

LETTER AY
OCT -4 2001



McSwain Union Elementary School District

Office of the Superintendent

October 2, 2001

STAN W. MOLLART
District Superintendent

Robert Smith, Director of Planning
UC Development Office
3351 M Street, Suite 240
Merced, CA 95348

Dear Mr. Smith,

At the September 18, 2001 meeting of the McSwain Elementary School District Board of Trustees, the Board unanimously requested that I send this letter to support the certification of the Environmental Impact Report for the University Community.

Members of our Board have reviewed the report and find it to be a balanced assessment of the impacts of the project. The Board is convinced that the EIR studies were exhaustive and clearly identifies the proposed project's negative impacts to environmental resources and to agricultural land. We are furthermore impressed that unprecedented measures have been put into place to mitigate those negative effects on the environment and on agricultural land. Finally, it is absolutely clear to us that the small negative impacts that remain that cannot be mitigated, are far outweighed by the educational, social, and economic benefits that will accrue to the State's fastest-growing, most economically disadvantaged, and most educationally under-served region.

AY-1

As a small rural school district, we are excited about the prospects of having a world-class university in our community. The proximity of UC Merced will benefit the children of our community in many ways;

- Children who are exposed to college and college students are more likely to develop aspirations to go to college themselves.
- As UC Merced is established, the University will continue to expand its partnerships with the Valley's K-12 schools, bringing important resources to the effort to encourage our Valley students to pursue a post-secondary education.

AY-2

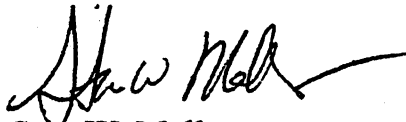
- The development of the Virginia Smith Trust lands will provide significant scholarship dollars to help Valley students financially in their quest of a college education.

AY-2

This campus is long overdue and the benefits of its development far outweigh any minor – and very well mitigated – costs. The McSwain Elementary School District Board of Trustees, in our role as advocates for the children of our community, strongly urge the County Board of Supervisors to certify the Environmental Impact Report for the University Community.

AY-3

Sincerely,



Stan W. Mollart
Superintendent

**COMMENT LETTER AY: STAN W. MOLLART
McSWAIN UNION ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Response to Comment AY-1:

The comment's support for the UCP is hereby forwarded to the decision makers.

Response to Comment AY-2:

The comment notes the benefits of locating a university in Merced County and the potential educational opportunities for the school children in the County. The comment is noted and is hereby forwarded to the decision makers.

Response to Comment AY-3:

The comment's support for the project is noted and is hereby forwarded to the decision makers.