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East Meadow Update, 4/17/21

Dear Friends of the Meadow,

The struggle continues. In fact, we have just expanded it.

Last month, despite opposition from many sides, the Regents re-approved the same old version of Student Housing West, including pre-fab housing in the East Meadow. In doing so, however, they opened a new window for our opposition to the project.

The University has long claimed that it could reject all alternatives to their version of this project because they estimated the costs of those alternatives to be too high. But in the previous Regent approval, back in March 2019, the University failed to make their cost analysis available to either the Regents or the public. Under California environmental law, we could not therefore argue in our original litigation the central issue of how biased that cost analysis was against the alternatives.

However last month, when (1) the University put their full cost analysis before the Regents and the public, and (2) the Regents re-approved the project, we for the first time had both of the two elements needed to litigate that central cost rationale for the decision to develop the East Meadow. We have seized that opportunity, long denied to us, by filing a second litigation focused on the biased cost analysis.

[Attached is a Press Release](#) describing yesterday's filing in Santa Cruz Superior Court.

A new lawsuit means new expenses. We gratefully acknowledge earlier help from our generous supporters and we welcome further contributions, large and small, as we begin this initiative. Information on how to support the cause financially can be found on our website: eastmeadowaction.org.

A related issue now confronting the Santa Cruz community is the University's proposed Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). This roadmap for the future proposes major growth in the coming decades. The Santa Cruz Sierra Club has been very active in confronting the environmental problems it raises. Their comment on the proposed LRDP is an impressive document. <https://www.sierraclub.org/ventana/santa-cruz/position-letters>

The Sierra Club is organizing a community forum to discuss urgent topics raised by the LRDP on **April 25th 4:00-5:30 pm**. As a co-sponsor of the event, EMAC urges you to spread the word, register and participate.

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001B1VAAU>

With best wishes,

East Meadow Action Committee (EMAC)