

From: Alison Galloway <gallow@ucsc.edu>
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To: eircomment@ucsc.edu
Subject: Student Housing West Project

I am writing with concerns about the planned housing projects encapsulated in the Student Housing West Project. While I applaud the team on the proposed construction on the western side of campus, I do not believe that the planned development on the East Meadow has taken into account the many factors such a decision entails.

The proposed project makes poor use of a prime location on campus, capturing neither the density nor the views that this site warrants. If such a project is to be considered, it should be part of a much larger and comprehensive approach to the probable eventual development of all the meadows. As currently planned, it replicates some of the worst of the current Family Student Housing on a unique and prized parcel of the campus.

I would also ask that you consider what is lost by this development. The parcel is one of the first views that anyone visiting the campus experiences. It is a powerful statement of the principles by which this campus was built and is a tremendous "selling point" for students, faculty and staff. For many of us, the decision to come to the campus and to stay is influenced by the sheer beauty of the campus and we are willing to put up with other deficits because of that beauty.

Finally, I ask that you consider the symbolism of the meadow in light of the Chancellor's stated vision of "environmental stewardship and social justice." If we, as a campus, are willing to relinquish the concept of environmental stewardship for convenience and the right "price," then how easily will we release our hold on other principles.

In sum, while I strongly support the development of the west campus, I find that the decision to develop the East Meadow is poorly conceived and does not take into account other factors. I understand the competing drivers behind some of the decisions since I was Provost/EVC for six years and know well the pressing need for both housing and childcare. However, the Draft EIR identifies other viable options that should be reassessed.