

**San Francisco State University
Campus Master Plan**

Statement of Overriding Considerations

(Pursuant to Sections 21081 and 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code
and Sections 15091 and 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines)

Final Environmental Impact Report
(State Clearinghouse Number 2006102050)

STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

CEQA requires the decision-making agency to balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological or other benefits of the project against its unavoidable environmental risks when determining whether to approve the project. If the specific economic, legal, social, technological or other benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, those effects may be considered "acceptable." (CEQA Guidelines 15093(a).) CEQA requires the agency to state, in writing, the specific reasons for considering a project acceptable when significant impacts are not avoided or substantially lessened. Those reasons must be based on substantial evidence in the Final EIR or elsewhere in the administrative record (CEQA Guidelines 15093(b).)

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, the Board of Trustees finds that the mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, when implemented, will avoid or substantially lessen virtually all of the significant effects identified in the Final EIR for San Francisco State University Campus Master Plan. However, certain significant impacts of the project are unavoidable even after incorporation of all feasible mitigation measures. The project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to a) historic resources, b) traffic, and c) university population and nearby residents from construction noise. The Final EIR provides detailed information regarding these impacts.

The Board of Trustees finds that all feasible mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR within the purview of the University will be implemented with the project, and that the remaining significant unavoidable effects are outweighed and are found to be acceptable due to the following specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits based upon the facts set forth above, the Final EIR, and the record, as follows:

- a) San Francisco State University has distinguished itself as a center of academic scholarship, creative innovation and civic involvement. Located in one of the most vibrant and popular cities in the world, a range of ideas, opinions and resources converge at SFSU to offer students unparalleled opportunities for learning, exploration, creativity and discovery. From the arts to science, journalism to public service, business or teaching, many of San Francisco State's alumni, who total nearly 170,000 men and women, are now leaders in their fields.
- b) The development of the proposed campus master plan enables SF State to help the CSU address projected enrollment demand and to improve and expand access to higher education for the residents of the San Francisco Bay Area and the State of California as a whole.
- c) The campus master plan creates a physical framework to support the teaching and public service mission of the University, including instruction, support, residential facilities and infrastructure; a dynamic intellectual and social community; and educational opportunities for an increasingly diverse population.
- d) The campus master plan allows for the development of approximately 0.9 million gross square feet of academic and support facilities to remedy existing and future space shortages, correct deficiencies and technological obsolescence in existing facilities, accommodate

planned program direction in instruction, research and public service functions, and provide capacity for future program requirements.

- e) The provision of affordable housing will enhance the University's ability to recruit new faculty and staff members, thereby enhancing San Francisco State University's standing as a premier undergraduate, graduate and research institution in the State of California. New faculty and staff recruitment is needed to replace retiring campus employees and to provide for expanded enrollment. Development of affordable housing is critical to attracting and retaining the qualified faculty and staff necessary to provide quality public higher education for the San Francisco Bay Area and the state.
- f) The project incorporates environmentally sound, sustainable planning and design concepts including: providing housing and neighborhood retail development with enhanced walkability and transit accessibility for students, faculty, and staff; emphasizing the use of alternative transportation; designing future buildings at greater density than existing in order to more efficiently utilize land resources and preserve open space; utilizing an open stormwater management system that retains and infiltrates water on site; and re-creating a seasonal creek that flows into Lake Merced, thereby raising water levels and contributing to the health of the watershed.
- g) The campus master plan will constitute a significant economic benefit to San Francisco and the Bay Area. San Francisco State University has a significant beneficial economic impact on the area's economy. Each dollar spent locally by San Francisco State cycles through the area economy, generating additional income and employment.
- h) The campus is the thirteenth largest employer in San Francisco. This is particularly significant because of the quality and diversity of new jobs that are related to the implementation of the campus master plan.
- i) San Francisco State University provides many direct services for both on-campus and off-campus users, including but not limited to: library services; recreation facilities; and academic and support services. As the campus master plan is implemented, the level of these services will grow.
- j) SF State trains seven out of every ten teachers in San Francisco's public schools.
- k) The following social benefits, currently offered by SF State to its host communities are representative of programs and initiatives that would continue to serve the Bay Area and the entire region upon the implementation of the campus master plan:
 - A pioneer in learning through community, SF State offers nearly 300 courses that combine academic study with community involvement. For example, students help elderly immigrants learn to read, write and pass citizenship exams, through participation in service learning programs called Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders and Students Assisting with Immigrant Literacy, SHINE and SAIL. SF State is one of about five universities nationwide, and the only CSU

campus, to include community service learning credit on student transcripts. In 2005-06, about 37 percent of all SF State students took part in service learning classes, contributing 332,348 hours to the surrounding community. That contribution would add up to about \$2.24 million if paid at the California minimum wage of \$6.75 an hour.

- San Francisco State provides many indirect community contributions in the form of education, artistic, and cultural enrichment to residents of the Bay Area through such functions as extension courses, performing arts events, art exhibits, and workshops. For instance, each year since 1952 SF State's Morrison Artists' Series presents a series of free recitals by prominent chamber music ensembles, which San Francisco Chronicle music critic Joshua Kosman describes as an "indispensable" and "invaluable" contribution to the local music scene.
- The University has more than 100 centers, institutes and special programs that address such varied issues as the health of San Franciscans, K-12 student skills, small business success and science skills for inner-city youth.
- SF State is tackling the No. 1 cause of California children's hospitalizations and missed school days with leadership of a statewide program to fight asthma. Community Health Works, the educational partnership between SF State and City College of San Francisco, has been tapped by The California Endowment to coordinate a \$12 million, statewide program to fight asthma at its sources: where children live, learn and play. CHW will coordinate a dozen community-based partnerships across the state that identify and reduce asthma triggers.
- Helping former substance abusers get their lives off to a new start, SF State brings higher education to the nationally recognized residential treatment center, Delancey Street, giving clients the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in urban studies while completing their rehabilitation. Classes are taught by SF State faculty, with guest lectures from civic and government leaders.
- One of the few nonprofit research organizations in San Francisco to focus on key economic and community development issues, the Institute for Civic and Community Engagement at SF State addresses workforce preparation, urban environmental restoration, inner-city education and health. The Institute uses the research and analytic resources of the University to build collaborative projects with businesses, labor, city agencies and community organizations.
- The Marian Wright Edelman Institute for the Study of Children, Youth, and Families, named in honor of the founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, focuses on the needs of children and adolescents. The Institute drives collaborations between SF State and the community, fosters child-centered research and offers an interdisciplinary program on child and adolescent development that prepares students for work with children and families or in research and public policy. The Institute became the first university affiliate of the national Jumpstart organization in 1997. Today more than 50 college students are working with Jumpstart to build the literacy and learning skills of 3- to 5-year-olds in San

Francisco's Bayview-Hunters Point, Mission, Marina, Richmond and South of Market neighborhoods.

- SF State's Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies is headquarters for the 3,700-acre San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, working to restore tidal marshes and protect estuarine habitat through research, monitoring and educational programs. Dedicated in 2003, the SF Bay NERR is the third such reserve in California and one of 26 nationwide.
- Internationally trained health professionals gain a foothold in California's job market with help from the Welcome Back program, operated in partnership with City College of San Francisco. The nonprofit functions as a counseling, education and job placement service for immigrant health professionals, helping them navigate the state's licensing system and obtain the necessary credentials to work in the United States. Made possible through a \$2 million grant from The California Endowment, Welcome Back also aims to increase the numbers and ethnic diversity of health professionals practicing in medically underserved areas.
- The SF State Institute on Sexuality, Inequality and Health conducted the first-ever study of physical and mental health outcomes of lesbian, gay and bisexual youth who disclose their sexual orientation to family members during adolescence. One of the first research studies to focus on the youths' families and their responses after the youths "come out," the three-year study uncovered ways that families can best support gay, lesbian and bisexual youths and help foster their resiliency.
- SF ROCKS (Reaching Out to Communities and Kids with Science in San Francisco), an SF State-based project aimed at increasing the number of students of color who enter college as geoscience majors, helps San Francisco high school students learn about environmental hazards in their own neighborhood while at the same time piques their interest in the geosciences, among the least diverse of all disciplines. Thirteen Burton High sophomores in the program shared their research at the 2003 annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the first time the AGU invited high school students to present scientific posters to its more than 9,800 attending scientists from around the world.
- The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in the College of Extended Learning offers courses, lectures, symposia and travel programs geared specifically toward enriching the lives of the Bay Area's older learners and tapping the students' experience and knowledge to help solve local and statewide problems.
- California Poets in the Schools, the largest writers-in-schools program in the nation, began at SF State in 1964 as the Pegasus Project which arranged poetry readings in Bay Area classrooms. Now a statewide organization reaching 29 counties, California Poets in the Schools estimates it has introduced more than a half million K-12 students to the creative writing process.
- In 2006, SF State was among the recipients of the first President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Award, presented by the Corporation for National and Community Service, in recognition of the University's community service

efforts.

- In 2006, SF State was one of 76 U.S. colleges and universities selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for a new Community Engagement Classification. SF State is one of 62 institutions in the Curricular Engagement and Outreach & Partnerships category of the new classification. The designation recognizes the University's substantial commitments to "teaching, learning and scholarship which engage faculty, students and community in mutually beneficial and respectful collaboration."
 - In 2007, the University transformed an on-campus student apartment into a model for sustainable, eco-friendly living. Other sustainability accomplishments at SF State include energy conservation measures supported in part by \$1,057,177 in grants and incentives from PG&E, composting of food waste from the student dining center, and a pilot recycling program with a 75-percent diversion rate.
 - MacArthur Fellowship ("genius award") recipient Ralf Hotchkiss has dedicated his career to the social integration of people with disabilities. The founder of Whirlwind Wheelchair International based at SF State, he has brought improved mobility to more than 15,000 people in Africa, Asia and Latin America by creating a global network of wheelchair inventors, designers, users and manufacturers to address the need for wheelchairs in the developing world.
 - The Tall Ship Education Academy (TSEA), a program of the Recreation and Leisure Studies department, was named the 2006 Sea Education Program of the Year by the American Sail Training Association (ASTA). TSEA offers experiential education programs, including a 15 week program for high school girls, in which they operate and navigate a traditionally rigged vessel on the open sea.
 - Business Professor Gary Selnow founded a nonprofit organization WiRED (World Internet Resources for Education and Development) to bring computer hardware, software and training to areas worldwide ravaged by disease or conflict. In the war-torn Balkans, he has focused the technologies on teaching children about cooperation and enhancing their access to educational materials. In Nicaragua, Internet cafes provide free information access to healthcare workers and the poor -- and a source of revenue for helping land mine victims. And in Africa, nine new community health information centers provide life-saving information on HIV/AIDS, malaria and other illnesses.
- 1) The campus master plan, when compared to the other alternatives analyzed in the Final EIR (including the No Project Alternative) provides the best available balance between maximizing attainment of the project objectives and minimizing significant environmental impacts.

Considering all factors, the Board of Trustees finds that there are specific economic, legal, social, technological and other considerations associated with the project that outweigh the project's significant unavoidable effects, and the adverse effects are therefore considered acceptable.