City of Seattle - University of Washington
Community Advisory Committee

January 11, 2011

UW Board of Regents
University of Washington
P.O. Box 351264
Seattle, WA 98195-1264

Phyllis Wise
President, University of Washington
P.O. Box 351264
Seattle, WA 98195-1264

RE: Replacement land to be used for arboretum and botanical garden purposes for property and property rights being taken by the SR 520 Bridge Replacement Project.

Dear members of the Board of Regents and President Wise:

We support providing the “Bryant Building Site” as shown by Exhibits 4 and 8 of the Draft, Section 6 (f) Environmental Evaluation, dated November 2010, (copy attached) as a partial replacement of the “conversion area” of the waterfront arboretum trail to be taken for the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV, 1-5 to Medina, Project. We recommend that the restriction on use for “arboretum and botanical garden purposes” contained in RCW 28B.20.350 and 28B.20.364 on the property being taken be carried over to the new site.

We further call for the return to the Arboretum of that wedge of wetlands now owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation (“WSDOT”) and occupied by the R.H. Thomson “ramps to nowhere” and the Arboretum ramp-s between SR 520 and Lake Washington Boulevard with the transfer to take place after WSDOT has removed those ramps and restored the wetlands. The wedge of wetlands is shown as outlined in light blue on Exhibit 4 of the attachment. The area is bounded by SR 520 on the north, Lake Washington Boulevard on the west, and the Arboretum on the east; WSDOT’s staff calls it the “WSDOT peninsula.” Until the area was taken for SR 520, the area was part of the Arboretum. These wetlands fir with the Arboretum, allow the waterfront trail to make a loop around the lagoon, and help to mitigate the severe adverse impacts of SR 520 on the Arboretum and the adjoining park lands.

The SR 520 project will be taking acreage deeded to the University by RCW 28.20.350 and 28B 20.3674 for “arboretum and botanical garden purposes “ situated in the former Canal Reserve, which are not part of the Section 6 (f) conversion area (colored green); park land deeded by the State to the City for park purposes and much of East Montlake Park dedicated by the plat for park purposes; property (together colored orange); property rights of the Washington Department of Natural Resources used for park purposes; and other submerged shore lands of the City of Seattle, among other park properties protected by Section 4 (f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966. This park acreage and severance damages caused by the 520 project provide ample consideration to the state for the reconveyance of the “WSDOT Peninsula” to the

The City of Seattle-University of Washington Community Advisory Committee (CUCAC) is a joint committee appointed by the University of Washington and City of Seattle to advise both on the community impact of planning and development activities at the University of Washington and in the immediately surrounding community. For more information on CUCAC activities call either: Steve Sheppard – City of Seattle (206) 684-0302 or Theresa Doherty – University of Washington (206) 221-2603.
University, the City of Seattle, and the Department of Natural Resources as owners in common for park and arboretum use. It would be a great shame and loss to the community and to future generations if this wedge were to be used for storage of equipment or supplied or other highway purposes, lease for commercial concessions or sold for non-park uses.

Sincerely,

Authorized by CUCAC January 11, 2011 by majority vote. Signed original on file at the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

Matt Fox,       Daniel Kraus
Co-Chair       Co-Chair

CC: Theresa Doherty
    University of Washington Board of Regents
    Phyllis Wise, Acting UW President