

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City of Berkeley  
2180 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704

October 24, 2006

Re: UC Memorial Stadium Landmark Designation

Dear Mayor Bates and Councilmembers:

I strongly urge you to *simply affirm* the LPC's landmarking of California Memorial Stadium.

The staff report on this subject incorrectly seems to imply that I endorse changing the landmark designation. I did, upon request, discuss with staff various minor differences between the landmark application and the National Register nomination. But at that time I seriously questioned whether these apparent differences really need fixing at all.

The two documents were done under quite different procedures, and different rules. For example, the Berkeley ordinance's concept of "landmark site" is not necessarily identical to the National Register's concept of "nominated property."

The differences between the two documents are minor—and would have no practical effect. Page 2 of the staff report itself admits that "Staff does not know of any way the changes listed below will materially change future historic preservation outcomes." It also admits that "The University did not request that the Council revisit the Landmarks Commission[']s findings or statement of particular features to be preserved. . . ."

The staff's recommendation for "denying the Landmark Designation without prejudice" is quite unwarranted. And indeed there is no real need to remand the matter at all to the LPC.

So this evening, please affirm this very appropriate landmark designation.

Sincerely,

John English

John English  
2500 Hillegass Avenue, Apt. 3  
Berkeley, CA 94704-2937

RECEIVED AT  
COUNCIL MEETING OF:  
OCT 24 2006  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
CITY OF BERKELEY

2811 Claremont Boulevard  
Berkeley, Ca 94705

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Mayor Bates and Council Members  
City Hall  
2180 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, Ca 94704

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Dear Mayor Bates and Council members,

I am writing to you in reference to the following item that is to be heard in your meeting of October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**26. UC Memorial Stadium Landmark Designation California Memorial Stadium (PDF, 21 MB)**

From: City Manager

Recommendation: Open the public hearing on the Appeal of the Landmarks Preservation Commission Notice of Decision (NOD) for the University of California (UC) Memorial Stadium Landmark Designation, and upon conclusion, adopt a Resolution denying the Landmark Designation without prejudice, and send the landmark application back to the Landmarks Preservation Commission with specific direction to change the area of the site identified as within the "Boundary of Proposed Landmark Site", to make any text adjustments needed to reconcile the text with the new boundaries, and to consider changes to address the three text differences identified in Table 1.

**Fiscal Implications:** None

Contact: Dan Marks, Planning and Development, 981-7400

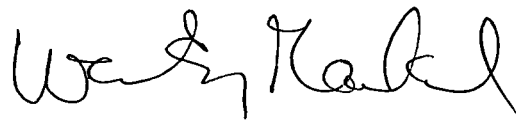
Below the surface of this simple recommendation of the Planning Director lies a sea of another color. It would appear that although on the public surface the City is in disagreement with the University as to it's plans in the area of the Memorial Stadium, the administration is in fact working to facilitate the University's plans.

The city landmark designation has its own criteria and does not have to follow criteria and details as referred to in the National Parks State Register of Historic Places. The University's Community Relations office I am afraid is not interested in the "community" of the city but the "community" of the University at this juncture. The landmark sites can be different in SHPO and City documents. This has occurred in other properties.

Since when has the City of Berkeley agreed to significantly alter a War Memorial? And that is what this Stadium is. The city designation of "Landmark" would allow this structure to retain its character and significance in the City and University community. Restoration and stewardship of our older buildings continues daily and is appropriate, but the disastrous and massive changes the city has recognized as planned by the University in the Memorial Stadium area are totally inappropriate.

I would urge you to not accept the recommendation of the Planning Director and let stand the Landmark designation recommendation of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. If you chose not to accept the Landmarks designation it will indeed be a clear signal to the public in general that the city in fact has no intention of standing in the way of the projects as planned by the University in the Memorial Stadium area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy P. Markel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail.

Wendy P. Markel

Cc: Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association  
Landmarks Preservation Commission – Robert Johnson, Chair  
Berkeley Daily Planet