

STATEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED IMPOUNDING LAGOON

Technical Working Group (TWG) on Biodiversity Management

University of the Philippines Diliman

There is grave concern that the implementation of the proposed Impounding Lagoon within the green grassland of the University of the Philippines Diliman (UP Diliman), located within the area bound by University Avenue to the north, Lakandula Street to the south, Jacinto Street to the west and Roxas Avenue to the east, will have multiple negative impact upon the present conditions of the site, diminishing its value as both an academic venue and as a wildlife habitat.

The area serves as a teaching laboratory for courses of various programs of the Diliman and Manila campuses of UP, where students conduct field exercises and independent studies. The proposed development will destroy the habitat, as well as displace wildlife, significantly lessening the utility of the outdoor laboratory.

The BOR-approved 2012 UP Diliman Land Use Plan describes the site as part of the 44.82 hectares of campus land designated as “[t]he large tracts of green open spaces of the campus, allowing for a variety of undisturbed flora and fauna and the natural collection of surface run-off during heavy rains.” Any form of development within the site might constitute a violation of its land use designation, as the wildlife that it supports will be disturbed and its function in the campus as one of several natural rainwater catch basins will be affected.

Maintenance, security, waste collection and parking issues will abound once amenities and attractions are built within the area. The area is also one of several campus design elements which contribute to the iconic visual impact when entering the campus via the entire stretch of University Avenue. Any changes to the site might affect its function in bringing due visual emphasis upon the Oblation and Quezon Hall.

The effects of any and all development proposals for the area must be thoroughly studied prior to implementation, specifically in terms of campus hydrology and water quality, wildlife and human carrying capacity, thermal comfort and visual impact, conducted through a participatory process coordinated by the Office of the Chancellor of UP Diliman.