



February 16, 2012

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you to convey the University of California at Santa Barbara's strong support of Santa Barbara Student Housing's Thomas Merton House project and encourage you to vote to approve this project.

As the Executive Director of Housing & Residential Services at UCSB I can comment on the assertion that "off-site parking is not compliant with CA Coastal Commission special condition #14 of the UCSB San Clemente Project." This assertion is not true. As section 14 of the agreement states, "976 parking spaces shall be restricted to use by San Clemente Housing residents, San Clemente housing visitors, and any staff associated.". We have overbuilt the parking lots associated with the San Clemente project to a total of 1003 spaces, providing 27 extra spaces above the 976 specified in the agreement. It is out of these 27 spaces that Santa Barbara Student Housing will be receiving their 15 spaces as specified in our agreement with them.

In fact, section 14(4) of the UCSB San Clemente Project agreement specifically states that "this restriction shall not be interpreted to exclude alternate parking configurations to address off campus student and resident student parking in the Isla Vista Community," specifically and intentionally opening the door for agreements like ours with Santa Barbara Student Housing.

Santa Barbara Student Housing has worked diligently to address neighborhood concerns including providing a limit on the number of occupants at 18, well below the surrounding density. They have also restricted use of the meeting room and we believe they have been very responsive to community concerns. This was clearly demonstrated by their neighbors' strong support, community statements of support, and the final unanimous approval of the Planning Commission for this project.

The Thomas Merton House project will provide a wonderful housing option in our neighborhood and uphold the University Religious Center's interfaith tradition in our community. Additionally, as a provider of affordable housing, this project will increase student's access to the quality education at UCSB, solve a significant immediate parking problem, and improve housing stock in our community. Please vote in favor of this project.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wilfred Brown".

Wilfred Brown, Executive Director  
Housing & Residential Services