

## Comment by Warren Sack

Clearly there are alternatives to the proposed plan that would deliver the needed housing within the necessary timeline. The June 27th open letter addressed to the Chancellor and the EVC and signed by Kenneth Feingold, UC Regent Emeritus and former president of the UCSC Foundation, and many others outlines these other alternatives. It is clear that the current choice is the worst of all the alternatives because it does not deliver student housing quickly enough and it does the most damage to the environment. One of these other alternatives needs to be pursued: some alternative that leaves the East Meadow intact. This is the case for several reasons in addition to the most obvious reasons -- we need to deliver new student housing as quickly as possible and with the least amount of environmental damage as is feasible.

1. Development opportunities: Some of our most generous alums are opposed to the proposed plan and make it clear that we will lose tens of millions of dollars of future contributions if the Chancellor forges on with this choice of siting housing in the East Meadow.
2. Goodwill of the alums: Not just our most generous alums, but most of our alums remember the campus as a beautiful place. We owe it to them to be good stewards of the land.
3. Faculty trust: The long-range development plan of 2005 makes it clear that the East Meadow will remain undeveloped. To develop it now will discourage the faculty from engaging in any future long-range planning if these kinds of documents like the LRDP -- or the EVC's SAP of 2018, for that matter -- are just so much paper quickly tossed aside when the administration finds them inconvenient.
4. Community relations: 70,000 people signed the petition against the development of the East Meadow. This number of people, over three times the campus population, cannot be overlooked without significant risk to campus-community relations.
5. Tenure of the Chancellor: With all due respect, on the way out the door to retirement, the Chancellor has no business marring the primary, distinctive feature of the physical campus -- its sublime beauty. We are all going to have to live with this decision for the rest of our time on campus, but it is going to be the next Chancellor who will be in the spotlight and the scandal of this project as soon as they step in the door. At the very least, the outgoing Chancellor owes the still-unchosen, incoming Chancellor the choice of whether or not the campus is going to ruin the East Meadow during the incoming's first days on the job.
6. The reputation of the campus: The Chancellor seems to have delegated this project to VC Sarah Latham. VC Latham has selected Katerra as the construction firm for this project. (Katerra along with Walker Macy is one of two partners in Capstone Development Partners.) Katerra is a large firm with infamous investors including Foxconn and Saudi Arabia. With investors like these, Katerra is directly connected to labor abuse and a murderous political regime. It is gross incompetence on the part of VC Latham to risk dragging UCSC's reputation into the ditch with Katerra. It is outrageous to imagine that Katerra will have any say in the siting or construction of anything on this campus. The Chancellor needs to fix this state of affairs before it becomes a literal and PR nightmare for UCSC.

Respectfully yours,

-Warren Sack

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