

Phil Bokovoy, President,
Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods,
pbokovoy@aol.com
510.843.5426

Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods slams UC Berkeley's Appeal of Enrollment Cap; UC created crisis for its own political advantage, using high school students as pawns.

(February 17, 2022) Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods filed its opposition in the California Supreme Court today to UC Berkeley's attempt to overturn an enrollment limit imposed by the courts. The cap was imposed the Alameda County Superior Court due to UC Berkeley's failure to comply with laws requiring that it analyze and mitigate the housing impacts of its enrollment increases. Last week, the Court of Appeal refused to lift the cap, noting "... that the judgment in this case was entered August 23, 2021. The Regents filed an appeal from that judgment on October 18, 2021, yet they waited more than three months before seeking a stay or supersedeas."

"UC Berkeley has known since last August that they were subject to an enrollment cap, yet they took no action to notify applicants that they would be required to admit fewer students for Fall 2022. Instead they waited until late January to notify students. This cynical political move uses our deserving young Californians as pawns in a political effort to avoid the severe impacts that unmitigated enrollment growth has had on low income tenants in the city of Berkeley," said Phil Bokovoy, President of Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods.

"UC Berkeley has repeatedly rebuffed SBN's offers to reach a reasonable settlement as recently as early December concerning UC's failure to house its additional students," said Phil Bokovoy, President of Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods. "In addition, UC Berkeley students themselves have repeatedly said that UC should stop increasing enrollment until it can provide housing for its students."

UCB wants to admit 3,050 additional students with no provision for them to be housed, adding to the more than 30,000 students who are currently not housed by UC. In SBN's suit against UC under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Judge Brad Seligman of the Alameda County Superior Court agreed with SBN's position that UC must stop increasing enrollment in Berkeley until it complies with laws requiring that it analyze and mitigate the housing impacts of its enrollment increases. For example, in a recent three year period, the number of low income households in the south campus area fell by more than 11% as they were displaced by students. SBN has submitted extensive evidence on displacement in its filing today.

UC's own data show that UC can easily accommodate the court-ordered enrollment cap without harming in-state student prospects by limiting offers to out of state, international, and certificate program students. In 2021, UCB enrolled 3,429 additional students for whom UC has no obligation to serve under the California Master Plan for Higher Education and other campuses also have high levels of nonresident enrollment. UCB's last-minute claim that they cannot enroll as many California resident undergraduates is a crisis of their own making.

Between 2005 and 2018, UCB increased student enrollment by 9,155, from 31,800 to 40,955. In the 2019-20 academic year, UCB increased student enrollment to 43,185. In the 2020-21 academic year, UCB student enrollment fell by 858 students to 42,347, or a 1.9% decrease. In the 2021-22 academic year, UCB increased student enrollment to 45,036 or an increase over pre pandemic levels of 1,851 or 4.2%.

Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods is a non-profit organized to provide education and advocacy to improve the quality of life, protect the environment and implement best planning practices for Berkeley citizens.