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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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February 18, 2021

AASHE  
2401 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re. STARS report for Sonoma State University

In 2019-2020, many staff members from Sonoma State University worked to complete the STARS report for our campus based on 2019 reported information. Due to the onset of COVID-19, the closure of campus and the financial impact to our campus, our report sat dormant. In an effort to re-establish a current STARS rating, I am authorizing the submission of Sonoma State University's (SSU) STARS campus sustainability report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). For many years SSU has engaged in operational and academic actions aimed at building out our campus sustainability capacity. Our [Strategic Plan 2025](#) places significantly more emphasis, structure, and support to educate our students on sustainability, reduce our carbon footprint, and elevate sustainability across the campus and community. The Strategic plan was signed in May 2018 and has helped galvanize sustainability efforts on campus since that date.

Our commitment to sustainability was further evidenced in April 2019 when SSU signed the Second Nature "President's Climate Leadership Commitment." This commitment has shaped our new President's Sustainability Advisory Council, which will help drive the Climate Leadership Commitment goals and efforts. The Council structure includes community partnership and creates a clear vision with measurable and actionable goals and objectives through multiple working groups.

Sonoma State University is creating a comprehensive roadmap for mitigating and adapting to a changing climate by committing to carbon neutrality. We also are working collaboratively with our stakeholders and external community partners to build resilience in the face of climate change. Internally, we are focused on building even stronger efforts to prepare our students to have the knowledge and skills needed to solve complex environmental and social challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy K. Sakaki".

Judy K. Sakaki, Ph.D.  
President

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