



## Fire Department

*"Serving the community since 1926"*

### HEADQUARTERS

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1042  
(805) 681-5500 FAX: (805) 681-5563

John M. Scherrei  
Fire Chief

April 14, 2006

The Honorable Joni Gray, Chair, and  
Members of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Supervisor Gray and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Re: Item D-5 Management Study of Fire Department on April 18, 2006 Agenda

The University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) has filed a letter dated April 6, 2006, with the Board expressing concern with the three recommendations pertaining to UCSB made in the Management Study. As a result, the County's Fire Department wishes to further explain, clarify and provide background information on these recommendations.

Before providing the additional information, I would like to reiterate that staff from the County Executive Office and I have been engaged in a positive dialog with the University to address the various issues surrounding fire protection at the campus. Furthermore, I feel confident that the County and the University have a mutual goal of continuing this collaboration to find solutions that will improve fire services on campus.

**Recommendation #12: Implement a project to facilitate installation of sprinklers by UCSB in all facilities with high concentrations of people and the greatest risk of fire incidents.**

UCSB's response to this recommendation indicates that there are a large number of buildings on campus that are currently equipped with sprinklers and all high-rise dorms on campus are either currently equipped with sprinklers or will be by 2007.

County Fire wishes to clarify that strictly speaking, the University is not subject to the Fire Code enforced by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. The University must comply with the State Fire Code, which is enforced by the State Fire Marshal. When many of the existing buildings were built, there was no sprinkler requirement and currently there is no requirement in the State Fire Code to retrofit these structures. We speak primarily of the San Miguel and San Nicolas Dorms, which are two-story dormitories. There are also other structures on campus about which County Fire has concerns, for example: the Bio-2 facility and the Nobel Hall complex, which are also without sprinklers. However, the highest priority of both the Fire Department and UCSB installation of sprinklers is the high-rise dormitories.

It should be noted that the University understands the fire safety issues involved and has developed plans and allocated funds for the installation of sprinklers in both dormitories. The Fire Department both

supports and commends the University for this decision. Existing new construction and future new construction includes provisions in the State Fire Code that sprinklers within buildings is mandatory.

UCSB's response to recommendation #12 also mentions that the Study's statement that the University houses nearly 30,000 grossly over estimates the number of students, staff and faculty.

County Fire wishes to stress that that the Study's recommendations are primarily based on firefighter to population ratios. The County's firefighter to University population ratio, no matter what population count is used, needs to be addressed. Accordingly, the ongoing discussions between the County and the University center on that issue.

County Fire concurs that determining the exact population of the University is complex, whether it be the daytime population or the number that are "housed" on campus. In 2005, according to the campus statistical summary, there were 9,578 full-time equivalent staff and faculty members and 21,061 combined undergraduate and graduate students enrolled on campus, for a total of 30,639. However, there are 4,800 students actually "housed" in campus dormitories.

**Recommendation 13: Identify alternative methods of providing fire emergency services on the UCSB campus.**

**Recommendation 14: Evaluate the County's contract with UCSB for possible reversion of the responsibility for fire response to the university.**

UCSB's response to recommendations #13 and #14 includes that the University and the County are currently discussing fire support and looking at various long-term options.

County Fire concurs that communication with the University regarding fire protection enhancements is ongoing. As documented in the "Fire Management Study Implementation Matrix"(part of the Board Report on the Fire Study), both County Fire and the CEO are working in concert with UCSB to identify long-term solutions that will enhance fire protection and safety services provided to the campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to further clarify and expand on these matters.

Sincerely,

John M. Scherrei  
Fire Chief

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors  
Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer  
Jim Laponis, Deputy County Executive Officer  
Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer  
Donna Carpenter, Acting Vice Chancellor, University of California Santa Barbara  
Todd Lee, Assistant Chancellor, Budget & Planning  
John Baker, Management Partners Inc.