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STARS Steering Committee
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: UC San Diego Updated Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Report

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of the University of California, San Diego I am proud to submit our updated Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report.

UC San Diego was the first institution of higher education in California to receive a STARS Gold rating in 2011, and we have continued to build on that success. Every day our faculty, students, and staff study and put into practice solutions that are helping to address global challenges as diverse as climate change, food adequacy, disease prevention, and ocean resource conservation.

Our updated STARS report reflects not only our leadership globally in teaching and research on issues like climate change, but also our commitment to being a model living laboratory of sustainability. In 2020 UC San Diego received recognition for our sustainability efforts from organizations ranging from the City of San Diego, the San Diego Association of Governments, USGBC LA Chapter, and the world-wide UI GreenMetric Survey.

UC San Diego 2020 Sustainability Highlights Include:

Carbon Neutrality and Clean Energy

- Campus energy consumption decreased by 4% in 2020. The UC Clean Power Program is now procuring 100% clean electricity and signed two additional contracts for long-term biomethane supplies, moving the university closer to its goal of supplying 40% of UC's natural gas consumption with carbon neutral biomethane to reduce its Scope 1 emissions.
- UC San Diego continues to leverage public funding to expand the [campus electric vehicle charging infrastructure](#). At the end of 2020, our campus has 250 ports that serve commuters, the general public and travelers. Over the past four years, UC San Diego has become San Diego County's largest multipurpose hub of EV charging plazas by delivering 2.5 GWH to more than 5,500 unique drivers.
- The campus microgrid responded to Governor Newsom's state of emergency proclamation during the Labor Day extreme heat wave by voluntarily activating aggressive demand response strategies with electric chillers, building

thermostats and backup generators. The efforts averaged 16 MW of power and exported 30 MWH during nine of the SDG&E grid's most vulnerable hours to help avoid regional public safety power shutoffs.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

- The campus improved its waste diversion rate to 43% in FY 2020, which was a 5% improvement from last year.
- In accordance with the Sustainable Practices Policy, University of California campuses are to [phase out and eliminate plastics](#). As part of the first phase of the policy, UC San Diego is working to eliminate plastic bags in retail and foodservice. Three years ago, the Sunshine Market, Bookstore and Audrey's Café proactively eliminated plastic bags, switched to recyclable paper bags and plans to move to reusable bags.
- Other measures that have been implemented to reduce plastic waste on campus in advance of policy requirements include:
 - Housing*Dining*Hospitality launched the [Triton2Go Mobile Ordering App and Reusable Container Program](#), which replaced the use of 75,000 disposable containers during Fall Quarter 2020.
 - Housing*Dining*Hospitality and Facilities Management installed more [Hydration Locations](#), increasing the total to more than 120 on campus. (Note: New Hydration Locations are being added to the map.)
 - Plastic straws have been eliminated.
- The campus received a [City of San Diego Recycler of the Year Award](#).
- Transportation Services expanded its [pay-by-plate program](#) for all pay stations via the [Parkmobile app](#). Using license plates as a parking credential allows compliance staff to verify fee payments electronically and eliminates the need to produce, ship and distribute plastic and paper parking permits.

Engagement and Sustainability

- UC San Diego ranked [fourth most sustainable university in the United States](#) of 31 participating schools and 70th in the world by the [2020 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings](#). This year, 912 universities from 84 countries participated in the only world ranking that measures the efforts of universities to combat climate change and reduce their carbon footprints.
- AASHE ranked UC San Diego as the top performer in [Sustainability Related Research](#).
- In mid-July, UC San Diego's Green Labs certification team certified Dr. Jan Kleissl's lab to reach a [100 certified labs milestone](#), leading the pack amongst the UC Campuses.
- UC San Diego Health implemented a [Green Operating Room Program](#) utilizing the Practice Greenhealth "Greening the OR Checklist."
- The Inter-Sustainability Council and Sustainability Ambassadors hosted the fifth annual Green Talks, a TED-style talk event specifically geared towards environmental awareness.
- UC San Diego hosted its [2020 Sustainability Awards Ceremony](#) virtually, recognizing individuals and groups that made a significant contribution to UC San Diego sustainability. [Awards video](#)

Transportation

- UC San Diego Fleet Services maintained a 70% or better sustainable vehicle fleet for the past three years and was recognized 15th greenest fleet by [100th Best Fleets Government Fleet Awards](#).
- For the sixth consecutive year, SANDAG recognized UC San Diego for excellence in promoting alternative commuting choices with the [iCommute Diamond Award – Platinum Level](#). [Awards video](#)
- UC San Diego continues to leverage public funding to build EV charging infrastructure on campus and ended 2020 with 250 ports that served commuters, the general public and travelers. UCSD over the past four years has become

San Diego County's largest multi-purpose hub of EV charging plazas by delivering 2.5 GWH to over 5,500 unique drivers.

Green Building

- UC San Diego constructed sustainable buildings, with nearly 70% of them being LEED Gold certified or higher.
- [Resource Management & Planning](#) led a cross-departmental team to develop Sustainable Building Guidelines to provide consistent guidance on how design and construction teams should apply sustainable building principles and streamline the integration of programmatic campus elements. Examples include the UC San Diego LEED Mastersite, District Energy System and Renewable Energy infrastructure.
- North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood residential areas opened Fall Quarter 2020 and the neighborhood is expected to become the fifth LEED Platinum project on campus. The project received a [10th Annual Sustainable Innovation Award](#) from the USGBC LA Chapter.

Sustainable Foodservice

- For the fourth consecutive year, UC San Diego met or exceeded the UC systemwide 20% sustainable food goal in FY 2020.
- The [Triton Food Pantry](#) continued to recover food from local grocery stores and harvested produce from campus community gardens. The [Student Sustainability Collective](#) and Triton Food Pantry acted quickly to establish pick-up window service and arrange additional mobile food pantry locations so that students sheltering in place could have convenient access to nutritious food. During the 2019–2020 academic year, 4,979 students visited the Triton Food Pantry 19,753 times.
- The [Graduate & Professional Student Association](#) began working with the [Food Recovery Network](#) and the Triton Food Pantry to organize pop-up food distributions for graduate students to share food recovered from campus dining facilities. In addition to feeding students, dining facility donations avoided wasting previously purchased perishable food inventories.

Water

- The campus reduced total water consumption by approximately 110,000,000 gallons (17% reduction) compared to the previous year. Major reductions occurred in all areas, including housing (40% reduction), labs (20% reduction), offices (61% reduction), restaurants (45% reduction) and recreation facilities (40% reduction) in addition to a large reduction in industrial water used at our Central and East Campus Utility Plants (10% reduction).
- Over the past two years, the Utilities & Sustainability team has installed and programmed over 250 water, electric, gas, chilled water and high-temperature water meters to transition 1,000 building-level Automatic Meter Reading meters. AMR metering allows near real-time data acquisition and analysis for the team and for campus partners. Staff in Facilities Management Irrigation and Building Operations, HDH Operations, Recreation Operations, and University Center Operations use the information provided to them to confirm irrigation and building performance and address issues in a timely, cost-effective manner. In 2020, the Utilities & Sustainability team identified more than 450 irregular water patterns that allowed proactive resolution of water leaks and water waste.

Sustainable Procurement

- For the second year in a row, UC San Diego exceeded the minimum [25% green spend goal](#) in green cleaning supplies and office furniture. Office furniture green spend was over 90% in FY 2020.
- [Integrated Procure-to-Pay Solutions' Logistics](#) added two electric Mitsubishi Fuso trucks to its fleet as part of a plan to replace two carbon-emitting vehicles with electric distribution vehicles per year through 2023. When complete,

Logistics will eliminate 60 tons of carbon output per year and have the first 100% carbon neutral last-mile delivery in higher education.

- Integrated Procure-to-Pay Solutions partnered with Hewlett-Packard in the [Printer Refresh Program](#) to replace campus printers that are nearing the end of their usable lifetime with energy efficient printers. Since 2010, the campus has replaced 73 printers for 55 departments, saving \$60,239 in printer costs, \$10,000+ in energy costs and reducing CO2 emissions by 58,210+ lbs.

Sustainability is about seeing problems in new ways and creating innovative solutions that benefit all of us. Perhaps that is why UC San Diego is so good at it: Tritons are courageous, curious and driven. We take risks, push the frontiers of knowledge, and challenge conventional thinking.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our accomplishments and, through the lens of STARS, see where we can go next.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pradeep K. Khosla", written over a horizontal line.

Pradeep K. Khosla
Chancellor