

11/17/18

## **Friends of the Meadow--**

Our last update described the comment process for the "Student Housing West" (aka "Meadow Housing East") Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR). We urged everyone to contribute their opinion and analysis. We have now collected a rich sample of these on the EMAC website ([eastmeadowaction.org](http://eastmeadowaction.org)), comments which demonstrate that the University's preferred plan is fraught with problems, while it defaces a beautiful campus. Please visit the website and see for yourself. We will continue to collect comments on the RDEIR.

**In the near term**, the University is finalizing its plan and will complete its EIR (including responses to the many comments) with an eye to presenting it to the UC Regents for approval in January. (A requested amendment to the 2005 LRDP that would permit building in the East Meadow will be part of the package.) The intent is to have bulldozers at work by early summer.

EMAC is mobilizing pressure on the Regents and is actively discussing legal strategies under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Environmental lawyers have analyzed the various DEIRs and will evaluate the final EIR, probably in December. This essential work is, of course, expensive. Financial support, large and small, would be gratefully received (please see contribution instructions on the website).

**Looking further ahead**, everyone who cares about campus land-use decisions (and inescapable questions about the nature and pace of growth) should be following the process of creating a new Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP). This extremely important document, which will cover the years 2020-2040, is being discussed by an LRDP Planning Committee, which includes a range of campus and city constituencies.

A couple of days ago, the committee co-chairs, Sarah Latham (Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services) and Kimberly Lau (Academic Senate Chair) released the first substantive public documents that give a glimpse of what exactly is being considered. Their cover letter is pasted below, along with a PDF attachment supplying maps of three possible scenarios. Please pay particular attention to the PDF maps. They give a dramatic sense of the changes we may expect.

As the cover letter explains, the LRDP planning process assumes potential (not necessary) campus growth by a further 10,000 students to a total of 28,000. This planning envelope, already much discussed following public comments last Spring by the Chancellor, is here euphemistically called: "a test enrollment figure." It's as if all of the "scenarios" offered for our "feedback" are just thought experiments, planning games, to see what might happen if the "test figure" were adopted. But why this figure? It is well known that the UC Administration is pushing very strongly for student growth, thus it would be naive to accept that 28,000 is just a planning hypothetical and would not harden into a plan.

Indeed, 28,000 students is treated as something more than a "test enrollment figure" at the end of the memo's second paragraph. The radical impact of 10,000 more students (plus staff, etc) is normalized by asserting that it merely reflects "what the campus founders envisioned for the eventual campus size (27,500 students by the year 1990." This is disingenuous and ahistorical: campus planners in 1963 had no detailed maps of the campus to work from. The post-war economic boom was still on, and funds for public education were still flowing (but not for long). The early planners assumed an access road through what would soon become Pogonip; water supply was on no-one's mind; Santa Cruz leaders were gung-ho for growth; and the plan to reach 27,500 students (20 colleges, along with professional schools) by 1990 now looks laughable. UCSC's founders were brilliant pioneers of ecological construction and restraint. But the observation that intensely rapid growth to 28,000 is what they, in their wisdom, envisaged, is simply self-serving. It is followed by a second claim: that 28,000 "also aligns with historical enrollment growth." Translation: we've been expanding at this pace (usually ahead of resources) for years, so enrollment growth is just business as usual (ignoring all the resource limits and town/gown problems that are now inescapable).

We invite you to read closely and critically what the LRDP Planning Committee makes public in the coming years. By all means, comment on the documents just released, as requested. And stay tuned...

### **East Meadow Action Committee**

**MEMO** from LRDP Planning Committee (with attachment)

November 16, 2018

To: UC Santa Cruz Community

From: Kim Lau and Sarah Latham, LRDP Planning Committee Chairs

Subject: Land use scenarios for input

For more than a year, we have been gathering feedback as we work on a new Long Range Development Plan. An LRDP is a land use map that designates campus land according to various uses, such as academic and housing. *It is not an enrollment plan nor is it a master plan.*

### **What's in an LRDP?**

To undertake this work on designating land use, we are using a test enrollment figure to understand the square footage needed on the campus by 2040—the 20 year horizon for which the LRDP will cover. The test enrollment figure of 28,000 students is reflective of what the campus founders envisioned for the eventual campus size (27,500 students by the year 1990). It also aligns with historical enrollment growth.

To reiterate, this enrollment number is not a mandate for enrollment, but rather a number to

help identify impacts of land use at this enrollment capacity. The test enrollment figure is evaluated at three significant points in the LRDP planning process. The first evaluation takes place when a draft land use scenario is selected. The second point of evaluation occurs when the draft LRDP is developed and the environmental analysis begins. The final evaluation occurs when the draft Environmental Impact Report is complete and the LRDP is being finalized to submitted to the Board of Regents for review and approval. We anticipate the plan will be submitted to the Regents in late 2020.

**We want to hear from you!**

We share with you today three land-use test scenarios that have been mapped. These maps have been developed based on feedback from the online mapping tool, campus and community forums, and discussions with expert working groups and the LRDP Planning Committee. The three test scenarios show academic and student housing land use designations. Also included are possible future employee housing scenarios, which will eventually be incorporated into the land use scenarios.

We are seeking your feedback on these test scenarios as part of the process of further refining these initial ideas that have been developed thanks to your input. We ask that you submit your thoughts using an [online Google form](#).

The form will be open until Dec. 5, 2018.

A briefing document is [available online](#).