



## **SUPPORTERS INCLUDE**

Nancy Abbey  
Bettina Aptheker  
Pat Arnold  
Anjali Arondekar  
Gopal Balakrishnan  
Martha Benedict  
Bruce Bratton  
Christopher Connery  
E.G. Crichton  
J. Brent Crosson  
Nicolette Czarrunchick  
Barbara Epstein  
Shelly Errington  
Tim Fitzmaurice  
Virginia Fitzmaurice  
Jonathan Fox  
Dana Frank  
Carla Freccero  
Jodi Frediani  
Jennifer A. Gonzalez  
Jacquy Griffith  
Tim Guichard  
Craig Haney  
Donna Haraway

*continued...*

## **LEGAL SUPPORT FOR PROTESTERS OF UCSC EXPANSION**

*The following is a letter that has been circulating among some UCSC faculty and community members. It arises from a belief that the tree-sit civil disobedience has a legitimate role in the continuing dialogue on the UCSC expansion, and that that dialogue should be respectful and inclusive, with no one seeking to demonize or marginalize the other.*

The UC Regents and some UCSC administrators have filed a lawsuit targeting students and other young people who are currently protesting planned UCSC expansion. The lawsuit, which demands punitive damages from supporters of the tree-sit, appears designed to intimidate and stifle protest and dissent.

This seems an inappropriate response to a protest that is civil disobedience. It arises from a climate in which UC administrators have been unresponsive—turning a deaf ear to critics of expansion both on and off campus.

Tree-sit protesters are dedicated to saving the upper campus forest from development and defending education quality at UCSC. Community members would like to protect their communities from potentially serious traffic, water and housing impacts. Both seek to slow the pace of UCSC expansion. On-campus protests cast the issues of UCSC expansion in a new light and have the potential to create time for much needed reflection and reconsideration.

**This letter asks for your support.** Your contribution to the protesters' legal defense will support freedom of expression and provide help to people putting themselves on the line to question UCSC expansion plans that could damage the environment, degrade the quality of education at UCSC, and impose unacceptable traffic, water and housing impacts on Santa Cruz communities.

Protesters in trees have endured cold weather, harsh treatment from UCSC administrators and police, and have survived a major storm. They are very committed, and are grateful for any support you can provide. UCSC's bullying tactics are inappropriate, and especially egregious when aimed at people who have very little money.

*Please send your contribution in the enclosed envelope to:*

**Friends of Flora and Fauna**  
P. O. Box 4281  
Santa Cruz, CA 95063

Your contribution is legal and will be tax deductible. Contributions of any size are welcome. *Please see the reverse side for information on the evolution of the tree-sit.*

*Local attorney Deborah Malkin has volunteered to do the 501c(3) legal work that will make all contributions tax-deductible for 2008. FFF Board of Directors: Deborah Malkin, Esq.; Mathilde Rand, Treasurer; Prof. Zack Schlesinger; Prof. Bettina Aptheker; Prof. Paul Ortiz.*

**<http://friendsflorafauna.org>**

**Dear Friends,**

*Background information on the tree-sit civil disobedience and UCSC expansion plans:*

As you may know, a group of students at UCSC initiated a protest against the University's Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP) on November 7, 2007. They conducted a rally at the Bay Tree Plaza and then marched to the site of the first construction of the new UCSC expansion.

Several people went up into the trees where they have been ever since. The students have described their effort as a Long-Range Resistance in a published booklet in which they offered a detailed critique of the LRDP in a series of well-researched and carefully articulated arguments. Tree-sitters have said they will stay for as long as it takes. Indeed, they have endured high-velocity winds and winter storms and remain in the trees.

The UCSC administration responded on November 7th with a show of police force in which several students were pepper-sprayed and others arrested. Since that time campus police have arrested one professor bringing tea and soup to the tree-sitters (on December 21st), and on January 12th campus police again pepper-sprayed a group of approximately 15 students who had gathered under the tree-sitters, declaring their assembly "illegal."

The students and young people who are engaged in a classic form of civil disobedience have called for a serious dialogue and debate about the merits of the LRDP. While the UCSC administration has initiated several "informational" meetings about the LRDP, there has been no willingness to discuss its continuing trajectory. Likewise, the City of Santa Cruz has raised very serious concerns about the LRDP's impact on the environment, traffic congestion, housing, water consumption and so on, and filed suit against the University. That case is still pending in court.

Meanwhile, the UCSC administration and UC Regents have filed a lawsuit against the tree-sitters and their supporters. Punitive damages from supporters of the tree-sitters appear designed to intimidate and stifle protest. These tactics, and the related use of police violence and intimidation of faculty, staff and students, are inappropriate, counter-productive and likely to enflame and escalate the conflict.

Regardless of what you think of the LRDP and its effects we urge you to protest the University's approach to this protest, and the use of police and lawsuits. A constructive, honest, public debate on the merits of the LRDP and whether or not it should proceed that involves both the campus and Santa Cruz community is what is needed.

The letter on the reverse asks for your support and contribution to a legal defense fund for the students and other young people named in the lawsuit, which can be made to: Friends of Flora and Fauna, Box 4281, Santa Cruz, CA 95063. Your contribution is legal and tax deductible.

**Thank you and with deep appreciation.**

**SUPPORTERS,  
CONTINUED**

Jan Harwood  
Denise Holbert  
Ruth Hunter  
Aida Hurtado  
Amber Jayanti  
Stephanie Keenan  
Dorothy Kukla  
Ronnie Lipschutz  
Lilly Litsky  
Deborah Malkin  
Patricia Matejcek  
Cecile Mills  
Helene Moglen  
Ruth Gunn Mota  
Bert and Lois Muhly  
Paul Ortiz  
Gail Page  
Mitchell Page  
Mathilde Rand  
Craig Reinerman  
Lisa Rofel  
Felicity Schaeffer-Gabriel  
Zack Schlesinger  
Joseph Schultz  
Celia Scott  
Peter Scott  
Patricia Schroeder  
David Silva-Espinoza  
Morgan Stryker  
Anna Tsing  
Michael Urban  
Bruce Van Allen  
Jane Weed  
Vicki Winters