

December 15, 2021

Cecilia V. Estolano - Chair, Board of Regents
Michael V. Drake, M.D. - President, University of California
University of California Board of Regents
Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: The Proposed UCSB Munger Residence Hall

Dear Chair Estolano & President Dr. Drake:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and our 4500+ members, we are writing to share our strong opposition to the current proposal of the UCSB Munger Residence Hall.

Although we are keenly aware of the statewide housing crisis that impacts the availability of affordable places to live, Munger Hall, as proposed, will create harmful and unhealthy living conditions for its residents. It contradicts scholarship emanating from some of the most respected institutions in the land. At UCSB, it will set a negative precedent, literally and symbolically, for generations to come.

This contrasts with existing UCSB dorms and structures which are emblematic of the University of California's position as a global thought leader: award-winning buildings which harness proven concepts to support well-being and a vibrant academic environment.

We urge UCSB to follow best design practices supported by numerous studies, and not advance the Munger Hall project further. In unison with AIA Santa Barbara and represented statewide by the collective voice of AIA California, AIA Los Angeles opposes the current proposal and officially requests that the design of the building be substantially re-directed towards a healthier, and more dignified outcome. We recommend that UCSB reconvene its design review board to re-examine best practices in design, as well as explore innovative housing solutions that will support a healthier place for the residents to call home.

In this, we recognize the urgency to provide access to affordable housing. We understand that this is a complex and crisis-point challenge, but the resources and methodologies exist to resolve this crisis without initiating further harm.

Truly yours,



Mitra Memari, AIA
President, AIA Los Angeles