

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**



**LIZ KNISS, CHAIR
FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR**

June 22, 2005

Brian Schmidt
Committee for Green Foothills, Santa Clara County
3921 E. Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

In your June 15th correspondence to the Board of Supervisors, the Committee for Green Foothills raised four issues related to the Stanford University General use Permit. I would like to address your comments in a broader context.

I believe members of your organization should be aware of and recognize the work the County Planning Office has accomplished in working with Stanford University staff to implement provisions of the General Use Permit (GUP). In addition to requiring that Stanford adhere to numerous project-specific conditions of approval, County staff have worked with Stanford to complete and implement numerous, comprehensive environmental and community protections provided for in the GUP. Some, though not all, of those GUP program elements are listed below:

- Water Conservation, Reuse, and Recycling Plan
- Stormwater Management Plan for Stanford Portion of San Francisquito Creek Watershed
- Stormwater Management Plan for Stanford portion of Matadero Creek Watershed
- Interim Groundwater Recharge Plan for the Stanford "Unconfined" Recharge Zone
- U.S. Wetlands Delineation for Stanford Campus
- Stanford Special Events Management Plan
- Four years of Stanford Traffic Monitoring Reports with "no net new commute trips" to and from Stanford Campus
- Four years of Annual Reporting on Stanford Compliance with Environmental Mitigation and GUP Conditions of Approval
- Program for Replacement of Recreational Facilities in the Stanford San Juan Residential District

- Enactment of an Open Space and Field Research Zoning District in the Stanford Foothills
- Construction and Monitoring of Newly Created California Tiger Salamander (CTS) Ponds for Species Propagation
- Experimental CTS Protective Barriers at Roadways and Construction Sites
- Dedication of CTS Easement at the Carnegie Site
- Establishment of an Affordable Housing Fund for Use Within a 6-Mile Radius of the Stanford Campus
- Creation of the R1S and the R3S Zoning Districts
- Continued Facilitation of the Stanford Community Resource Group

In addition, work by County Planning staff has resulted in successful implementation of other environmental protections which Planning Staff would be happy to share with you.

Your members may be aware of the successful prioritization of Stanford GUP workload items over the past year. During that time, the County has accommodated a substantial number of retirements and position vacancies while continuing to provide oversight and County planning services to our community. As you mentioned in your correspondence, staff vacancies have been recently filled, and this will assist staff in continued implementation of workload demands, including Stanford GUP implementation.

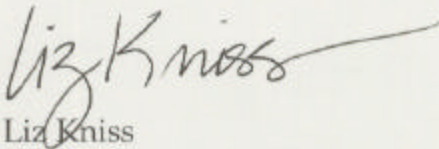
The S1 trail Final EIR is currently scheduled for Board review in September. The County Parks Department and County Planning Office are jointly working on this project, and you are welcome to contact these offices with questions. Discussion of the C1 trail will occur after a final S1 trail SEIR has been certified by the Board of Supervisors.

The Special Conservation Areas you mentioned in your correspondence have been protected since the County and Stanford agreed to the terms of the Community Plan and GUP. County staff have previously invited public comments on the draft Special Conservation Area Plan which continues to be posted on the County Planning Office web site. County Planning staff will continue to work with Stanford university staff to finalize the current draft of this Special Conservation Area Plan, and to develop a future zoning district, once the plan is finalized.

With regard to the Sustainable Development Study, this is of great interest to the County and a personal interest of mine. Stanford University staff and County staff are clearly aware that this study will need to be completed. I believe that Committee Members are fully aware that the Sustainable Development Study is required before Stanford can exceed a net gain of 1 million square feet of new academic development under the GUP. As of the last annual report, Stanford had a net gain of 147,728 square feet of academic and academic support square footage. The County encourages Stanford to begin preparing for this study. The County requirement for this study, however, is clearly stipulated within the GUP.

Thank you for your concern and your attention to the environmental issues that are so important to the members of our community. As you diligently work towards protecting our quality of life, please recognize the good work and numerous accomplishments of our County staff and of the staff of Stanford University. There is, and there will always be, more work to be accomplished. I assure you and all members of our community that their efforts will continue.

Sincerely,



Liz Kniss
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

Cc: Board of Supervisors
Pete Kutras, County Executive
Jane Decker, Deputy County Executive
Jody Hall Esser, Interim Planning and Development Director
Lisa Killough, Director, Parks and Recreation