



Carol T. Christ

CHANCELLOR

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To the CNR community,

As you know, the city of Berkeley and the Cal campus face a severe housing shortage, and high housing prices cause considerable financial difficulty for our students. We have pledged to double the number of beds in campus housing by 2028. One of the most important steps in that process is the construction of student housing on the Oxford Tract. I am writing to affirm that this project will move forward, as previous campus discussions have anticipated. It will probably be three to five years before construction begins—a period that gives ample time for consultation and collaboration with the CNR community, as well as our neighbors.

Later this spring, we will begin work with a development firm on a conceptual program and architectural design for new student housing and the necessary replacement of the plant and insect growth facilities run by the College of Natural Resources. We embrace the importance to our academic mission of the research and teaching conducted in the greenhouse and field space at the Oxford Tract. The facilities play a critical role for researchers in the departments of Plant and Microbial Biology and Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, as well as the Innovative Genomics Institute and other users on campus. Following the recommendations of the Oxford Tract ad hoc committee [<https://nature.berkeley.edu/oxford-facility/>], we recognize the importance of core research facilities in close proximity to campus and view this project as an opportunity to develop more modern and energy efficient facilities. We are also committed to maintaining the Student Organic Garden in the northwest corner of Oxford Tract. However, it is inevitable that most or all of the research and teaching field in the northern half of the property will be relocated, but not by any means abandoned, with activities moving to Gill Tract or to other locations. We will work closely and collaboratively with CNR to ensure long-term access to the necessary facilities for these activities.

We recognize that the development of student housing at Oxford Tract will have an impact on the research, education, and outreach activities of the CNR community. We are dedicated to working with you to maximize the benefits of this transition and to minimize both disruption and long-term negative impacts.

I understand that Dean Ackerly will be holding discussion sessions on this topic in the next month or so. I look forward to receiving feedback from CNR's internal discussions as a key step in this process.

Sincerely,

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