

**RESOLUTION NO. 47-08**

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND,  
CALIFORNIA IN REQUESTING THE NON-CERTIFICATION BY UC  
REGENTS OF TWO FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS FOR  
THE LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY PROJECTS AND  
CONSIDER THE RICHMOND FIELD STATION AS AN ALTERNATE SITE.**

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) has prepared a 2006 Long Range Development Plan that is to guide development until the year 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, many people, organizations and the city of Berkeley submitted comments in March 2007 stating that the Draft Environmental Impact Report on LBNL's 2006 Long Range Development Plan contains a number of critical flaws that prevent an accurate evaluation of the potential impacts and expressed a particular concern over the lack of an adequate evaluation of off-site alternatives; and

**WHEREAS**, LBNL now proposes to construct two buildings: 1) a 140,000 square foot Computational Research and Theory Building; and 2) a 160,000 square foot Helios Energy research Building to be sited in the upper Strawberry Creek Watershed and Strawberry Canyon areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the area in which these two proposed facilities are to be constructed is subject to wildfires and landslides and is close to the active Hayward Fault, now designated as the most dangerous fault in California; that further, among the many impacts that have been identified are the removal of more than 44 Coast Live Oaks and 18 Coast Redwoods, threats to several Special-Status plant and animal species, significant increases to traffic on local streets that rise to a level that cannot be mitigated, air quality impacts above the level of significance, reduction of Ecological Study Areas, all of which are impacts that do irreparable harm to an area that has been called one of the finest natural areas of comparable size in the Bay Area, and further such construction will disrupt the shared interface with valuable lands of the East Bay Regional Parks District to the south and east; and

**WHEREAS**, since LBNL's 2006 Long Range Development Plan focused new development to occur on the Laboratory's hillside sites, alternative locations were not fully considered as sites for the Computational research and Theory Building and the Helios Energy Research Building; and

**WHEREAS**, there are credible alternative locations for both these buildings that are currently available and zoned for large-scale research and development facilities, including University of California owned land known as the Richmond Field Station adjacent to the city of Albany, and

**WHEREAS**, fifty acres of the 152 acre Richmond Field Station are suitable for development allowing much of the remainder to be retained for valuable habitat areas, prairie grasslands, and seasonal and tidal wetlands and in addition, there are also vacant and available nearby sites in the city of Richmond, all of which are within approximately 6 miles from the core University of California campus, have easy vehicle access from the freeway and bicycle access from the Bay Trail, and are also served by an existing shuttle bus to the UC-Berkeley campus and LBNL and are also closer to UC graduate student housing located in the city of Albany; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond is serious about locating such facilities either at the Richmond Field Station or nearby available and approximately zoned land for such facilities because of the favorable impacts that would accrue to the City of Richmond in terms of increased job opportunities and the attraction of such facilities would provide for

other, similar economic developments. The City of Richmond also believes that access and electric power issues can be addressed.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Richmond hereby transmits this resolution to the Regents of the University of California requesting non-certification of two Final Environmental Impact Reports: 1) on the proposed 140,000 gross square foot Computational Research and Theory Building and 2) on the proposed 160,000 gross square foot Helios Building to be sited in the upper Strawberry Creek Watershed and Strawberry Canyon areas uphill and to the east of Memorial Stadium until such time as the Richmond Field Station be seriously considered as an alternate site; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the development is not placed on the Coastal Upland Prairie at the site or has any adverse impacts on the prairie and the project is constructed after the site is remediated according to direction by DTSC, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Richmond also requests a Board of Regents meeting in Northern California for consideration of this matter.

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I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held on May 6, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Butt, Bates, Sandhu, Rogers, Lopez, Viramontes,  
and Vice Mayor Marquez.

NOES: Councilmember Thurmond and Mayor McLaughlin.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

Approved:

JOHN E. MARQUEZ  
Vice Mayor

Approved as to form:

LOUISE RENNE  
City Attorney