

COUNCIL POLICY NUMBER 26.7

POLICY TITLE UCSC GROWTH AND ITS IMPACT ON THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
(BALLOT MEASURE)

POLICY STATEMENT:

The following policy (see attached) will be applied regarding University of California growth and its impact on the City of Santa Cruz. This policy results from November 8, 1988 Ballot Measure C.

AUTHORIZATION: Council Policy Manual Update of November 17, 1998

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ORDINANCE NO. 88-65

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CITY POLICY CONCERNING
UNIVERSITY GROWTH AND ITS IMPACT ON THE CITY
OF SANTA CRUZ

The people of the City of Santa Cruz do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE. The title of this ordinance shall be "Ordinance Establishing City Policy Concerning University Growth And Its Impact On the City of Santa Cruz."

SECTION 2. PURPOSES. One of the purposes of the ordinance is to express the concerns of the citizens of the City of Santa Cruz about the large-scale and rapid growth proposed by the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC). It is a further purpose of this ordinance to direct City officials to take whatever actions they can to avoid the detrimental effects of this proposed growth, including, specifically, adverse impacts on the housing market, on traffic congestion, and on the City's roadway, sewer, and water systems.

SECTION 3. FINDINGS

It is hereby found and determined as follows:

1. Importance of UCSC. UCSC is a vital part of the Santa Cruz community, and provides substantial economic, social, cultural, and intellectual benefits to the community at large.

2. Unique Physical and Academic Character of UCSC. The UCSC campus is perhaps the most beautiful university campus in the United States. Its college-based academic system offers a unique public educational experience. Rapid and large-scale growth by the University will undermine these qualities of the University, and will erode the quality of the educational life of the campus.

3. Unique and Special Environment of the Greater Santa Cruz Community

The City of Santa Cruz is a community, blessed with beauty, and with a citizenry dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural environment, and the quality of life in local neighborhoods. To maintain its historic commitments to both people and the environment, the Santa Cruz community must not be overwhelmed by rapid and large-scale growth.

4. Diversity of UCSC. The policies and practices of the university, since its inception, have not been successful in assuring adequate cultural and racial diversity on campus. Such racial and cultural diversity would be welcomed by the community at large, and would

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benefit both community and the educational mission of the campus. Rapid and large-scale growth is not a way to enhance the diversity of the campus community, but is a way to ensure exactly the opposite. Rising housing costs, a decreasing availability of financial aid, and a loss in personal and individual support for students can all be expected to accompany accelerated and large-scale growth at UCSC. All of these factors will work against increasing the racial and cultural diversity that is so much needed on the campus.

5. Need for Cooperation. Cooperation between UCSC and the City of Santa Cruz is crucial for the future well-being of both the University and the community, and requires mutual respect and consideration from each.

6. Violation of Existing Long Range Development Plan. In 1978, UCSC approved a Long Range Development Plan which provided for 6,760 students with a maximum possible enrollment of 7,500 students. The University has violated this Plan, which is still in effect, and has permitted enrollments at UCSC to exceed 9,150 students during the 1987/88 academic year.

7. Intensification of Housing Crisis. The price of housing in the Santa Cruz community has increased much faster than inflation, making it more difficult and more expensive for people with low and moderate incomes to live in the City of Santa Cruz. UCSC students, faculty, and staff have both contributed to and suffered from the high cost of housing, on campus and in the community. Rapid and large-scale growth by the University will significantly worsen this housing crisis. This growth is destroying the integrity of the City's neighborhoods particularly in areas zoned for single families.

8. Inadequate Housing Provided by the University. The University has had a long-standing goal of housing 50 percent of all student on campus. Less than 45 percent of the student body now lives on campus, and the situation is worsening. Given the significant and rapid growth of UCSC in recent years, the existing high price of housing in the City of Santa Cruz, and the limited number of sites available for student housing, it is vital that UCSC achieve the goals contained in its initially-proposed Long Range Development Plan, dated June, 1987: on-campus housing for 70 percent of its undergraduate students, 50 percent of its graduate students, 25 percent of its faculty, and 25 percent of the staff newly-attracted to the County. These goals must be included in any ORDINANCE NO. 88-65 Long Range Development Plan and the University must commit itself to make available the financial and other resources necessary to carry them out.

9. Need to Mitigate Traffic and Parking Impacts. The proposed rapid and large scale growth of UCSC will cause serious degradation of already-congested traffic conditions in the City, and will cause increased parking problems which will further degrade and destroy the integrity of the City's neighborhoods.

10. UCSC Plan for 15,000 Students. The proposed Long Range Development Plan anticipates an enrollment level of between 12,000 and 15,000 students by 2005. The ORDINANCE NO. 88-65

impacts of this growth on the City of Santa Cruz would be severe. An enrollment level of 15,000 students would mean twice as much new growth an enrollment level of 12,000 students, and it is clear that a smaller, rather than a larger, amount of growth should be permitted at UCSC. All growth permitted should be fully mitigated before such growth actually occurs.

11. Rate of Growth. The rate of growth permitted at UCSC is just as important as the total amount of growth allowed. Rapid and large-scale growth cannot be fully mitigated, and will overwhelm both the community and the campus. Proposed new growth at UCSC may create significant adverse environmental impacts, and should be subjected to review under the policies of the California Environmental Quality Act.

SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTATION.

1. POLICIES. It is hereby determined that in order to minimize or eliminate the problems of UCSC growth, and to assure the public health, safety, and welfare, the following policies shall guide the City of Santa Cruz in its relationship with UCSC:

a. 2005 Growth Target. It shall be the policy of the City of Santa Cruz based on its limited capacity to absorb future growth, that the University of California should be required to adopt an enrollment target for the year 2005 which minimizes the impact of the University's enrollment on the community. Further, it is the policy of the City of Santa Cruz to request that UCSC increases enrollment by no more than 160 students a year, at least until 1994, as promised to the community by the Chancellor in October, 1987.

b. Annual University Growth. It shall be the policy of the City of Santa Cruz to insist that the University of California limit and phase its rate of growth so that all significant adverse impacts on the community, particularly in the areas of housing and traffic, are fully mitigated.

c. Implementation of On-Campus Housing Goals. It is the policy of the City of Santa Cruz that the University of California should be required to provide all the financial and other resources necessary to achieve the housing goals contained in the proposed Long Range Development Plan issued by the University on June, 1987.

d. Cooperation with the University. It shall be the policy of the City of Santa Cruz to cooperate with UCSC in planning for the future growth of the University and the City, consistent with the purposes and findings contained in this ordinance.

2. COUNCIL ACTIONS. In order to carry out the policies contained in this ordinance, the City Council is directed to take the following actions:

a. Cooperation with UCSC. The City Council shall maintain ongoing contact with the University of California to seek mutually acceptable solutions to the problems related to proposed University growth.

b. Participation in Growth Decisions. The City Council shall take whatever actions are necessary and available to assure that the UCSC growth plans, including the final EIR and Long Range Development Plan, require the full mitigation of any adverse impacts of UCSC growth on the Santa Cruz community, particularly in the areas of housing, traffic, and the provision of public services, such as water, sewers and schools. The City Council shall ensure that the City of Santa Cruz fully participates in the review of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the University's Long Range Development Plan.

c. Compliance with California Environmental Quality Act. The City Council shall undertake all necessary actions to ensure that all growth-related decisions of the University are carried out in full compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

d. Provision of Services. The City Council shall approve the expansion of services to UCSC only as required by law, or if the University has fully mitigated the significant adverse impacts of its growth on the Santa Cruz community, and has agreed to pay its fair share of the cost of any new public facilities required by its growth.

e. Coordination with Other Agencies. The City Council shall actively participate in the Association of University Communities to carry out the policies and implementation actions of this ordinance.

f. State Actions. The City Council shall urge their State legislative representatives to take all actions possible to:

1. Insure that the University of California will cooperate with the City of Santa Cruz in carrying out the policies of this ordinance;

2. Oppose additional capital facilities for the UCSC campus, except for housing, if the university has not taken actions to ensure that the adverse impacts of its growth on housing, traffic and infrastructure are adequately mitigated.

g. University Actions. The City Council shall urge the Chancellor to propose, the President to recommend, and the Regents to adopt a system-wide enrollment plan that allows for growth at the Santa Cruz campus consistent with the policies of this ordinance.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any portion of this ordinance is hereafter determined to be invalid, all remaining portions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect, and to this extent, the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

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SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Section 4013 of the Election Code of the State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the people of the City of Santa Cruz this 15th day of November, 1988, by the following vote:

YES: 18,407

NO: 6,168

Votes canvassed by the City Council on November 15, 1988.