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STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

RE: The University of San Diego STARS Submission

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

We at the University of San Diego are pleased to submit for our third STARS rating. STARS has proven to be an influential tool to help us move toward becoming a more sustainable campus, and we have used the credit criteria to help construct our sustainability strategies. The university's Catholic identity, with its foundation in Catholic Social Thought and an emphasis on producing students who are global citizens, coupled with the STARS criteria, provide new opportunities to explore the social, economic, environmental, and moral aspects of sustainability.

USD demonstrates care for all creation through our teaching, scholarship, campus culture, and community partnerships. The concept of "Care for Our Common Home" elucidated by Pope Francis in his encyclical "Laudato si'," expresses the tenets of sustainability through the lens of the Catholic faith. To emphasize the importance of sustainability to USD, "Care for Our Common Home" was adopted at the University of San Diego as one of our six pathways to accomplish our vision to set "the standard for an engaged, contemporary Catholic university where innovative changemakers confront humanity's urgent challenges." Furthermore, Climate Change and Environmental Justice comprise one of the six strategic themes at the core of our Urgent Challenges Collective.

We are excited and proud to learn that our third assessment, and our first under version 2.2, has resulted in our third Gold rating. To the best of our knowledge, the information presented in this evaluation is accurate and up to date. Our Office of Sustainability, led by Director of Sustainability Trey McDonald, oversaw the STARS assessment, and data were provided by students, faculty and staff from across the university.

Our rating reflects the ongoing commitment of USD to promote and adopt sustainable practices across our campus community. This report not only highlights the areas in which USD succeeds, but it also illuminates the areas we can improve to build a greater culture of sustainability on our campus. As part of our *Envisioning 2024* university strategic plan, we have established a goal to achieve Platinum rating. We will continue to use STARS as our primary sustainability assessment tool, and we look forward to strengthening our partnership with AASHE.

Sincerely,

James T. Harris III, D.Ed.
President and Professor of Education