



October 29, 2018

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Kramer".

From: Thomas Kramer
Chair, Committee on Physical Resources Planning

Re: Campus Review. Summary White Paper on RUSD STEM High School on the
Campus of the University of California Riverside

The Committee on Physical Resource Planning acknowledges the value and benefits of having the STEM Center on the UCR campus, which include offering additional designated slots for children of UCR faculty and staff, recruitment opportunities of highly-qualified students for the university, collaboration with UCR's School of Education, and additional classroom space when the STEM Center is not in session. However, although supportive of locating a STEM high school on campus, the Committee also raised several concerns to be addressed, which focus on the proposed location of, and the traffic and parking problems associated with, the STEM Center on the UCR campus.

Firstly, the elimination of student recreational fields and associated reduced options for outdoor recreation for students is seen as problematic both as UCR continues to grow and as it tries to shed its (old) image as primarily a commuter campus. Students who live on campus benefit immensely from those fields and the close proximity to their housing. The recreational fields provide a significant social function, and their elimination might entail a further reduction in extra-curricular options for students.

Secondly, the proposed location that would replace three existing student recreation fields north of Glen More offers only relatively remote freeway access. The freeway exits likely to be used by students, faculty, and staff commuting by bus or automobile are long distances over surface streets that are either one or two lanes through largely residential neighborhoods, and this may dramatically increase the congestion in the UCR area not only for faculty, students, and staff, but also for neighborhood residents. A location for the STEM Center closer to the freeway would reduce the severity of this problem.

In addition, and regardless of its location on campus, the STEM Center will have consequences related to parking for both UCR and for STEM Center stakeholders. The Committee understands that STEM Center faculty will not be allowed to park on UCR property, parking lots, or surface structures. However, many UCR students currently park off-campus on nearby neighborhood streets, given the inadequate number of parking spaces available on campus and/or because of the parking fees charged by UCR. As the student population continues to grow, the likelihood of parking off-campus will increase, negatively impacting the surrounding communities further because of students parking in front of their houses and increased traffic on their streets. Designating parking space for STEM Center faculty on- or off-campus will worsen this problem for UCR students and neighborhood residents.

Lastly, integrating high school students into the larger college campus community, as well as securing access to campus buildings, represent additional concerns.