



## COUNCILMAN MARK KERSEY

FIFTH DISTRICT  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

May 9, 2016

Palomar Community College District  
Attn: Dennis Astl  
1140 West Mission Road  
San Marcos, CA 92069-1487

RE: Comments on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for Palomar Community College, Rancho Bernardo Campus

Dear Mr. Astl:

As Councilmember for the Fifth District of the City of San Diego, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Palomar Community College District South Education Center (SCH# 2015081039). This proposed project will directly impact the community of Rancho Bernardo, and my top priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. After reviewing the Draft EIR, I have many concerns regarding this project, especially related to the lack of parking and traffic mitigation being proposed. The proposal in many cases is based on flawed information and leaves out significant impacts. Below is more detail regarding issues that have not been adequately addressed in the Draft EIR.

As the City's Traffic Engineering Division stated in their comments, the reliance on on-street parking in the neighborhood is unacceptable. The Division indicated, "On-street parking in adjacent neighborhoods should not be assumed to be available to serve the project. Potentially, college parking fees could be included in class registration fees or other methods could be used to ensure that students use the onsite parking provided and not impact the surrounding neighborhood. Furthermore, if parking is assumed to occur in neighborhoods, indirect impacts (e.g., noise, traffic, lighting, etc.) should be analyzed as required under CEQA Guidelines 15126.2." This project should not rely on available on-street in the adjacent neighborhood of Westwood which is already heavily impacted by on-street parking. Additionally, due to the already impacted on-street parking, the adjacent community is working to establish a residential parking district which would limit parking in the neighborhood to residents only, making any on-street parking assumed in this plan unavailable.



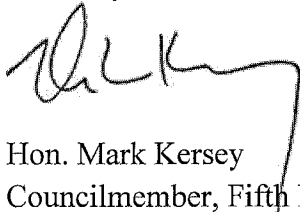
Traffic impacts to Rancho Bernardo Road/West Bernardo Drive must be revisited. The City's Traffic Engineering Division has indicated, "Rancho Bernardo Road should be evaluated at its ultimate adopted classification as a six-lane Major Road with a capacity of 50,000 ADT, not as a 6-lane Prime Arterial." This revision would result in additional project impacts over those identified in the EIR.

Contrary to what has been represented throughout this process, the City remains open to ensure that a second entrance to your property can be identified. This is a very important issue for residents of Rancho Bernardo, and I urge the District to continue working to find a solution that is acceptable to the community.

The City of San Diego's Planning Division staff has provided comments and a comprehensive analysis on the Recirculated Draft EIR for Palomar Community College District South Education Center, which identifies a multitude of other issues that must be revisited.

Without addressing the many parking and traffic shortcomings identified in the City's comments on the Draft EIR, I see no way for residents and the community to welcome the Palomar Community College District South Education Center to District Five. I urge you to continue to work with the Rancho Bernardo Community Council, the Rancho Bernardo Planning Board, and the community as a whole to tackle the many challenges this project faces.

Sincerely,



Hon. Mark Kersey  
Councilmember, Fifth District  
City of San Diego

cc: Laura Gropen, Communications Director, Marketing and Public Affairs Palomar College  
Robin Kaufman, President, Rancho Bernardo Community Council  
Mike Lutz, Chair, Rancho Bernardo Planning Board