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## **SDSU Alumni Past Presidents Oppose SoccerCity**

*Group urges Mayor and City Council to pursue transparent RFP process for Qualcomm site*

**SAN DIEGO, CA (May 24, 2017)** – The Past Presidents Council of San Diego State University (SDSU) Alumni today announced their opposition to the SoccerCity ballot initiative for the redevelopment of the Qualcomm Stadium site.

“On behalf the Past President Council who represent more than 400,000 SDSU alumni, we are formally announcing our opposition to the FS Investors plan for the Qualcomm Stadium site,” said Frederick W. Pierce, spokesperson for the Past Presidents. “The University made clear last week that the current terms and conditions of the FS Investors’ initiative do not and cannot meet SDSU’s needs.”

News first broke of the Past Presidents position in a live interview with Pierce on XTRA 1360’s Loose Cannons show this afternoon. The Past Presidents have subsequently released a position statement, articulating their stance and explaining why they felt compelled to take a public position at this time.

“Given its size, proximity and light rail connection to SDSU, utilizing a portion of the Qualcomm Stadium Site to accommodate the future growth of the university and its football program is of critical importance to SDSU and the San Diego Region,” the statement reads. “This is a once in a century opportunity to secure the future growth of SDSU.”

More than 97 percent of the Past Presidents – which is comprised of all living past presidents of SDSU Alumni since 1931– voted to support the position statement, signaling nearly unanimous opposition to the SoccerCity proposal from these volunteers who don’t have any financial stake in this decision.

“For us, the bottom line is that SDSU plays the most important role in the San Diego region in producing an educated workforce to support the local economy with nearly 10,000 graduates each year,” explained Pierce. “SDSU’s landlocked main campus of 238 acres alone cannot adequately accommodate the future physical growth of the university. Far too many applicants are denied access to SDSU each year; approximately 8,000 of 80,000 applicants were enrolled in 2016. We need the ability to expand, and that opportunity will be lost forever with the FS initiative.”

In addition to speaking out, the Past Presidents have launched the [ProtectSDSU.com](http://ProtectSDSU.com) website with more information and details on why they oppose the initiative. University alumni and all San Diegans who recognize the importance of higher education and SDSU to our community are encouraged to visit the site and learn more about how to get involved in this effort.

“We’re asking everyone to take the following immediate actions: (1) contact the Mayor and San Diego City Council members to communicate your opposition to any plans to redevelop the Qualcomm Stadium Site that are inconsistent with SDSU’s needs; (2) urge the Mayor and San Diego City Council to pursue a transparent Request for Proposals (RFP) process to elicit the best plan for SDSU and the community; and (3) personally vote “No” on the initiative and any other potential future ballot initiative which does not incorporate the articulated needs of SDSU.”

#### **About the Past Presidents of SDSU Alumni**

The Past Presidents of the SDSU Alumni are comprised of all living Past Presidents of the SDSU Alumni whose founding dates back to 1931. The Past Presidents are independent of the university, but are its most respected consortium of alumni leaders. For more information on the Past Presidents Council and its position on the SoccerCity initiative, please visit [www.ProtectSDSU.com](http://www.ProtectSDSU.com).