

California Native Plant Society

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Resolution of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) concerning the siting of a University of California campus at Lake Yosemite, Merced County

1. CNPS supports expansion of the University of California system to meet increasing student enrollment needs and would support the development of a 10th campus on an environmentally suitable site in the Merced area, or elsewhere in the San Joaquin Valley.
2. CNPS opposes use of the proposed Lake Yosemite site for the campus and its ancillary community as it will have major unmitigatable impacts on endangered species, unique natural landscapes, and important wetland habitats through destruction, disturbance and fragmentation.
3. CNPS therefore favors constructing the 10th UC campus on another site that would minimize environmental consequences and limit urban sprawl, while providing long-term economic and natural heritage benefits for the local residents. CNPS believes that the endangered species and wetland impacts associated with development of the Lake Yosemite site would result in regulatory and legal burdens that will delay or prevent construction of the campus.
4. CNPS commends the University of California's intent to establish an Institute for study of the Sierra Nevada's natural history, but believes there is a fundamental contradiction in establishing it at the Lake Yosemite site. Therefore CNPS urges the University of California to acquire the Lake Yosemite site as part of its Natural Reserve System so that its vernal pools and their associated plants and animals may be studied by future University of California students.

Passed unanimously by the CNPS Board of Directors on June 10, 2000:



Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora