


Office of the City Manager

TO BE DELIVERED AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting Date: November 18, 2003

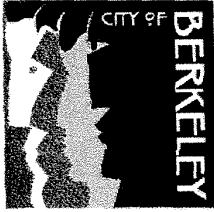
Item Number: 21b

Item Description: Lawrence Berkeley National Lab Long Range Development Plan EIR



City Manager Signature


(This cover sheet should be used only if the agenda item the material refers to was listed on the agenda as To Be Delivered)



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

November 18, 2003

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
From:  Phil Kamlarz, Acting City Manager
Subject: Lawrence Berkeley National Lab Long Range Development Plan EIR

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct the Acting City Manager to prepare an official response to the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL) Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Notice of Preparation (NOP) for their Environmental Impact Report (EIR) by November 26, 2003, unless the deadline is extended.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing staff in the offices of the City Manager, City Attorney, and Planning Department will carry out compiling the City's official response. Some outside consultant assistance specializing in planning and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements will be necessary and the hourly cost paid for by funds set aside in the City Manager's administrative budget.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On October 28, 2003, LBNL issued their Revised Notice of Preparation for a draft EIR for its 2004-2025 Long Range Development Plan. The 30-day comment period closes at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26, 2003. The City has asked LBNL to extend their deadline by 14 days to Wednesday, December 10, 2003, to give the City additional time to prepare a more thoughtful and detailed response. A response to this request is pending.

The LBNL will be holding a public scoping session, providing an opportunity for public comment on the LBNL's NOP, on Monday, November 17th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue at Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

(The LBNL NOP document and LRDP Update Schedule may be accessed by via its website at: <http://www.lbl.gov/community/LRDP/index.html>. Correct link for the current LBNL LRDP is <http://fac.lbl.gov/Facilities/Planning/Publications/lrdp87/>.)

BACKGROUND

LBNL and UC Berkeley (UCB) are simultaneously revising their Long Range Development Plans. Each University of California campus is required by State law to maintain a LRDP document that defines the general framework for land use and physical development within a specific timeframe. An LRDP also provides communities surrounding UC campuses with information they need in order to deal with the challenges resulting from overall increases in campus development as well as the impacts of specific, large-scale projects. The current UCB LRDP was completed in 1990 and was amended to extend to 2005. The new LRDP will deal with UCB plans and projects to the 2020-2021 academic year. The LRDP for the LBNL, which has not been updated since 1987, will also cover development to 2025. The Board of Regents is scheduled to adopt both of these plans late in 2004.

The University of California and the LBNL are not subject to the land use regulations of the local agencies where its facilities are located. UCB and the LBNL are, however, subject to the requirements of CEQA. UCB has also entered into a series of agreements with the City to mitigate the effects of its development on City facilities and services. The City needs to review and prepare comments on the environmental documents to make sure that they accurately assess the effects of UCB and LBNL growth and development on City services as well as the physical environment. The City has also hired Economic & Planning Systems (EPS), a Berkeley-based consulting firm, to help evaluate the fiscal impacts of UCB growth.

The EIR's from both LBNL and UCB will provide a program-level analysis of their LRDP's and its potential impacts on the environment, as required by CEQA. The university's EIR will also include a project-specific analysis of the proposed Chang-Lin Tien Center for East Asian Studies (Tien Center) that is proposed to be built on the campus across the central glade from Doe Library.

The 2020 LRDP for the UCB campus will describe both the scope and nature of development proposed to occur during this timeframe, as well as land use principles and policies to guide the location, scale and design of individual capital projects. The 2020 LRDP will not commit the University to any specific project. Once the Regents adopt the LRDP, however, the University may not substantially exceed the amount of net new growth in enrollment or increase the space described in the Plan without amending the LRDP. Any such amendments are also subject to review under CEQA.

Although the LBNL does not have to accommodate increases in student enrollment, it does need to plan for changes that will be required to meet its mission as a major scientific research facility. The 2025 LRDP will guide the physical development of the Berkeley laboratory. Like the Plan for the UCB campus, the LBNL's LRDP will specify planning policies to guide physical development of the main site. The LRDP will establish principles regarding facilities, environmental character, growth and development, land use, circulation, and transportation and identify general zones of development intensity, but will not identify specific use types.

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RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

As noted above, the City needs to review and prepare comments on the lab's environmental documents to make sure that it accurately assesses the effects of LBNL's growth and development on City services as well as the physical environment.

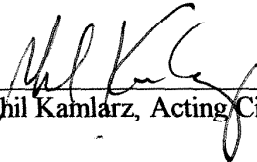
ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative is not to respond at all and that is untenable. The City must respond to the Notice of Preparation to alert LBNL of its concerns and identify potential new areas of impact that could be mitigated.

CONTACT PERSON

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Approved By,



Phil Kamlarz, Acting City Manager