



Student Union Assembly (SUA), Office of the Chair

1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064  
Student Union Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, c/o Soar

To: George Blumenthal, Chancellor  
Alison Galloway, Executive Vice Chancellor  
Office of Financial Affairs  
University of California Board of Regents Committee on Finance  
University of California Board of Regents Committee on Investments

Subject: The Sale of Single Use Plastic Water Bottles on the UC Santa Cruz Campus

The Student Union Assembly of the University of California, Santa Cruz, on behalf of the undergraduate student body, calls for an end to the sale of single use water bottles on campus. As a University that has been nationally recognized for our strong commitment to the environment and to sustainability, we can no longer tolerate the sale and distribution of a product that contributes to environmental harm.

According to the Office of Sustainability, in 2012 four percent of UCSC's waste source by volume was attributed to plastic containers.<sup>1</sup> The sale of plastic water bottles on campus does not align with our University's goals of being a zero waste institution by 2020 or our belief that water is a right, not a privilege.

Take Back the Tap, a student run and student led organization at UCSC, has already worked towards eliminating single use plastic water bottles from all eateries ran by Dining Services, The Wellness Center, and Joe's Pizza and Subs. They have also worked towards installing bottle filters on existing fountains as well as handing out reusable bottles to all incoming freshmen and transfer students during summer orientation.

In order to support our campus organization, Take Back the Tap, and adhere to our Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus for 2013–14, the Student Union Assembly requests we take one of the appropriate actions listed in the Blueprint and create a plastic bottle free campus.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the Student Union Assembly requests that the University takes the following actions:

1. Instruct all purchasing managers on the UCSC campus, both independent and UCSC campus related to stop any renewal or initiation of contracts which include the purchasing of single use plastic water bottles from relevant vendors and companies.
2. Take appropriate steps to ensure that by the end of the 2014-15 academic year all vendors will formally be notified of UCSC goal of a plastic water bottle-free campus, and there will be no more purchases of single use plastic

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<sup>1</sup> <http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/governance/files/waste-task-force-report-compressed-%207.31.12.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.blueprint.enviroslug.org/green-purchasing.html>



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water bottles on campus.

3. Make available Take Back the Tap's campaign updates and information to UCSC students.
4. Make reusable water bottles more accessible to the student body.

The Student Union Assembly looks forward to future opportunities to collaborate with administration and Take Back the Tap to promote a more sustainable and environmentally-aware campus.

Sincerely,  
Justin Lardinois  
Chair, Student Union Assembly (SUA)