June 12, 2007

Dear Neighbor,

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on San Diego State University’s revised Campus Master Plan and provide an overview of the process. Since our last communication in January, we have made significant changes to the plan in response to community input and have begun the public review process for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

Increasing access to quality higher education in the face of growing demand remains one of our biggest challenges. In fact, according to the Public Policy Institute of California, by 2013 the state will need to accommodate more than 500,000 new full-time students at its colleges and universities. At the same time, our economy continues to require a more educated workforce. To help address this, the California State University system has directed each of its campuses to grow to meet projected enrollment demand.

The 2007 Campus Master Plan revision is SDSU’s plan to accommodate and manage the increased demand for higher education through 2025. It is a comprehensive plan that will allow SDSU to provide increased academic space, student housing and services, and high-quality affordable faculty and staff housing to meet growing student demand in a smart, planned manner. The plan will expand SDSU’s enrollment capacity from 25,000 full-time equivalent students to 35,000. This will enable the university to respond to both the region’s and the state’s higher education needs and produce the educated workforce necessary for our continued economic prosperity.

Over the last few months, San Diego State University has worked with the community to incorporate changes to key elements of the plan. One of these significant changes includes the addition of almost 3,000 beds of on-campus student housing. In addition to increasing on-campus housing, SDSU anticipates that the supply of university-managed housing near the campus will also grow. Based on changes to the Campus Master Plan and projections for future housing, it is expected that SDSU will provide housing for nearly 10,000 students by 2025, consisting of on-campus housing and university-managed housing within walking distance to campus. SDSU is also working with private developers to provide even more student housing within walking distance to campus and around nearby trolley stations. While SDSU would not own this housing, it could be managed by the university.

Another significant change to the plan is the reduction in the number of units proposed at Adobe Falls. This neighborhood of high-quality, affordable faculty and staff homes will be constructed in phases over the next several years and was carefully designed to ensure that there will be no significant impacts on residential streets in the surrounding community.
If no alternate access can be provided to the site, a maximum of 172 homes is proposed – more than a 68 percent reduction from the original proposal. If alternate access can be provided, up to 348 homes could be developed on the site.

On June 13, 2007, the 45-day public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report will begin. The DEIR identifies the potential impacts of the plan and proposed mitigation measures to address these impacts. We are continuing our discussions with the City of San Diego to determine the university’s fair share obligations toward implementing these measures.

We greatly appreciate the feedback we have received on the Campus Master Plan revision over the past few months and welcome your feedback on the DEIR. Moving forward with the public environmental review process, we will continue to work closely with the community as our ongoing conversations remain a priority for the university.

Enclosed you will find a postage-paid card to provide comments on the Campus Master Plan revision. For more information, we invite you to review the project Web site at www.sdsu.edu/masterplan.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Weber
President
San Diego State University