

LETTER BM

SEP 26 2001



September 24, 2001

Ric Notini  
Environmental and Permitting Manager  
Physical Planning Office  
1170 Olive Ave. Suite 1  
Merced, CA 95348

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

Re: UC Merced Long Range Development and community EIRs

Dear Messrs. Notini and Smith,

I am writing to urge your quick approval of the UC Merced long range development and community plans. I have reviewed the campus' proposals to minimize and mitigate any environmental impacts resulting from the campus, and am convinced that what impacts remain are far outweighed by the benefits that the campus will provide our state and country.

The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) is in a unique position to comment on the campus's economic benefits to high tech. The SIA represents America's semiconductor manufacturers, firms that collectively supply over half of the \$204 billion global semiconductor market. The industry's ability to continually integrate four times as many circuits on a single piece of silicon every three years has produced unprecedented productivity gains to our economy, and transformed how we work, think, and play. The internet is indeed a world wide web of silicon chips. The SIA is also very committed to excellence at America's universities. Our affiliates have \$50 million in research grants at America's universities, and numerous programs to support graduate and undergraduate students studying in microelectronics related fields.. Finally, I have had the pleasure of serving on the UC Merced Foundation for the past 18 months, and have been able to assess first hand the economic benefits to California's high tech industries that will flow from UC Merced research and education.

Bm-1

UC Merced is America's first new research university in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and can make an important contribution to the future of information technology. Within the next five to fifteen years, the U.S. semiconductor industry will be facing the physical limits of the microchip making process that has been the foundation of the industry for the past 30 years. We will be moving from the world of "microchips" with features measured in the millionths of a meter, to the world of "nanochips" with features measured in the billions of a meter. Finding replacement processes and new electronic device structures will require advances in our understanding of the properties of materials at the atomic level. To maintain our leadership in these technologies, our universities must be at the forefront of nanoscale research. UC Merced will play a significant role in keeping the U.S., and particularly California, at the leading edge in nanotechnology sciences.

Bm-1

Just as important as the research results emanating from the university will be the human resources graduating from the campus. Ten years ago, our nation's universities graduated 70 percent more bachelors in electrical engineering than we do today. In the Japan over 5.5 percent of the nation's 24 year olds have engineering degrees, in the European Union 2.8 percent have such degrees, and in the U.S. only 1.7 percent have engineering degrees. Clearly there is room for improvement, and our nation's economic future depends on a reversal of these trends. Placing a campus in the Central Valley, where UC enrollment rates have historically been low, can help insure that California has the workforce necessary to maintain its leadership in the information industries well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Bm-2

I urge you to quickly approve the UC Merced long range development and community plans so that the campus will soon be in a position to make positive contributions to our country and our state's economic vitality. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions about this submission at 408-573-6605.

Bm-3

Sincerely,



Daryl Hatano  
Vice President, Public Policy

Cc: Members of the Merced Country Board of Supervisors

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**COMMENT LETTER BM: DARYL HATANO  
SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY  
ASSOCIATION**

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**Response to Comment BM-1:**

The commentor's support of UC Merced is hereby forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration prior to certification of the EIR.

**Response to Comment BM-2:**

The comment addresses the campus rather than the UCP, and does not address the adequacy of the EIR. No further response is necessary.

**Response to Comment BM-3:**

The commentor's support of the quick approval of the UC Merced long range development and community plans is hereby forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration prior to certification of the EIR.