

SUA's Calabasas Campus Closer To Expanding
By JEFF FARR, Associate Editor
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After an eight-year battle, Soka University of America's plans for its Calabasas campus today came an important step closer to approval. The California Coastal Commission passed the first of two measures required for SUA to start work on its expansion plans. And the commission is expected to decide on the remaining measure at a March meeting in Monterey, Calif.

"This fight has dragged on long enough," a *Los Angeles Times* editorial said on Feb. 4. "The proposal before the commission is the best possible, balancing the ecological needs of the Santa Monicas with the development rights of Soka. It deserves approval."

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which originally opposed SUA, has also become a supporter of SUA's plans, as SUA will turn over nearly 400 acres of open land to the conservancy.

Currently, SUA in Calabasas offers a master's degree in second and foreign language education, foreign language courses and English language classes to Japanese students. (The 3rd class of the master's program graduated last December.) The proposed plans would allow the campus to increase enrollment to 650 and thus further develop its academic programs.

SUA is also opening a full-scale liberal arts campus in the Orange County community of Aliso Viejo, Calif., that will enroll its first students in 2001.

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