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AGENDA ITEM #41

Conceptual Support for a New University of California Site on Otay Ranch

PULL & COMMENT

* There is no arguing the economic benefits or the prestige that a UC campus would bring to the South Bay area.

* I do not necessarily share Supervisor Bilbray's belief that putting the buildings and facilities in the South Bay will make a UC education substantially more affordable for South Bay residents, because I don't see the cost of transportation between South Bay and La Jolla as being the primary reason that more South Bay students aren't attending UCSD.

* I hesitate to set the kind of precedent that we would be setting in this instance. It appears that all the parties involved with the development of Otay Ranch have been working diligently at cooperative efforts and open communication. Now, with this issue, it would appear that certain parties are attempting to circumvent the normal procedures by asking the board to support development prior to environmental review.

* I'm deeply concerned that an action such as this might be perceived as a willingess by this board to abandon our environmental agenda for the sake of a prestigious development.

* I am aware, as I'm sure all of my colleagues on this board are aware, that the UC Board of Regents have not yet begun even the first in their six step process of selecting a campus location.

* In light of this, I do not see the urgency in a site-specific support statement.

AGENDA ITEM #41 (con't)

* I would like to see the results of the issue paper being prepared by staff, which is due for release at the end of this year-- less than two months away. Once that issue paper has been reviewed, the Board will be in a much better position to decide if supporting this particular site is something we want to do.

* Until that issue paper has been released for review, I can support a UC site on Otay Ranch, but I cannot support any specific site on which no preliminary environmental reports have been completed.

RECOMMENDATION

* That we support the staff recommendation, and give conceptual support to the Otay Ranch area as a future site for a UC campus.