UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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Dear AASHE STARS Committee:

Since opening in 2005, the University of California, Merced has implemented a long-range vision for a vibrant campus based on sustainable planning and design principles. From energy-efficient buildings to waste-reduction strategies, UC Merced's leadership has reduced energy costs and created real world examples of what sustainability looks like on a university campus.

Due to enrollment demand, UC Merced has initiated the "2020 Project", a capital development project to double the physical capacity of the campus by 2020 in order to accommodate long-term enrollment growth to 10,000 students. UC Merced's growth strategy is to adopt a compact, pedestrian-oriented, high-density development pattern that will add approximately 920,000 assignable square feet of academic, residential, and student services space in a single project.

Multiple design teams are currently competing to be awarded the development project through a formal Request for Proposals process. The 2020 Project is innovative because (1) its large scale lends itself to district-wide, multi-building resource efficient strategies (e.g. district wide utilities, integrated bicycle, pedestrian transit networks) and (2) because the administrative procurement strategy UC Merced is using incorporates UC Merced's sustainability vision as a key evaluation criteria. The selection process for the 2020 Project development considers the following components that will advance UC Merced's sustainability goals:

- The extent to which LEED Gold minimums are met for all buildings
- Requiring designers and engineers to use Energy Budgets for development of each building
- Requiring designers and engineers to use Water Budgets for the Project development
- The extent to which minimum daylighting requirements are met to ensure employee well-being and reduce energy costs
- Requiring Drought-resistant landscaping
- Establishing Groundwater reduction targets
- Integrating Biophilic design principles into the Request for Proposals
- Creating contractual obligations on the part of the development team to maintain major building systems over the long term - including those associated with sustainability.

By design, the development process for the 2020 Project is committed to expanding access to the University in a way that minimizes impacts to the natural and built environment, encourages compact land development, and provides immediate and long-term environmental benefits to the campus and the community for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Richard Cummings
Division of Planning and Budget