

## QUESTION

Shall the undergraduates and graduate students of UCSC provide funding to purchase renewable energy certificates in order to offset campus use of electricity by establishing a new, permanent fee of \$3.00 per student per quarter, beginning Fall 2006?

## SUMMARY POINTS

- New undergraduate and graduate compulsory fee of \$3.00 per student per quarter.
- Provides 25% Return-to-Aid (or \$0.75 of the fee) to assure that lower income students have Financial Aid assistance in paying the fee.
- Fee begins Fall Quarter 2006 and is a permanent fee with no ending date.
- Fees will be assessed each quarter and state-supported summer session on all undergraduates and graduates enrolled in that quarter or summer session.
- Based on an average 3-quarter enrollment of 15,000, this fee will generate approximately \$135,000 (of which \$33,750 will go to Financial Aid).
- The fee income will go Physical Plant, a department of in the division of Business & Administrative Services.
- Fee is sponsored for placement on the ballot by the Student Union Assembly and the Graduate Student Association.

## BALLOT STATEMENT

This fee will be sufficient to purchase renewable energy certificates to offset our campus's electricity purchases. The price of the certificates is very volatile. If the price stays the same or decreases, up to \$1 of the fee will be saved in a reserve ("rainy day") account that will be used to pay for possible future price inflation. Only in the case that the price of renewable energy certificates doubles in the next two years, will the \$3/quarter fee be insufficient to cover costs - and in that case, the "rainy day" savings will be used to make up the cost increase.

## ENDORSEMENTS

Student Environmental Center, CalPIRG, Campus Sustainability Council

## PRO/CON STATEMENTS

Vote Yes!

The production of electricity through fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, coal) accounts for 33% of the United State's emissions of greenhouse gasses and pollutants. Global warming is already affecting low-income communities and

island states worldwide. 95% of Californians live in areas where the air is unsafe to breathe, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Renewable Energy Certificates are the best way to support the production of clean, renewable energy in our nation and make a statement about our commitment to sustainability.

*Tommaso Boggia,  
UCSC Student and CalPIRG member*