August 22, 2005

RE: Update on Status of SDSU’s Proposed Campus Master Plan Revision

Dear Community Member:

I am writing to you today to give you an update on the status of San Diego State University’s proposed Campus Master Plan revision. The Master Plan provides San Diego and California with a long-term plan to ensure access to higher education for future generations of students. By increasing our enrollment capacity gradually over the next twenty years, the plan will enable SDSU to continue serving the higher education needs of both the region and the state in the face of increasing demands.

As you may be aware, in July 2005 the California State University Board of Trustees accepted my recommendation to postpone a final decision on the Master Plan for two months. I asked for this delay in order to give the Trustees additional time to review the information presented to them about the plan. This delay also provides us additional time to listen to community concerns.

SDSU is taking proactive steps to work productively with the community to address issues related to the Master Plan. In cooperation with San Diego City Councilman Jim Madaffer, we are attempting to form an ad-hoc committee of university, civic, community, and business interests to examine long-term solutions to existing and future traffic conditions in the I-8/College Avenue area. While the CSU is precluded by state law from using educational funds to pay for off-campus traffic improvements, SDSU can play a leadership role in working with the appropriate agencies to identify and prioritize needed traffic improvements. This committee would be an additional step in this long-term effort.

Another significant issue of concern has been the potential traffic impact that could result from development of faculty housing at Adobe Falls, near the community of Del Cerro. As a direct response to input from the community, SDSU has agreed to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study of alternate access routes to the property while the project undergoes further review. If a feasible alternative is identified that does not further impact the environment, it will be required to be constructed as part of the project. In addition, a traffic calming study will be required to recommend measures that will help improve safe traffic flow. To help facilitate continued communication with the surrounding community, SDSU is proposing to form an Adobe Falls Community Advisory Committee that will work with the university while these studies are being conducted and when the project proceeds to a more detailed, project-specific review.
SDSU is currently working to develop assurances for the surrounding community that address these issues. It is also important to note that the Adobe Falls component of the Master Plan cannot proceed to construction without completion of these two studies, further environmental and public review, and subsequent action by the CSU Board of Trustees.

The Campus Master Plan revision is scheduled for a decision by the CSU Board of Trustees on September 20-21, 2005. The approval of the master plan is important to SDSU’s continuing efforts for ensuring access to higher education for our growing student population. I hope this update assures you that SDSU is not only committed to serving the educational needs of the region and state but is committed to working closely with our neighbors as the Campus Master Plan is implemented.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project further, please contact SDSU’s Director of Government & Community Relations, Steven Collins at (619) 594-3418 or scollins@mail.sdsu.edu. You can also visit the project website at www.sdsu.edu/masterplan.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Weber
President