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# Friends of SDSU Introduces SDSU West Campus Research Center, Stadium, and River Park Initiative

*Measure authorizes City to sell SDCCU Stadium site to SDSU*

**SAN DIEGO, CA (September 28, 2017)** – Friends of SDSU today announced the SDSU West Campus Research Center, Stadium, and River Park Initiative. Referred to as SDSU West, the initiative would authorize the sale of the SDCCU Stadium site to San Diego State University and direct the university to create a comprehensive site plan for the site.

"We are proud to formally introduce our initiative, which is centered around our shared goal of helping SDSU grow, prosper and continue to meet our regional higher education needs," said Malin Burnham, member of the Friends of SDSU Steering Committee. "As one of the last remaining pieces of land in the heart of our City, the stadium site in Mission Valley represents a significant opportunity to create an innovation center and a permanent home for SDSU football."

As a critical component of San Diego's higher education system, SDSU has been challenged by a lack of space for expansion. Additionally, the City's decision to shutter SDCCU Stadium in late 2018 has raised questions regarding the future of the SDSU football program.

"For well over a century, the fates of San Diego and SDSU have been inextricably linked," said former SDSU President Elliot Hirshman. "One in seven adults with college degrees in San Diego are graduates of SDSU. But each year, the university is forced to turn away thousands of promising students due to a lack of space. SDSU needs the facilities to attract top students and researchers from across the globe and power our knowledge economy."

The SDSU West initiative requires that SDSU purchase the site at fair market value. The initiative also requires a full environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) including an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

"The SDSU West initiative requires a public plan, developed through an open and transparent process," said steering committee member Kim Kilkenny. "Friends of SDSU is proud to provide an alternative plan for the existing stadium site in Mission Valley that better meets the needs of all San Diegans."

The SDSU West initiative requires SDSU to comprehensively plan the existing stadium site to provide facilities for educational, research, entrepreneurial and technology programs within a vibrant mixed-use campus village and research park. The initiative also requires revitalization and restoration of the San Diego River Park south of the site as 34 acres of public park land, including walking and biking trails, a river buffer of native vegetation, and requires River Park improvements be made at no cost to the City's General Fund.

The SDSU West initiative also requires SDSU to construct a joint use stadium for SDSU football at no cost to the City of San Diego. The City will not be required to pay for any stadium rehabilitation costs, demolition or removal costs, cost overruns, operating costs, maintenance, or capital improvement expenses. SDSU West also allows for inclusion of other potential sports partners, including but not limited to professional, premier, or MLS soccer and adaptable for the NFL.

This Saturday, a notice of intent will be published, which begins a 21-day noticing period. At the conclusion of this period, a signature gathering effort will begin at to-be-announced locations across the City of San Diego to qualify the initiative to be placed before voters in 2018.

The group has launched the http://www.sdsuwest.org website to provide additional information on the initiative. Supporters are encouraged to visit the website to learn more about the initiative and ways to get involved.

**About Friends of SDSU**
Friends of SDSU is a group of alumni, community members and San Diegans working collectively to enable SDSU to grow, prosper and continue to meet the higher education needs of our region. Friends of SDSU and its SDSU West Campus Research Center, Stadium, and River Park Initiative operate independently of San Diego State University. For more information on Friends of SDSU, please visit http://www.sdsuwest.org.

The 24-member Friends of SDSU Steering Committee is comprised of:

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| Terry Atkinson | James Kitchen |
| Steve Black | Ken McCain |
| Ed Blessing | Karen McElliott |
| Casey Brown | Jack McGrory |
| Ed Brown | Leon Parma |
| Malin Burnham | Bob Payne |
| Dennis Cruzan | Fred Pierce |
| Tom Day | Patti Roscoe |
| Stephen Doyle | Kit Sickels |
| Jack Goodall | Colton Sudberry |
| Elliot Hirshman | Tom Sudberry |
| Kim Kilkenny | Steve Weber |

**Paid for by Friends of SDSU, a coalition of SDSU alumni, business and community leaders. Major funding by Ed Blessing and Jack McGrory.**