



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 1, 2019

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
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 Meghan:

I am honored to submit the attached STARS report for California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly), and hereby affirm the accuracy of all information included. This report represents significant progress by Cal Poly since its first STARS Silver rating was received in 2017. The STARS framework has proven itself an effective tool to drive strategic planning and process improvement campus wide. We are pleased to find that many opportunities for improvement identified in 2017 have now been implemented or made significant progress, resulting in a strong Gold rating. These efforts include:

- Completion of the 5 MW Gold Tree Solar Farm, which provides 25% of Cal Poly's electricity needs and will save \$17M over 20 years.
- LEED O+M Silver Certification of three buildings – Cotchett Education, Advanced Technology Laboratories, and the Construction Innovation Center.
- Integration of Sustainability into the Strategic Plans of Facilities Management and Development, Administration and Finance, and the University.
- Infusion of sustainability into additional course offerings in the University catalog.
- Expansion of programs to engage and motivate faculty to infuse sustainability across the curriculum through the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology.
- Support of the Central Coast Climate Collaborative to accelerate climate adaptation and resilience by connecting students and faculty with regional climate practitioners.
- Adoption of STARS investment criteria by the Cal Poly Foundation Board, and creation of a new eco-fund option for donors.
- Incorporation of sustainability into the orientation of all new faculty and staff.
- Creation of on-campus community gardens to support the Food Pantry and student basic needs.
- Zero Waste food service and waste management at a growing number of university events.
- Implementation of Cal Poly's new SkySpark based Energy Information System.

Cal Poly continues to work with many STARS stakeholders across campus to continue making progress in areas still needing improvement, including centralization and streamlining of data collection in the areas of:

- Procurement of IT equipment, green cleaning products, and printer paper.
- Service learning hours for clubs, Greek Life, and the Center for Service in Action.
- Sustainability research work happening at the department level.

September 1, 2019
AASHE STARS
Page Two

Cal Poly's Master Plan and Five Year Capital Plan demonstrate a clear commitment to increase investment in energy and water conservation, building modernization, and development of onsite renewable energy generation. Other initiatives already in development include 600 kW of solar photovoltaic projects, a new Solar Engineering and Microgrid Laboratory, LEED Gold Certification of four new construction or major renovation projects underway, an on-campus Recycled Water Facility, and a megawatt scale battery storage project. Cal Poly looks forward to resubmitting to AASHE STARS, striving for a Platinum rating, when these and other 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