

Most of our neighbors had not received notice of the University's LRDP. Only a few received notification - most on our block did not. It is imperative that we are notified of meetings and discussions in the future regarding EIR, LRDP. How can we make this communication happen?

We are also concerned at this time that our present pandemic crisis will have a dramatic effect on University enrollment and the projected increase of students here in Berkeley just may not happen. Our attention these past few months concern Covid 19 but we feel it is imperative to be educated regarding development in our neighborhood.

We love all that the University represents for us -academics, culture, art, music, museums, lectures. The campus is beautiful and we appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
Karen & Virgus Streets  
[REDACTED] Walnut Street



Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

## LRDP EIR comments

2 messages

Lisa Teague

To: Planning@berkeley.edu

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 10:28 AM

Re: Proposed People's Park Development

May 15, 2020

On May 2, 2018 Berkeleyside reported that UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ intended to release firm plans to develop People's Park. <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/05/02/uc-berkeley-plans-to-construct-housing-in-peoples-park> People's Park had celebrated its 49th anniversary on April 29, 2018. Since the Chancellor's announcement, the People's Park Committee, of which I am a member, and other groups like Suitcase Clinic and the People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group, have worked to save this landmark Southside green space from development. My name is Lisa Teague, I have lived across the street from People's Park since 2011 when I was housed after being homeless. My reasons for not developing People's Park are stated below. Please acknowledge receipt of these comments.

- **People's Park has been a City of Berkeley landmark since 1984.** A copy of the application for landmark status is available here: <https://archive.org/details/2526HastePeoplesPark/page/n21/mode/2up>. The park was granted protected landmark status by the Landmarks Preservation Commission as City of Berkeley Landmark #88, on November 19, 1984. [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Home/Landmarks\\_Preservation\\_Commission.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning_and_Development/Home/Landmarks_Preservation_Commission.aspx) A link to the Secretary of the Interior's standards for treatment of Historic Properties is available here: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm> People's Park is a valued and acknowledged historic resource for the Berkeley community, yet the University refuses to honor this protected status. See: Daily Cal staff report, 3/1/19, 'An intersection of housing and history: A look at People's Park', <https://www.dailycal.org/2019/03/01/an-intersection-of-housing-and-history-a-look-at-peoples-park/> See Daily Cal op-ed by Carol Denney, 7/3/17, 'People's Park still matters as a historical landmark': <https://www.dailycal.org/2017/07/03/peoples-park-still-matters-landmark/> See also: Daily Cal op-ed by the People's Park Committee, 9/14/2018, 'People's Park is a historical monument worth fighting for'. <https://www.dailycal.org/2018/09/14/peoples-park-is-a-historical-monument-worth-fighting-for/>
- **People's Park is valuable open space in an increasingly population-dense urban neighborhood.** See Daily Cal op-ed by the People's Park Committee, 9/18/2019, 'People's Park is an important community space and should not be developed': <https://www.dailycal.org/2019/09/17/peoples-park-is-an-important-community-space-and-should-not-be-developed/>
- **People's Park is a valuable resource for all residents of Berkeley, but particularly for the unhoused community.** Terri Compost, longtime People's Park activist, and author of 'People's Park: Still Blooming' (a partial PDF is available here: <file:///home/chronos/u-23096858cde4d974770e29c97376e2676572441c/MyFiles/Downloads/People's%20Park.%20Still%20Blooming-%20T.%20Compost.pdf>) wrote an open letter to City of Berkeley and University of California officials on 6/6/2018 analyzing some of the services the Park provides. I copy it in its entirety here:

### How much would it cost to replace the services People's Park provides?

As plans are being proposed to build on People's Park, we must assess how, where and who would pay to replace the services the Park currently provides, mostly free of charge. Getting rid of People's Park will not get rid of the problems of poverty and homelessness in our community. It will aggravate it. Of course the Park has not created these problems but it has held and tried to alleviate some. If the Park is built upon we will need to consider how to replace the following services:

1. Day time drop in Center for 50-200 people: new facility \$1,000,000 yearly staff: \$300,000 possible locations: Clark Kerr Campus? Shattuck Ave?
2. Community cultural gathering venue holding at least 300 that allows free amplified concerts and events up to 10 times per year (a very important part of local free speech): 10 free leases of the Greek Theater or building an electrified stage at Willard Park or building a new venue on campus or at the sports facilities behind Willard pool? Or at the sports courts between Channing, College and

Haste?

3. Free Food Service for around 75 people per day: Cost estimate \$6 x 75 x 365 = \$164,250 per year. Maybe at Willard, Ohlone, UC Campus or Live Oak Parks?
4. Distribution of free clothes: Small Free clothes store or box located on Southside. \$750,000 initially, \$150,000 annually
5. Mental Health counselors: It would be very difficult to replace the peer counseling and socialization people benefit from their time in People's Park. Weekly sessions with therapists would likely be much less effective than the current situation and multiple further problems and costs will likely arise. At a bare minimum Mental Health worker hours 100/ week @ \$50/hour = \$5000/ week, \$260,000/ year
6. Day time napping area. Lack of sleep among the disenfranchised is dangerous and costly, as all humans cannot function without proper sleep. Napping areas would need to be provided on campus, other parks or in open nearby facilities.
7. Sports facilities for basketball, frisbee, yoga etc.. Either new sports areas open to the public will need to be built or there will need to be accommodations for open use at current facilities.
8. Smoking areas could be set up along Telegraph, perhaps at the site of the old Berkeley Inn on Haste. Benches along Shattuck and Telegraph could be added.
9. Community Garden plots and Food and Herbal Medicine grown in the Park. We would need to allocate a significant lot to accommodate a new community garden. The local food and medicine grown and the soothing nature of gardening cannot be replaced by money. Investment into property for community gardens will be needed and will likely be expensive with the growing cost of nearby real estate.
10. Carbon offsets and Oxygen bars. The current green plants in the Park absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. To compensate currently built upon areas would need to be transformed to trees and plants, though it would take time to reach the maturity of People's Park's vegetation so a further compensation would be required to stay carbon neutral.
11. Emergency gathering sites. Loss of open areas will increase danger in times of earthquakes, fires or other disasters. Leaving other open areas near the dense population around the current Park is recommended otherwise locals will need to run to campus or Willard Parks.
12. Water drainage. The almost 3 acres of permeable land and plantings absorb considerable water during the winter rains. That resource would be lost and runoff will need to be channeled away perhaps through new drains. Derby creek resurfaces in the Park during wet periods flowing through the southwest quarter of the Park.
13. Natural settings for calming and reconnecting with nature and community. Priceless
14. Public Bathrooms. Berkeley has suffered for years looking for sites for public bathrooms which are still woefully inadequate. The University or would need to allocate funds and land for building and upkeep of bathrooms if the Park is removed. Funding will be needed for the difficult community process of siting more bathrooms as well.

Frankly it is far less expensive to keep the People's Park, allowing a place where anyone who needs it, can rest their bones. Berkeley and UC are unprepared and likely unable to provide the services the current Park does. Our community will suffer greatly if people who now use the park seek what they need for healthy, happy lives elsewhere. Telegraph Ave, UC Campus or Willard Park used as such will not make anyone happy. The Park is the last refuge for folks not accepted in other parts of Berkeley. Taking that away would be a grave and inhumane mistake. Terri Compost [REDACTED]

- **People's Park is providing assistance and support to the unhoused community during the COVID-19 shutdown.** See Berkeleyside, 5/12/20, 'Who is feeding People's Park residents during the pandemic?' by Cirrus Wood, <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/05/12/who-is-feeding-peoples-park-residents-during-the-pandemic>
- **There is strong student support for saving People's Park.** See Daily Cal, 'Breaking down barriers: How the Suitcase Clinic breaks down barriers between communities', 4/8/18 by Elizabeth Neoman, <https://www.dailycal.org/2018/04/08/suitcase-clinic-bridges-divide-communities/>. See Daily Cal, 'Suitcase Clinic hosts panel discussion of People's Park, past, present, future', <https://www.dailycal.org/2018/10/21/history-is-too-important-suitcase-clinic-hosts-panel-discussion-of-peoples-parks-past-future/>. See Berkeley Public Health, 2019, 'Suitcase Clinic celebrates 30 years at People's Park, Berkeley', <https://publichealth.berkeley.edu/news-media/school-news/the-suitcase-clinic-celebrates-30-years-at-peoples-park/>. See Daily Cal, 5/8/19 'UC Berkeley removes Free Box despite student support', <https://www.dailycal.org/2019/05/08/uc-berkeley-removes-freebox-in-peoples-park-despite-student-support/>. See Daily Cal editorial 5/16/19, 'With removal of Free Box at People's Park, UC Berkeley disregards community, student wishes', <https://www.dailycal.org/2019/05/16/with-removal-of-freebox-at-peoples-park-uc-berkeley-administration-disregards-community-student-wishes/>. See Daily Cal 2/12/20, 'Protesters interrupt People's Park open house on proposed housing', <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/02/12/protesters-interrupt-peoples-park-open-house-on-proposed-housing/>

[park-open-house/](#). See Daily Cal, 4/9/20, 'Community members attend second People's Park open house', <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/04/09/community-members-attend-second-peoples-park-open-house/>. See Daily Cal, 4/23/20, <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/04/23/final-open-house-for-peoples-park-development-takes-place-online/>.

- **People's Park could be a part of a vibrant historic district including many architectural treasures and landmarks.** See Berkeleyside op-ed by the People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group, 2/18/20: <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/02/18/opinion-berkeleys-southside-is-densely-populated-and-needs-open-space-so-dont-build-on-peoples-park>
- **Improvements, like daylighting Derby Creek, could highlight a proposed historic district.** In 1998, the University of California commissioned a study on the potential daylighting of Derby Creek through People's Park. The plan can be found here [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pQe\\_APeAtsVFvV8ADMUST\\_IYL8Y50rKT/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pQe_APeAtsVFvV8ADMUST_IYL8Y50rKT/view).
- **To be a responsible member of the Berkeley community, the University must not develop People's Park.** In these days of accelerating climate change and the "new normal" of the pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, it is short-sighted and foolish to destroy an existing park with fully mature trees in order to construct tall, high-density, student housing. The preservation of open space and the nurturing of more (not fewer) trees is vitally important not only for the students, faculty and staff of the entire UC Berkeley community, but also for the larger City community. UC Berkeley should be working to actively save the planet.

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**UC Berkeley Planning** <planning@berkeley.edu>

Mon, May 18, 2020 at 10:45 AM

To: Lisa Teague [REDACTED]

Your comment has been recorded.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Planning Departmental &lt;planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

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**LRDP EIR comments**

1 message

**Jennifer Goldwasser**

Sun, May 17, 2020 at 2:32 PM

Reply-To:

To: "Planning@berkeley.edu" &lt;Planning@berkeley.edu&gt;

Peoples park is important to preserve for many reasons. The main reasons it is important to me are:

The biodiversity of the plants are beneficial to the environment and long term goals of urban habitat and sustainability. There are very few parks which have so many different kinds of trees and other plants growing together. It is one of the few, if not the only place people can freely participate in a community gardening effort without getting on a years long waitlist.

The diversity of the people who show up regularly to enjoy the park and which makes up the peoples park community is also of great diversity. Many people think that it's just homeless people, but it is most certainly not.

The park has historical significance but also it has present and future significance as well.

We need more open green spaces more than ever for the health of of urban environment and the people who live here.

Not everyone has access to immediate private outdoor space such as the large backyards so common in south Berkeley. Many people live in apartments and other dwellings which don't afford them such luxuries. Families and individuals have a basic right to fresh air and open green space! We must preserve as much of this kind of resource as possible!

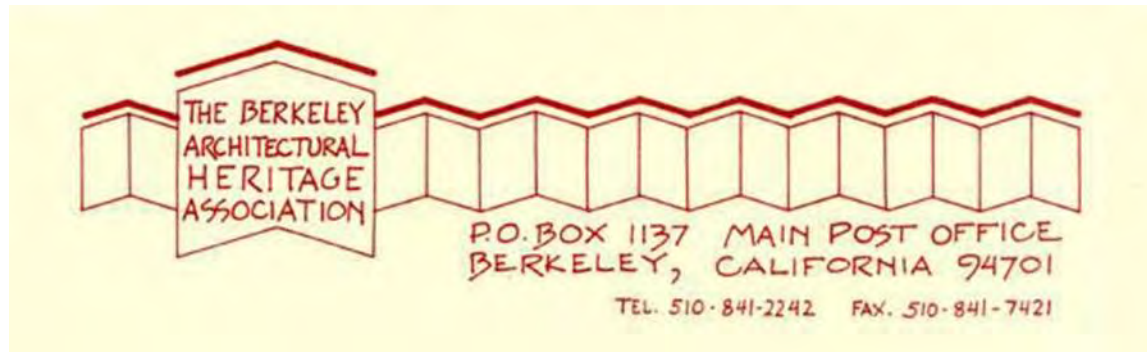
Please acknowledge receipt of this commentary.

Thank you

Jennifer Goldwasser

Long Term South Berkeley resident, Berkeley native and parent of Berkeley kids.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



May 19, 2020

Chancellor Carol Christ  
Office of the Chancellor  
University of California, Berkeley  
200 California Hall # 1500  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1500

Dear Chancellor Christ:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) to express our serious concerns regarding the planned destruction of the University Garage at 1952 Oxford Street in Berkeley at the gateway to the campus. While we have responded to the University of California, Berkeley's (UCB) scoping session for its proposed Long Range Development Plan Update (LRDP), we are also writing to you directly today.

The University Garage was designed in 1930 by Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr., a highly respected and prolific Berkeley architect, and the City of Berkeley designated it a Landmark in 1981. It was also deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This fine and rare example of a Mediterranean-inspired garage and gas station is especially suited to adaptive reuse and should be preserved. We see great potential for making this structure useful for the present while embodying the rich pasts of this place.

Please take a closer look at the blend of arches and parapets, the obelisk pilasters with pyramidal caps and the beautiful parabolic windows. Imagine how restoration to the original white or cream color, along with some cleaning, would make for a pleasant and attractive site. Consider the possibility of restaurants or shops with a view of the campus.

Chancellor Carol Christ

May 19, 2020

Page 2

Even better, a gathering place for students, staff and the larger Berkeley community. This has been a good idea for many years, held by many, including some in your own University system. Consider the potential for the site converted into a Visitor's Center in the 2009 UC Berkeley Physical Design Framework report and the portion we attached to this letter. This site is much closer to public transportation (BART) than the Stadium where the Visitor Center is currently located, as well as parking garages for visitors.



*View of University Garage, 1979, A. Bruce*



*View of University Garage, 2020, F. Cappelletti*

Since 1974, our organization has advocated for the preservation of the wonderful legacy of architecture, history and aesthetics that enrich the City of Berkeley and that includes the UCB campus and its surrounding areas. Our many members include activists, architects,

Chancellor Carol Christ

May 19, 2020

Page 2

historians, professors, students, alumni, and volunteers. What we have in common is concern for the past and future of Berkeley. Please consider our request to reimagine the use of the site respectfully incorporating a building of unusual character and historic significance by one of the most distinguished architects working in the Bay Area.

Sincerely,

*Arlene Silk*

Arlene Silk  
Vice-President, BAHA

Attachment

AS:fc

cc: Berkeley Mayor and City Council  
Berkeley City Attorney  
Berkeley Landmarks Commission  
Berkeley City Attorney  
Berkeley Mayor and City Council  
Berkeleyside  
Daily Planet



**DOWNTOWN PUBLIC REALM**

As shown in figures 9 and 10, the public realm in the Downtown blocks adjacent to campus has the potential for transformative change in the near future. University owned sites occupy roughly half of the street frontage, and most of these sites are proposed to be redeveloped within the timeframe of the 2009-2019 Capital Plan.



Figure 10. Aerial view of the west end of the Campus Park at its interface with Downtown Berkeley.



## DOWNTOWN PROJECTS: ART MUSEUM AND CENTER STREET

The sketch shows how the new Art Museum would relate to Center Street. The main entrance, the museum store, and the café face and activate the street, while street level windows provide a glimpse of the public galleries. The new conference hotel project, planned as a partnership with a private developer-operator, is shown in the foreground. The scope includes a hotel, a conference center, and a new executive education center operated by the Haas School of Business.



Figure 11. Center Street transformation by new Hotel & Executive Education Center (left) and new Art Museum (right).

**DOWNTOWN PROJECTS: GATEWAY BUILDING & UC GARAGE**

This project would also be a third party partnership. Gateway is planned as a flexible office building, used primarily as relocation space for campus units displaced from buildings undergoing seismic renovation. However, despite this prosaic use, Gateway occupies a prime corner at the west entrance to campus, and high quality design is imperative. The adjacent historic UC Garage, now used for bus storage, would be renovated for a public-oriented use, such as the campus visitor center now housed in the drab lobby of University Hall.



Figure 12. View from north of Gateway Building with renovated UC Garage in foreground.



