



January 31, 2019

Berkeley City Council

1231 Addison Street
Berkeley, CA 94702

Re: 2190 Shattuck Avenue Proposal

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Associated Students of the University of California, we are writing to express support for the Shattuck Terrace Green Apartments development at 2190 Shattuck Avenue, which would bring much-needed market-rate and affordable housing to the City of Berkeley.

We are enthusiastic about affordable housing initiatives, and believe the \$10.1 million contribution to the city's affordable housing trust fund is much needed. Students continue to struggle with finding housing and meeting their basic needs in Berkeley. With Berkeley's dearth of housing and boom in demand, we see a need for aggressive and, at times, controversial action to build more housing.

We implore you to prioritize the health and quality of life of residents by advocating for robust housing development, rather than protecting views. As beautiful views in Berkeley are, the housing crisis poses a much more grim reality for students and long-time residents. When asked whether they have experienced homelessness, 10% of undergraduate, graduate, and post-doc students self-identified as having some experience with unstable housing in Berkeley, [according to a campus study](#). Housing initiatives such as the Shattuck development need to be prioritized over safeguarding views. As the housing crisis intensifies, building housing must be a priority.

Addressing the immediate, basic needs of community members, which include UC Berkeley students, necessitates both short- and long-term solutions, as written by our External Affairs Vice President in her Special to the Daily Cal: "Berkeley needs affordable housing: not here for the views." Efforts to designate the view of, and air around, Campanile Way as landmarks will hurt the ability of the City of Berkeley to respond to its severe housing crisis. We need to fast-track denser development near campus, starting with the 2190 Shattuck proposal. We do not have time to be stalled by anti-housing efforts.

Moving forward, we urge you to support building market-rate and affordable housing, and not entertain landmarking air. As gentrification, homelessness, and housing affordability worsen in Berkeley and the greater Bay Area, Berkeley City Council must think of the residents who are facing the consequences.

Sincerely,

Alexander Wilfert, ASUC President
Hung Huynh, ASUC Executive Vice President
Nuha Khalfay, ASUC External Affairs Vice President (EAVP)
Melany Amarikwa, ASUC Academic Affairs Vice President
Sophie Bandarkar, ASUC Student Advocate

Sarah Abdeshahian, ASUC Campus Organizing Director
Dominick Williams, ASUC Legislative Director
Angie Chen, EAVP Local Affairs Director
Somya Jain, EAVP Local Organizing Manager
Aaron Bryce Lee, ASUC Senator
Amir Wright, ASUC Senator
Amma Sarkodee-Adoo, ASUC Senator
Andy Theocharous, ASUC Senator
Anna Whitney, ASUC Senator
Anne Zepecki, ASUC Senator
Idalys Perez, ASUC Senator
Imran Khan, ASUC Senator
Isabella Chow, ASUC Senator
James Li, ASUC Senator
Justin Greenwald, ASUC Senator
Karina Sun, ASUC Senator
Nick Araujo, ASUC Senator
Nikhil Harish, ASUC Senator
Regina Kim, ASUC Senator
Saakshi Goel, ASUC Senator
Stephen Boyle, ASUC Senator
Teddy Lake, ASUC Senator
William Wang, ASUC Senator
Zach Carter, ASUC Senator