PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

March 12, 2025

Dr. Mildred García, Chancellor
California State University Board of Trustees
California State University
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

SUBJECT: Opposition to Proposed Cancellation of Sonoma State University Geology Department

Dear Chancellor Garcia:

On behalf of the Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the closure of the Geology Department at California State University, Sonoma. While PECG understands that occasionally budget cuts become necessary, eliminating Sonoma State's Geology Department will not only do lasting harm to students in the major and the faculty – it will shut down a pipeline of geologists and related professionals that are desperately needed in the public and private sectors to protect California's air, water, workers, and natural resources of all varieties.

PECG is the state employee bargaining unit that represents over 15,000 state-employed engineers and related professionals responsible for designing and inspecting California's highways and bridges, ensuring that schools and hospitals are safe during earthquakes, and protecting our air, water and beaches. We represent nearly 900 state employees, including many Sonoma State geology graduates, performing critically important work as engineering geologists at the State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Conservation, Department of Water Resources, Department of Transportation, Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Energy Commission and many other state departments and agencies. Those holding geology degrees would also meet the minimum qualifications for dozens of other state employee job classifications in technical fields.

We are in the midst of a shortage of engineers and related professionals such as geologists in California and throughout the country. With an influx of billions of federal infrastructure dollars and California's own expanded investments in conservation, water, energy, and transportation, the competition for these professionals has only grown more intense as state and local governments and the private sector seek to deliver projects and environmental protections as soon as possible. This is simply not the time to cancel STEM-related academic programs. It will only exacerbate the shortage of needed and employable professionals in California and the U.S.

PECG urges you and the Board of Trustees to please rethink the decision to close the Geology Department at Sonoma State. Sonoma State and all the universities in the California State University system have a critical role to play in educating and developing the next generation of

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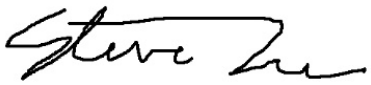
geologists, engineers, engineering geologists and countless related professionals that are needed throughout government and the private sector.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 916/446-0400.

Best Regards,



Steve Lee
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