June 29, 2026

Dan Henderson, Executive Director, TAPS
Clement Stokes, Associate Vice Chancellor, Risk and Safety Services
Ed Reiskin, Vice Chancellor, Finance, Operations, and Administration
Cynthia Larive, Chancellor

Dear Executive Director Henderson, AVC RSS Stokes, VC FOA Reiskin, and Chancellor Larive,

We, the undersigned students, faculty, and staff of UC Santa Cruz, urgently call on the campus administration to halt the July 1, 2026 implementation of the proposed TAPS parking rate increases and program changes.

The campus community is in an affordability crisis. Students, staff, and faculty are struggling to pay for the rising costs of housing, food, and transportation. UC systemwide and campus decisions have added to this crisis (e.g. increasing tuition, increasing campus and local housing costs). Enough is enough!

Before campus leadership puts forward a plan that raises the cost of basic needs, it must first demonstrate a clear benefit and necessity to the campus community, based on research, data, and genuine consultation with students, staff, and faculty. The current TAPS parking plan fails to meet these reasonable expectations.

The current TAPS parking plan:

- Shifts broader campus budget pressures onto students, staff, faculty, and members of our local community through steep, multi-year rate increases in parking and transportation fees in perpetuity, without being indexed to inflation or the California Consumer Price Index, much less annual wage increases.

- Proposes using parking revenues for infrastructure projects (e.g. extensive sidewalk construction) without sufficient transparency or demonstrating their benefit to the campus community. The TAPS fall survey made no indication that such projects would be funded by parking fees, thus biasing responses.

- Does not adequately assess equity and access impacts, especially for students, lower-paid workers, disabled community members, caregivers, and those with limited transportation alternatives, who are already underserved by TAPS.

- Has not been sufficiently justified with data on permit sales, revenue needs, debt obligations, ALPR costs and savings, carryforward funds, and shared services charges.

- Was announced without adequate consultation with students, faculty, staff, the Academic Senate, and the Voices for Empowering Students in Transportation Commission.

The UCSC community needs and deserves a fair, affordable, and accountable transportation and parking plan. We demand budget transparency. We therefore call on UCSC administration to:

- Halt the July 1, 2026, implementation of the proposed TAPS parking plan.
- Release all relevant data to the campus community, including data that student and faculty bodies have already requested.
- Establish a transparent, evidence-based, and participatory process with adequate time (10 weeks) for stakeholders to review and contribute to the development of a campus parking plan that includes students, staff, and faculty through the representative bodies of the VEST, ACCTP, labor unions, and the Academic Senate.

Sincerely,

Asian Pacific Islander Student Alliance (APISA)
Black Student Union (BSU)
Campus Sustainability Council
Central Americans for Empowerment (CAFE)
City on a Hill Press
Crown Student Senate
Cultural Arts and Diversity Resource Center (CADrc) Board of Directors
engaging education (e^2)
Graduate Student Association (GSA)
Movimiento Estudantil Chicano/a de Aztlan de UCSC (MEChA)
Oakes Student Senate
Stevenson Student Council
Student Media Council
Student Union Assembly of the University of California, Santa Cruz
University Labor United (ULU)
Voices for Empowerment and Safety in Transportation (VEST) Commission

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