

Associated Students, Inc.  
California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #18-10

RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE CAL POLY'S AGRICULTURAL LAND

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), and
- WHEREAS: According to the most recent United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Census of Agriculture, California is the leading agriculture-producing state, with a total value of more than \$42.6 billion in agricultural products sold in 2012, an increase from nearly \$33.9 billion in 2007<sup>1</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: The mission of the California State University (CSU) System is “to prepare significant numbers of educated, responsible people to contribute to California's schools, economy, culture, and future<sup>2</sup>”, and
- WHEREAS: The “Best Colleges for Agricultural Sciences” article<sup>3</sup>, based on key statistics and student reviews using data from the United States Department of Education ranked Cal Poly as number six in the nation, and
- WHEREAS: Cal Poly's academic mission is to support Learn by Doing including, but not limited to, the hands-on learning experiences provided in lab work, activities, fields and enterprises, and
- WHEREAS: The campus' agricultural resources include facilities and operations to facilitate functions important to teaching and learning on the Campus Farm<sup>4</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: The sixth Guiding Principle of the Master Plan states that “Cal Poly's land and resource use should advance the University's academic mission<sup>4</sup>,” and
- WHEREAS: The seventh Guiding Principle of the Master Plan states that “planning should preserve and encourage the Learn By Doing approach to Cal Poly's academic curriculum and reflect that approach in the overall campus character<sup>4</sup>,” and
- WHEREAS: The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) states, “agricultural land use is particularly intense on the fields closest to the Campus Core because they serve as teaching laboratories where students can

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1 Agriculture Census - [https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/usv1.pdf](https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/usv1.pdf)

2 Mission of CSU - <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/about-the-csu/Pages/mission.aspx>

3 Best colleges for Agricultural Sciences - <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-colleges-for-agricultural-sciences/>

4 Cal Poly Master Plan Environmental Impact Report - [http://masterplan.calpoly.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/01\\_Cal-Poly-Master-Plan-2035-Draft-EIR\\_November-2017.pdf](http://masterplan.calpoly.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/01_Cal-Poly-Master-Plan-2035-Draft-EIR_November-2017.pdf)

learn all aspects of agricultural production processes throughout the academic year<sup>4</sup>,” and

WHEREAS: Prime Farmland is defined as the farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production. Prime Farmland has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields<sup>5</sup>. The land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date<sup>4</sup>, and

WHEREAS: Farmland of Statewide Importance is similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture<sup>5</sup> and also must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date<sup>4</sup>, and

WHEREAS: Unique Farmland is defined as Farmland with lesser quality soils used for the production of the state’s leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non-irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California<sup>5</sup>. Unique Farmland must have been cropped at some time during the last four years prior to the mapping date<sup>4</sup>, and

WHEREAS: There is proposed expansion of housing for upper division students near recreation areas to the north and east of Cal Poly’s academic core<sup>4</sup>, and

WHEREAS: Resolution # 15-03<sup>6</sup> “ASI Board of Directors’ Stance Against Mandatory Second Year Housing and the Argument Presented by the University” states that the ASI Board of Directors takes an official stance against housing for upper division students, and

WHEREAS: “To substantially reduce this impact would require changing the Master Plan uses to preserve the affected farmlands on main campus, particularly as related to relocation of the parking within Prime Farmland,<sup>4</sup>” and

THEREFORE  
BE IT  
RESOLVED:

As the official voice of Cal Poly students, the ASI Board of Directors suggests that Prime Agricultural Land, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland be permanently preserved for production in any proposed or future Master Plans, or projects, and

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5 Natural Resources Conservation Service - [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/ref/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_054242](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/ref/?cid=nrcs142p2_054242)

6 ASI Board of Directors Resolution #15-03 - [http://www.asi.calpoly.edu/admin/img/updocument/1430427611\\_Resolution%2015-03%20ASI%20Board%20of%20Directors%20Stance%20Against%20Mandatory%20Second%20Year%20Housing.pdf](http://www.asi.calpoly.edu/admin/img/updocument/1430427611_Resolution%2015-03%20ASI%20Board%20of%20Directors%20Stance%20Against%20Mandatory%20Second%20Year%20Housing.pdf)

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The campus investigate the relocation of parking structures to the east side of the Union Pacific Rail Road rail line, not on Prime Farmland, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: Cal Poly incorporate the value of production agriculture in the Draft Cal Poly Strategic Plan, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Strategic Plan, and Academic Mission, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: This resolution be sent to Jeffrey D. Armstrong, University President; Andy Thulin, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences; Cynthia Villa, Vice President of Administration and Finance; and the CSU Board of Trustees.

CERTIFIED as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2018.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ASI Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed:

ASI Chair of the Board

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Signed:

ASI President

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