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CONSENT CALENDAR
May 30, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington and Ben Bartlett, and Mayor Jesse Arreguin
Subject: Letter of Support to Add Parcel at University and Oxford Street as a Potential Opportunity Site for Student Housing

RECOMMENDATION

That the Berkeley City Council send a letter to Chancellor-designate Carol Christ to request consideration of adding the parcel at University Avenue and Oxford Street to the list of potential opportunity sites for student housing.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley is experiencing a severe shortage of student housing, which has led to Cal students living in crowded conditions and forcing some students to live in cars or look for accommodations outside the city. Recently, the Associated Students of the University of California passed a resolution encouraging the parcel at University Avenue and Oxford Street, previously intended for a hotel, to be set aside for student housing.

We support the spirit of this resolution as a tangible way toward addressing the critical housing shortage. We also believe the plan to build housing in the area is consistent with the goals of the UC Berkeley’s Long Range Development Plan, which would guarantee two years of university housing for entering freshmen and one year of university housing for transfer students.

The lot at University and Oxford provides a unique opportunity to develop student housing and should be considered.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Consistent with the Climate Action Plan.

CONTACT PERSON

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