



February 8, 2017

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

Subject: STARS Submission for California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am honored to submit the attached STARS report for California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and hereby affirm the accuracy of all information included. This report is the culmination of a yearlong effort to collect data and information about the wide variety of sustainability initiatives and efforts taking place across our institution. The STARS assessment was undertaken to establish a benchmark for our programs, and as a tool to drive strategic planning and process improvement. We were very pleased to find that many of the programs in place for years at Cal Poly were recognized by the STARS tool, and helped us to achieve a very strong Silver rating.

As expected, our energy and water conservation programs, Climate Action Plan, and greenhouse gas inventory helped us to score high in Water Management and Air and Climate. The work of our two campus sustainability committees and Master Plan committee, as well as student engagement efforts led by Facilities helped us score high in Coordination and Planning. We were pleased to score well in Curriculum and Research due to the work of passionate faculty infusing sustainability into curriculum and degree programs, and of the Academic Senate in adoption of Sustainability Learning Outcomes University wide. Of particular pride for Cal Poly is the recognition of our Campus as Living Lab efforts, which are a fundamental component of our hands-on, Learn by Doing pedagogy.

As intended, working with stakeholders across campus to collect necessary STARS data uncovered a number of opportunities for process improvement and program development. Most important is a need for improved centralization and streamlining of data collection in the areas of procurement (IT purchases, green cleaning products, and paper purchasing), service learning hours (clubs, Greek Life, and Center for Service in Action), and sustainability research work happening at the department level.

There is a clear need to continue investments in energy and water conservation, building STARS modernization, and development of onsite renewable energy generation. Finally, there are opportunities to further infuse sustainability into additional areas such as athletic events, job fairs, and staff/faculty training and wellness programs.

There are a number of initiatives already in development that Cal Poly will be excited to report at our next submission. These include several solar photovoltaic projects totaling nearly six megawatts in generation capacity, LEED O&M Certification of existing buildings, a state of the art Enterprise Energy Information System for optimization of building and central plant systems, and a faculty learning community to facilitate broader infusion of sustainability across the curriculum. Cal Poly looks forward to resubmitting to AASHE STARS, striving for a Gold rating, when these new programs and process improvements are in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to showcase the efforts under way to make Cal Poly more sustainable as a campus, and to educate and inspire the sustainability professionals of the future. We are proud to be an AASHE member, and to participate in the STARS rating system.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President