January 19, 2021

Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

RE: Amendment #7 to the UC San Francisco 2014 Long Range Development Plan for the Comprehensive Parnassus Heights Plan Following Action Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and Amendment #2 to the Physical Design Framework, San Francisco Campus

Dear Chair Perez, Committee Chair Makarechian, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the University of California San Francisco’s (UCSF) Comprehensive Parnassus Heights Plan (CPHP) and to request your support to refine the Memorandum of Understanding with the City and County of San Francisco. UCSF is the only hospital on the Westside of San Francisco and it has long been an anchor institution in our city, training generations of medical professionals and healing our city during pandemics and after natural disasters. I am committed to collaborating with Chancellor Hawgood and his staff to ensure a sustainable future, and a space plan that supports UCSF’s success for generations to come.

Last week, I joined the majority of my colleagues on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in asking the Regents to postpone the vote on certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for UCSF’s proposed upgrades to their Parnassus campus to your March meeting. While the Memorandum of Understanding executed between City and County of San Francisco, acting through the Planning Department, and UCSF provides much needed investment in affordable workforce housing, transit improvements and operations, workforce opportunities and other community investments and physical upgrades to a critical emergency facility serving San Francisco and the Bay Area, I wanted to give the UCSF team more time to respond to the community’s articulated desire to have an agreement with labor unions and a stronger and more specific commitment to housing UCSF’s workforce particularly those with lower incomes.

I am happy to report that we have made great progress this past week, and a community workforce agreement has been developed and a stronger agreement achieved for the housing commitment. If you vote on certifying this EIR, I urge you to encourage UCSF to continue working to develop a more specific housing commitment targeted to the lowest paid UCSF workers. Technicians, janitors and clerical workers among others have increasingly had to move out of San Francisco and commute long distances to do lifesaving work at UCSF. Specifically, I would ask that the commitment be refined as follows: Of the 40% of new units built and made available as affordable:
• 30% of units be targeted to households earning between 60-70% of the Area Median Income or below

• 20% of units be targeted to households earning between 70% and 80% of the Area Median Income

• 25% of units be targeted to households earning between 80% and 90% of the Area Median Income

• 25% of units be targeted to households earning between 90 and 120% of the Area Median Income

California is grappling with the issues of climate change and an acute housing crisis. Governor Gavin Newsom and our State Legislature have made both issues priorities. The University of California has a unique opportunity to lead in finding solutions, working collaboratively with other state agencies, such as CalHFA, local partners and housing development financing organizations to develop a model of workforce housing with ambitious goals that support its mission and employees. Please take up this opportunity.

As the supervisor for the district where the hospital and research center are located, I am grateful to UCSF and its many contributions to my district and our city, and will continue working to support the vision for a modern, useful, state of the art campus where workers and staff can save the lives of others and thrive themselves as well. Thank you for your service to our city and the residents of California.

Sincerely,

Myrna Melgar
Supervisor, District 7
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Mayor London Breed
    The Honorable Board of Supervisors