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March 1st, 2018

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), we are pleased to verify that our submission for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is an accurate representation of our campus' sustainability initiatives and achievements. UCSB is committed to global leadership for sustainability through education, research, and action, and we are proud to be a participant in this self-assessment model which helps institutions across the nation measure their sustainability efforts and track their progress. UCSB first participated in the STARS pilot program in 2009, and we have seen ourselves benefit throughout the process.

UCSB has long been a leader in sustainability and continues to be a model for other institutions. In 1970, UCSB established one of the nation's first Environmental Studies Programs. In 1994, we established the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, and in 2008, UCSB created the Institute for Energy Efficiency to develop innovative technologies that address energy conservation. UCSB was the first UC campus to sign the Talloires Declaration in the 1990s, and in 2013, UCSB completed the first comprehensive Campus Water Action Plan in the UC system, creating a model for our colleagues throughout the state. The Water Action plan was developed by a group of Masters Students in the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management.

We are home to over 35 LEED-certified buildings, with several more on the way. We are committed to having all new construction and renovations meet LEED Gold standards. In July of 2017, UC Santa Barbara's Bren Hall made history by being the first (laboratory) building in the country to earn three LEED Platinum certification--The LEED Platinum certified Tipton Meeting House at UCSB's Sedgwick Reserve in Santa Ynez is UCSB's first Zero Net Energy building, using less energy over the course of the year than the onsite solar arrays generate. Additionally, UCSB's Sierra Nevada Aquatics Research Laboratory campus in the Eastern Sierra Mountains has a new net zero energy classroom facility, and is the third building at the site powered by solar PV and heated and cooled by a ground source (geothermal) heat exchanger. Completed in fall 2015, Sierra Madre Villages is the first residential complex in the UC system to attain Platinum certification, the highest possible rating for sustainable design under the category LEED for Homes. UCSB is the only campus in the UC system with any "LEED for Homes". In 2017, UCSB KITP Residence also received a LEED Platinum certification.

In 2017, UCSB increased its onsite renewable energy generating capacity tenfold through a multi-site Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). UCSB now has over 5.3 megawatts (MW) of on-site solar capacity that

generates more than one-third of the campus' peak electrical demand. UCSB is currently moving forward with the installation of an additional 1.2 MW by the end of 2018, (putting the campus on the right path) advancing our campus to meet our Carbon Neutrality goal. Our campus is committed to reducing our impact on the climate. We have reduced Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions below 1990 levels and are committed to becoming carbon neutral in our operations by 2025.

UC Santa Barbara has long recognized that water is a critical resource for the state of California. We have pursued aggressive water conservation strategies for almost two decades. Nearly 90 percent of the campus is irrigated with reclaimed water allowing us to make huge historical reductions in potable water consumption. Our campus continues to make additional reductions through efficiency and conservation, Per Capita Water consumption for the 2016/17 academic year dropped 17% below our three-year baseline (FY2005/06, FY2007/08).

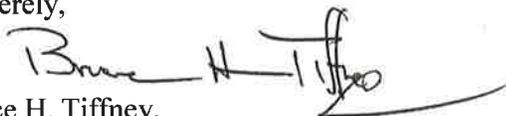
In 2017, UCSB received a Gold level Bicycle Friendly certification from the League of American Bicyclists for the 6th year in a row. The campus has extensive waste reduction programs that include recycling used cooking oil for biofuel, single-stream recycling, composting 100 percent of pre- and postconsumer food scraps in all dining halls, and implementing trayless dining, all of which were initiated a number of years ago.

UCSB continues to implement new technologies and approaches to sustainability issues and to imagine new ways of engaging society in dialogues about sustainability through artistic expressions. Research units such as the UCSB Sustainable Fisheries Group are increasing our understanding of the impact of policy on the health of our oceans. Our [Environmental Humanities Initiative](#) fosters and consolidates the diverse environmental humanities programming that takes place on campus. The [Environmental Media Initiative](#) of the Carsey-Wolf Center brings together environmental scientists and film and media scholars drawn from the humanities, arts, and social sciences to collaborate on teaching, research, and public programming.

UCSB is also known for its commitment to interdisciplinary research and teaching. Four years ago we launched a new Interdisciplinary PhD emphasis in The Environment and Society, which brings together nineteen academic departments from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, in a joint effort to provide new opportunities for graduate students.

UCSB has been tracking sustainability indicators since 1995. STARS allows us to monitor and highlight many of the extraordinary efforts going on at UCSB and will help us to continue to assess our achievements in sustainability and to better ascertain our progress. We appreciate AASHE's efforts in developing a comprehensive system with which to track and report progress, and we hope that our input will encourage other institutions to participate in and benefit from this worthy cause.

Sincerely,



Bruce H. Tiffney,
Professor of Earth Science, College of Letters & Science, Professor of Biology, College of Creative Studies
Co-Chair, Chancellor's Sustainability Committee

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