

April 5, 2023

Jessica Cattelino  
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Re: Campus Expansion Joint Task Force

Dear Chair Cattelino and the Executive Board,

At the February 17, 2023 meeting of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee (CRCC) of the Executive Board, Campus Expansion Joint Task Force Co-Chair Andrea Kasko presented on the new Palos Verdes campus and fielded questions from CRCC members regarding the Joint Task Force's work. At both its February 17, 2023 and April 5, 2023 meetings, CRCC members affirmed the importance of [climate neutrality](#) and Climate Justice in the creation of both the new campus's academic theme and form of operations. Members voted (3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained) to send this letter to the Executive Board, requesting endorsement and transmission to the Campus Expansion Joint Task Force Co-Chairs.

The university expansion to the new Palos Verdes campus is an opportunity to respond proactively to the climate crisis. By centering climate neutrality and climate justice as academic themes, it would allow for an opportunity to incorporate all the disciplines that fall under "sustainability" writ large. Members emphasize the importance of the breadth of faculty research, which would be possible with these interwoven themes that are interdisciplinary in nature. Research, teaching, and learning on climate neutrality and climate justice would attract undergraduate and graduate students as well as postdoctoral scholars and other academic trainees. It would also provide important outreach opportunities to the diverse communities around Palos Verdes and San Pedro.

Additionally, CRCC members would like to amplify concerns regarding climate neutrality and climate justice in the operations of the Palos Verdes and San Pedro sites. With the student housing in San Pedro several miles away from the Palos Verdes campus and Westwood campus located 35 miles away, the issue of transportation is a significant concern. Members urge climate neutral transportation options for students, faculty, and staff. Members also want to ensure that the campus is operated through sustainable power sources. Because Palos Verdes is a small campus, it is possible for it to run one hundred percent sustainably that is climate neutral.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lee  
Chair, Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee

Cc: April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate  
Charlotte Rose, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate  
Members, Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee