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Steve Juarez, Associate Vice President and Director

July 2, 2015

The Honorable Carol Liu
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1260 (Thurmond), as amended July 1, 2015
Scheduled to be heard by the Senate Education Committee on July 8, 2015
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Senator Liu:

I am writing to inform you that the University of California (UC) opposes AB 1260, which seeks to provide enhanced financing opportunities for the City of Richmond related to the envisioned Berkeley Global Campus at Richmond Bay and to authorize the formation of a Joint Powers Authority for this purpose. This measure circumvents the local negotiation process and prescribes unworkable community-benefit elements [subsections (a)(1) through (a)(8) of 6531.3] related to UC's practices and agreements in the areas of capital construction, employment, and procurement—both in the case of this specific project by UC Berkeley and for the University's business practices on a system wide basis.

Rather than pursuing a statutory-based, prescriptive approach, the Berkeley campus and UC should be allowed to work collaboratively with local communities to develop these kinds of projects. These projects often involve many external stakeholders and need to fit within the unique needs of a particular community. These projects also need to be done in ways that allow UC to continue to be streamlined and cost effective to ensure that it is able to continue to perform its education, research, and service missions without relying solely on scarce state funding. To circumvent this established community engagement process and enshrine these prescriptive requirements in statute—not just for this project but for all projects—could undermine UC's ability to meet its core obligations to the State of educating students and performing world class research.

In the case of the Global Campus at Richmond Bay, this bill is both premature and unnecessary. The campus is many years from potential groundbreaking and already in negotiations with the local community nor does it need statutory authorization to form a Joint Powers Authority with the community. In fact, UC Berkeley is already working with the City of Richmond and the local community through the *Richmond Community Partnership Working Group*. Through this

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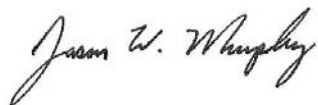
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established process, the campus is engaging with community stakeholders to ensure this project meets the needs of the campus and the local community. The Working Group has met on a monthly basis for almost a year and is in the process of developing actionable recommendations relative to education, employment, procurement and workforce training in Richmond. Because the working group is jointly developing recommendations for this project, this legislation is premature and could eliminate the necessary flexibility needed to ensure that this project can go forward in a manner that meets the needs of the community and the campus.

The Global Campus at Richmond Bay is an exciting opportunity, and UC Berkeley is eager for this project to proceed in a way that provides broad benefit for the Richmond community. We appreciate Assemblymember Thurmond's desire to improve the financing options for the City of Richmond and the Global Campus. However, the community benefit elements of the legislation are problematic and premature. Establishing these types of requirements into statute may undermine the Richmond Bay project and, potentially, similar innovative projects in communities across the state.

Thank you for your consideration of the University's views. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason W. Murphy".

Jason Murphy
Legislative Director

cc: Assemblymember Thurmond
Vice Chair and Members, Senate Education Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr
Executive Vice President & CFO Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez