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March 12, 2024

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

Dear STARS Steering Committee Members:

On behalf of California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), I am excited to submit our campus' third Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. As with our previous reports, our Office of Sustainability staff and student assistants, in collaboration with my Presidential Commission on Sustainability and other stakeholders across our campus, carefully compiled the information and data provided in this submission. I am comfortable affirming that this report is a true and accurate representation of the university's efforts to integrate sustainability into all aspects of our academic, operational, planning and administration, and engagement efforts.

Since renewing our STARS Silver rating in 2021, our campus has further incorporated sustainability as one of our key institutional priorities. Achieving our climate neutrality and resilience goals remains central to our decision-making, particularly concerning planning and operations. Recent examples of this include updating our Climate Action and Adaptation Plan in 2022, continuing to phase out fossil fuel-powered fleet vehicles and grounds equipment in favor of zero emissions-electric models, constructing one of the first buildings in the country to be eligible for certification under the Living Building Challenge, and taking steps to electrify our central plant.

Faculty, staff, and students are provided with opportunities to participate in hands-on experiences that foster a culture of sustainability at CSULB. Faculty are trained through the *Climate Justice and Sustainability Across the Curriculum Workshop* on pedagogical strategies for integrating sustainability and climate justice content into their courses. Students work on sustainability-focused projects both on and off campus through internships, service learning, and volunteer opportunities. Staff have the opportunity to join a network of sustainability leaders by participating in the Sustainability Champions Program and Green Events Program, both of which were launched in 2023.

Additionally, since 2022 CSULB has participated alongside campuses throughout the State of California to host the College Corps Internship Program. The goals of the program include: creating a generation of civic-minded leaders who bridge divides to solve problems, help students graduate college on time and with less debt, and address societal challenges to help

build more equitable communities across California. This unique program provides students with paid internships with campus and community partners to work on projects related to climate action, food insecurity, and K-12 education. The program helps to bridge the opportunity gap for students who may not otherwise have the chance to complete an internship, thereby contributing to their academic success while also exposing them to sustainability-related career opportunities.

Preparing our students for the world they are inheriting, with all its challenges and possibilities, is at the heart of all we do at CSULB. We are proud of all we have achieved so far to advance our sustainability goals and empower our community members to be part of the solution. But we recognize the work is not done. We are excited to leverage the findings from this latest STARS report to guide our efforts over the next several years.

Thank you for the opportunity to showcase our achievements and leadership in sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Close Conoley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Jane Close Conoley, Ph.D.
President