



SIERRA CLUB

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

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PRESS RELEASE

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Sierra Club Endorses SDSU West Initiative, Opposes Soccer City

San Diego CA - The Sierra Club announced today that it has endorsed the San Diego State University (SDSU) West Initiative and will oppose a competing initiative, Soccer City. Both initiatives seek the redevelopment of the San Diego County Credit Union Stadium property in Mission Valley. The decision for both initiatives was unanimously supported by the Sierra Club's San Diego Chapter Steering and Conservation Committees. The Sierra Club is the oldest and most respected environmental organization in the United States.

In announcing its support, the Sierra Club stated that it supports SDSU West because the initiative requires San Diego State University to be fully compliant with all aspects of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) including a comprehensive and full Environmental Impact Report and open public hearings. Additionally, the SDSU West initiative ensures San Diego State University will deliver on its vision of nearly 90 acres of public parks including a 50-acre River Park in Mission Valley.

"SDSU West is the best approach for the future development of the stadium site in Mission Valley, both environmentally and in terms of public benefits," said Dr. Peter Andersen, Vice Chair at Sierra Club San Diego. "It is the only initiative that requires an open planning process and guarantees a permanent, public River Park on this critical land."

In a separate action, Sierra Club voted unanimously to oppose the Soccer City initiative because it circumvents the CEQA process, provides no Environmental Impact reporting and prohibits any public hearings. The Club also opposed Soccer City because the initiative does not impose any timeline or obligation on the initiative sponsors, FS Investors, to build a River Park along the San Diego River.

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“Soccer City is environmentally damaging, ballot box land planning,” said Richard Miller, Development Associate at the Sierra Club. “Sierra Club opposes development proposals like Soccer City that use the initiative process to bypass environmental review and convert public land to private profit.”

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Sierra Club San Diego is the region’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization, encompassing San Diego and Imperial Counties. Founded in 1948, the Club seeks to preserve the special nature of the San Diego and Imperial Valley area through education, activism, and advocacy. Sierra Club San Diego has more than 15,000 members.