



**Jesse Arreguín**  
Councilmember, District 4

ACTION CALENDAR  
September 28, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Jesse Arreguín

Subject: Urging University of California (UC) to Terminate its Contract with British Petroleum (BP)

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution urging the UC to terminate its contract with BP in accordance to its fundamental principles.

BACKGROUND:

In 2007, the Regents of the University of California and BP Technology entered into a \$500 million 10-year deal to conduct energy research on the UC Berkeley Campus, the largest deal the campus has ever entered into with a private corporation. The deal will provide half a billion dollars for UC Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to conduct research at the new Energy Biosciences Institute.

\$350 million will fund the “open component” of the research, and the rest will go to about 50 BP scientists for proprietary research at the institute while UC Berkeley and its academic partners were denied a majority on the institutes’ board. Numerous faculty have expressed grave concerns over academic freedom and shared governance in the deal. Additional concerns include the risk of funding distorting the research agenda and the exploitation of the university’s image and reputation on behalf of the corporate sponsor.

WHEREAS, On April 20<sup>th</sup> 2010, the largest marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry occurred when the BP operated Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded due to negligence and taking unnecessary risks to save money on BP’s behalf. The spill has caused extensive damage to marine and wildlife habitats as well as the Gulf’s fishing and tourism industries.

The contract between the UC and BP includes a clause to allow the University to terminate if an “event were to occur” that could be “reasonably determined that a continued association with EBI was not in accord with its fundamental principles...”

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSONS:

Jesse Arreguín, Councilmember, District 4

981-7140

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. BP/UC Contract

## RESOLUTION NO.

### URGING THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA TO TERMINATE ITS CONTRACT WITH BP FOR THE ENERGY BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE

WHEREAS, The Regents of the University of California and BP Technology entered into a \$500 million 10-year deal to conduct energy research on the UC Berkeley Campus, the largest deal the campus has ever entered into with a private corporation; and

WHEREAS, The deal will provide half a billion dollars for UC Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to conduct research at the new Energy Biosciences Institute; and

WHEREAS, \$350 million will fund the “open component” of the research, and the rest will go to about 50 BP scientists for proprietary research at the institute; and

WHEREAS, UC Berkeley and its academic partners were denied a majority on the institutes’ board; and

WHEREAS, Numerous faculty have expressed grave concerns over academic freedom and shared governance in the deal; and

WHEREAS, Additional concerns include the risk of funding distorting the research agenda and the exploitation of the university’s image and reputation on behalf of the corporate sponsor; and

WHEREAS, On April 20<sup>th</sup> 2010, the largest marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry occurred when the BP operated Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded due to negligence and taking unnecessary risks to save money on BP’s behalf; and

WHEREAS, More than 90 million gallons of crude oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico for 87 days, constituting the worst ecological disaster in US history, causing extensive [damage](#) to marine and [wildlife](#) habitats as well as the Gulf’s [fishing](#) and [tourism](#) industries; and

WHEREAS, BP has one of the worst safety and environmental record of any oil company operating in the United States, having been the subject of

roughly 8,000 reported incidents of spills, emissions and leaks of oil, chemicals and gases into the environment; and

WHEREAS, The contract between the UC and BP includes a clause to allow the University to terminate should an “event were to occur” that could be “reasonably determined that a continued association with EBI was not in accord with its fundamental principles...”

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council hereby urges the University at California, Berkeley to terminate its contract with BP in accordance to its fundamental principles of open research and public service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that copies of this resolution be sent to University of California President Mark Yudof and UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau.