Supplemental Communications (1)

(The following are communications received after packet was published on **July 7**, by noon, **July 12.**)

Communication

From: Pearson, Alene

Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 10:08 AM

To: Lapira, Katrina < KLapira@cityofberkeley.info>

Cc: Shen, Alisa <AShen@cityofberkeley.info>; Mendez, Leslie <LMendez@cityofberkeley.info>; Redman Cleveland,

Elizabeth < ERCleveland@cityofberkeley.info>

Subject: Summer PC Schedule

Hello Commissioners,

Thank you for the great discussion at last night's meeting.

As promised, I'm reaching out to ask about your availability for summer meetings.

The dates I announced last night are as follows:

July 14: Bayer Community Benefit Package (& Tentative Tract Map / R&D Public Hearing)

July 28: BART Zoning per AB 2923 #1

August 4: BART Zoning per AB 2923 #2

Please respond with your availability on the dates above -- and on July 21 in case we need a back-up – by Monday, June 7th.

Once I tally the results and talk with project managers, I will send you the finalized schedule.

NOTE: We are not meeting on July 7.

Thanks! Alene

Alene Pearson, AICP, Principal Planner

Land Use Planning Division
Planning and Development Department City of Berkeley apearson@cityofberkeley.info
510-981-7489

NEMA LINK

2505 Milvia Street Berkeley, CA 94704

July 6, 2021

Planning Commission City of Berkeley Land Use Planning Division 1947 Center Street Berkeley, CA 94704

RE: Support for Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the Bayer HealthCare LLC Development Agreement Amendment

Planning Commissioners:

Like many who are drawn by its world class higher education, I settled in Berkeley to attend UC Berkeley. I have since stayed and co-started a robotics company based in the East Bay, became a partner in a sign development company, and committed myself to improving our amazing community. In that spirit, I am submitting this comment letter on the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the renewal of the development agreement between the City of Berkeley and Bayer.

As a fellow East Bay business seeking to create jobs, navigate entitlement processes, and implement community benefits, often through development agreements, I appreciate the comprehensiveness of the SEIR, especially since it pertains to a site that is already developed. I support this project specifically because:

- Aesthetics: It is great to see Bayer going up strategically to reduce the horizontal footprint needed, create more open space and view corridors. The approach to the parking garage and parking overall will help beautify and modernize the core of the West Berkeley industrial area in which it sits.
- Transportation: While doubling the employee count is an ambitious and laudable goal, it seems that
 Bayer has considered the transportation, transit, and parking implications of the project. Knowing
 Berkeley's leading approach to transportation and transit, continued TDM implementation will more
 than adequately address any potential traffic or emissions increases from the project.
- **Recreation:** I love Aquatic Park and am glad to see Bayer's continued contribution to its upkeep. If there were a way to increase that further, I would welcome that.
- **Education:** I wholeheartedly believe that education is one of the most important factors to building and sustaining a community, and Bayer's ambitious plan for providing STEM education and resources to local budding students is truly welcomed.

California law and Berkeley implementation sets a high standard for our business community. As a fellow business owner and longtime Berkeley resident, I am therefore proud to support the renewal and enhancement of this agreement as mapped out by Bayer and the City in this SEIR. Thank you for your consideration of my input and I look forward to testifying in person or virtually as the case may be to see this project through to renewal and fruition.

Respectfully.

Nema Link

Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO

7750 Pardee Lane, Suite 100 Oakland, CA 94621 btca@btcalameda.org | (510) 430-8664

July 6, 2021

Andreas Cluver Secretary-Treasurer

Rob Stoker President

Rafael Gonzalez Vice President

Che Timmons Sergeant in Arms

Auto & Marine Painters, #1176

Boilermakers, #549

Brick & Tile Layers, #3

Carpenters, #713

Carpenters, #2236

Carpet & Linoleum, #12

Cement Masons, #300

Electrical Workers, #595

Elevator Constructors #8

Glaziers #169

Insulators & Asbestos Workers, #16

Iron Workers, #378

Laborers, #67

Laborers, #304

Lathers, #68L

Millwrights, #102

Operating Engineers, #3

Painters, #3

Pile Drivers, #34

Plasterers, #66

Plumbers & Steamfitters, #342

Roofers, #81

Sheet Metal Workers, #104

Sign & Display, #510

Sprinkler Fitters, #483

Teamsters, #853

 $U.A.,\,Utilities\,/\,Landscape,\,\#355$

Members of the Planning Commission City of Berkeley Land Use Planning Division 1947 Center Street Berkeley, CA 94704

SUBJECT: Support for Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the Bayer HealthCare LLC Development Agreement Amendment

Dear Berkeley Planning Commissioners,

After reviewing the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR), I would like to express my support for the proposed Development Agreement between Bayer and the City of Berkeley.

For a project of this scope, the potential environmental impacts appear to be limited in scale and duration, with the majority occurring during the demolition of existing structures and subsequent construction. This project is comparable to many redevelopment projects occurring throughout our city, and we should support the biotech industry and local economy in Berkeley.

The proposed mitigation measures appear well thought out and effective in avoiding greenhouse gas emissions while protecting birds, flora, water quality and the ambient environment. In some instances, there is potential to enhance existing environment quality, such as the proposed increase in native plantings. I understand why the report concludes: all environmental effects in those areas were found to be less than significant or less than significant with mitigation incorporated, and I am satisfied with the scope of the mitigations proposed.

Finally, I encourage the commissioners to reflect on the enormous value this plan represents. This project is too important not to approve. In terms of enhancing Berkeley's social and economic environment, this project provides opportunities for residents across the social and economic spectrum, both in terms of direct project benefits. Perhaps more importantly, an enhanced campus could provide enormous value to society from the successful development of new treatments that Bayer aims to address directly.

I respectfully ask you to support Bayer's SEIR and thank you for considering the needs of the Berkeley community.

Sincerely,

Andreas Cluver, Secretary-Treasurer

Building & Construction Trades Council of Alameda County

AC:kem opeiu:29/afl-cio

Communication

From: Perls, Dana <DPerls@foe.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 4:01 PM

To: Berkeley Mayor's Office; Pearson, Alene; Kesarwani, Rashi; Taplin, Terry; Bartlett, Ben; Harrison, Kate;

Hahn, Sophie; Wengraf, Susan; Robinson, Rigel; Droste, Lori

Cc: All Council

Subject: Letter and comments to City of Berkeley re: Bayer Development proposal

Attachments: Letter to City of Berkeley re Bayer Development_July 6 2021.pdf

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Arreguin, Berkeley City Council, Berkeley Planning Commission and Planning Director Klein,

Please find the attached letter with concerns, comments and recommendations for the proposed Bayer Development. This letter is from 18 local, national and international groups and experts. We are writing to alert the City of Berkeley to significant issues related to the siting of biolabs within the city. At present, these concerns pertain to Bayer Pharmaceuticals, which is currently seeking a 30-year extension and expansion of its Development Agreement (DA) with Berkeley.

Please confirm your receipt of this letter. Given the pace of the project, we would like to set up a meeting next week to discuss some of these important issues to consider including in the development agreement, to offer recommendations about regulation and monitoring, and answer any questions about this cutting edge topic.

Many thanks for your time and public service,

Dana Perls

Dana Perls (*pronouns: she/her*)
Program Manager, Food and Technology Campaign

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Friends of the Earth David Brower Center Berkeley, CA 94704

July 6, 2021

Dear City of Berkeley Planning Commission, Mayor Arreguín, Planning Director Klein, and Berkeley City Council:

We are writing to alert the City of Berkeley to significant issues related to the siting of biolabs within the city. At present, these concerns pertain to Bayer Pharmaceuticals, which is currently seeking a 30-year extension and expansion of its Development Agreement (DA) with Berkeley.

The rapid development of vaccines that protect against COVID-19 has raised public awareness of – and appreciation for – the benefits of biomedical and genetic research. At the same time, recent international press coverage about the possible origins of the pandemic in a Chinese biolab has rightly triggered public concern about the perils of this research. Regardless of whether biolabs were involved in any way with the origins of COVID-19, the information that has surfaced¹ and resurfaced² about accidents and safety violations at hundreds of biolabs around the world counsels, at the very least, that public officials at all levels significantly increase scrutiny and oversight of laboratories engaged in biological and biomedical research.

With regard to the proposed Development Agreement between Bayer Pharmaceutical and the City of Berkeley, at least two specific matters are in urgent need of civic oversight: the possibility that Bayer would undertake human reproductive genetic engineering research and/or pathogen gain-of-function research at its Berkeley site. A Bayer representative initially indicated to the Planning Commission that the company has no plans to conduct such research in Berkeley, but in a subsequent Planning Commission meeting, the same individual made no mention of this pledge. We believe that the City of Berkeley should obtain written confirmation in its DA with Bayer that no research in either category will be undertaken at the Berkeley site.

In addition, we recommend that the City of Berkeley require Bayer to submit detailed annual reports about its research activities at the Berkeley site, in order to increase transparency and help ensure public safety. The specific content and format of such reports should be carefully considered.

Below please find brief explanations of the research categories that we believe Bayer must formally preclude in Berkeley.

Heritable genome editing research

Bayer plans to conduct laboratory research and clinical trials at its Berkeley site that involve somatic genetic modification – that is, genetically altering established or somatic human tissues – in search of treatments for conditions such as hemophilia. This is a worthy and promising prospect. Our concern is with germline genetic modification, also known as heritable genome editing: that is, genetically altering the genes of human embryos or gametes, such that the modifications could be passed on to future generations.

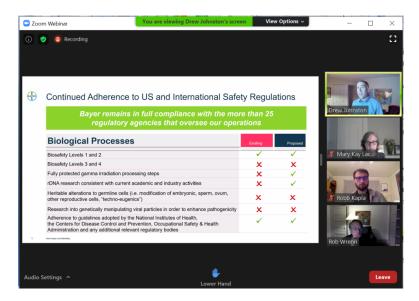
In a presentation accompanied by PowerPoint slides, given to the Berkeley Planning Commission on November 18, 2020, Bayer Vice President of Site Engineering Drew Johnston indicated, apparently in response to letters of concern from community members, that Bayer has no intention of engaging in germline genetic engineering research. Mr. Johnston's slide showed a large red X next to the

¹ Where Did the Coronavirus Come From? What We Already Know Is Troubling. By Zeynep Tufekci, New York Times, June 25, 2021 https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/25/opinion/coronavirus-lab.html; Could an accident have caused COVID-19? Why the Wuhan lab-leak theory shouldn't be dismissed. Alison Young, USA Today, March 22, 2021. https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/opinion/2021/03/22/why-covid-lab-leak-theory-wuhan-shouldnt-dismissed-column/4765985001/

² Inside America's secretive biolabs, Alison Young and Nick Penzenstadler. USA TODAY, May 28, 2015. https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/05/28/biolabs-pathogens-location-incidents/26587505/; Universities, feds fight to keep lab failings secret, Alison Young and Nick Penzenstadler. USA TODAY, May 28, 2015. https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/05/28/labs-fight-for-secrecy/26530719/



"biological process" described as "Heritable alterations to germline cells (i.e. modification of embryonic, sperm, ovum, other reproductive cells)."



Screen shot from presentation by Bayer Vice President of Site Engineering Drew Johnston

at the November 18, 2020 public meeting of the Berkeley Planning Commission.

However, in the documents prepared for a subsequent Planning Commission meeting on June 2, 2021, and in comments at that meeting, Mr. Johnston did not reiterate that position.

Globally, current policy regarding heritable genome editing reflects a widely shared and longstanding agreement that its social and safety risks should keep it legally off limits. It is prohibited by 70 countries and by an international treaty, the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (the Oviedo Convention).³ In the United States, unlike in most those jurisdictions, the prohibition of heritable genome editing depends on a weak legal reed – a rider to the annual budget appropriations bill that bars the Food and Drug Administration from considering clinical trials "in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification."⁴

Perhaps because of this tenuous legal situation – and in spite of the growing literature on the safety risks of using gene editing on human embryos – a few researchers, some associated with commercial laboratories, continue to pursue closely related activities

Human Germline and Heritable Genome Editing: The Global Policy Landscape. Françoise Baylis, Marcy Darnovsky, Katie Hasson, and Timothy M. Krahn. The CRISPR Journal, October 20, 2020. https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/crispr.2020.0082

The wrong way to make policy about heritable genome modification. Marcy Darnovsky, The Hill, May 29, 2019. https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/445937-the-wrong-way-to-make-policy-about-heritable-genome-modification



and policies. Several scientists, for example, are seeking to patent methods for editing human embryos with the specific intent to use them for reproductive purposes.⁵

We are asking that Bayer include in its DA with the City of Berkeley a written pledge to forgo any research on human germline modification at its Berkeley site. Such a pledge would align Bayer with the position on human germline modification that has been adopted both by scores of countries, and by more than a dozen biotechnology companies that have committed in writing to refrain from any such activities.⁶ We recommend that Bayer preclude the following specific research activities that are directly implicated in human germline modification: genetic alteration of human embryos, sperm, or eggs; nuclear genome transfer and somatic cell nuclear transfer; and *in vitro* gametogenesis. Further, since Bayer's somatic treatments could lead to the design of viral vectors that enable embryo modification, it is important that the company ensures the community that none of their patents and other commercial agreements will make claims regarding, or otherwise facilitate germline modification.

Gain-of-function research

Gain-of-function (GOF) research refers to altering the genes of micro-organisms (using either genetic modification techniques or selective evolutionary pressure on a culture) in ways that make them more dangerous by increasing their transmissibility, virulence, or host range. Because of its significant risks, GOF research has been extremely controversial, including within scientific community and policy circles. In 2014, the US National Institutes of Health announced a moratorium on GOF research and suspended funding of it. In 2017 the NIH rescinded this ban.

Recently, international press coverage has brought GOF research into public awareness because many scientists around the world believe that this type of research may have been involved in the origin of the global COVID pandemic.⁷

In the same presentation and same PowerPoint slide referenced above, Bayer's Drew Johnston showed a large red X next to the "biological process" described as "Research into genetically manipulating viral particles in order to enhance pathogenicity." Again, this was a welcome – though in this case somewhat narrow – pledge. In the subsequent Planning Commission meeting, Mr. Johnston failed to reiterate that position. We call for Bayer to pledge in writing to forgo research of any kind on micro-organisms (including viruses and bacteria) aimed at increasing increase transmissibility, virulence, or host range.

Additional concerns and the need for reporting requirements

With respect to biolab safety more generally, we welcome Bayer's statements that no labs operating at Biosafety Levels 3 and 4 be located in Berkeley. This commitment should be part of the DA. We also note that work done in BSL-2 labs is not without concern. BSL-2 labs work with agents associated with human disease, in other words, pathogenic or infectious organisms posing a hazard. Examples include pathogenic strains of Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus, Salmonella, Plasmodium falciparum, and Toxoplasma gondii. If proper lab procedures aren't followed at all times, there is risk of laboratory-acquired infections or accidental release of a pathogen into the environment.

An additional reason for concern is the growing pressure to conduct pathogenic research that normally requires BSL-3 labs in BSL-2 labs, because higher level labs are far fewer in number. As a result, more and more BSL-2 labs are operating as what is commonly known as BSL-2 plus. Such labs aren't officially recognized by the Centers for Disease Control, despite the increase in their number,

⁵ Planning to Profit from Designer Babies. Now. Pete Shanks. Biopolitical times. May 25, 2021. https://www.geneticsandsociety.org/biopolitical-times/planning-profit-designer-babies-now

In August 2019, the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine released a "Statement of Principles on Genome Editing" signed by 13 companies, saying in part, "We, as therapeutic developers utilizing gene editing technologies, are not modifying human germline cells for use in human clinical studies." https://alliancerm.org/statement-of-principles/

Fight over Covid's Origins Renews Debate on Risks of Lab Work, New York Times June 20, 2021: https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/20/science/covid-lab-leak-wuhan.html; The Origin of Covid: Did people or nature open Pandora's box at Wuhan? Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, May 5, 2021: https://thebulletin.org/2021/05/the-origin-of-covid-did-people-or-nature-open-pandoras-box-at-wuhan/



but are nevertheless handling more virulent pathogens. For example, there has been increasing pressure to study COVID-19, the pathogen that causes coronavirus, in such labs.

While biosafety labs are regulated by the Federal government, it cannot be stated more emphatically that they are very lightly monitored at best. With few resources available for the urgently needed stricter review, these facilities are largely self-monitoring. As noted above, there have been numerous errors and mistakes at even higher level biolabs that are supposedly even better monitored.

It is therefore incumbent on communities to protect the health and safety of their population and environment. This cannot be accomplished by accepting assurances that any proposed lab is following established regulations. It requires a detailed accounting of the types of organisms to be studied, an ongoing transparent dialogue regarding the results of internal lab safety monitoring, and procedures for notification to the community of any lapses in safety protocols. We strongly urge the City of Berkeley to insist on and facilitate transparency, accountability, and biosafety, and to reduce bio-entrepreneurial conflicts of interests, by requiring biolabs to submit annual reports detailing what research they are conducting and publishing these reports.

Finally, it is incumbent upon the City of Berkeley to insist that lab safety, especially in this densely populated urban area, be ensured by securing written and public agreement that only biolabs at safety levels 1 and 2 be permitted, that all safety reports prepared by a biolab be shared with the City, that the City be notified of any material breach of safety protocols; and by requiring biolabs to undertake and make public an independently produced risk assessment for research undertaken.

Sincerely,

Dana Perls

Friends of the Earth and resident of Berkeley, CA

Tina Stevens, PhD, Executive Director, Alliance for Humane Biotechnology and resident of Berkeley, CA

Alexander Gaguine, President, Appleton Foundation

Jonathan Latham, PhD, The Bioscience Resource Project

Marcy Darnovsky, PhD, Executive Director, Center for Genetics and Society and resident of Berkeley, CA

Hervé Le Meur, Collectif Contre l'Artificialisation du Vivant, Paris, France

Jeremy Gruber, JD, Former President, Council for Responsible Genetics

Laurie Rich, Executive Director, David Brower Center, Berkeley, CA

Michelle Perro, MD, Executive Director, GMOScience.org

David King, PhD, Human Genetics Alert, London, England

Jeffrey Smith, Executive Director, Institute for Responsible Technology

Jaydee Hanson, Policy Director, International Center for Technology Assessment

Stuart A. Newman, Ph.D., New York Medical College

Alexis Baden-Mayer, Esq., Political Director, Organic Consumers Association

Alex Jack, President, Planetary Health, Inc.



Samir Doshi, PhD, Stanford University and resident of Berkeley, CA

Daniel Papillon, PhD., Stop Designer Babies, London, England

Katherine Drabiak, JD, College of Public Health and College of Medicine, USF Health

Communication

From: Ali Kashani <akashani@mpihomes.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 5:10 PM

To: Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>

Cc: Chris Schildt (cschildt@gmail.com) <cschildt@gmail.com>

Subject: Fw: Bayer's DA

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Alene:

Below please find my email to the ZAB for the Planning Commission to consider. Thanks. Ali

Ali R. Kashani MPI Homes 2625 Alcatraz Ave #501 Berkeley, CA 94705 510-385-1340 Cell

From: Ali Kashani

Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 2:55 PM

To: zab@cityofberkeley.info <zab@cityofberkeley.info>

Cc: Loni Hancock <loni.hancock@comcast.net>; Erin Rhoades <erinrhoades@berkeley.net>; Jesse Arreguin

(Mayor@CityofBerkeley.info) <mayor@cityofberkeley.info>; Skjerping, Lars <lskjerping@cityofberkeley.info>; Martin

Bourque <martin@ecologycenter.org>

Subject: Bayer's DA

Dear Members of the ZAB:

The community benefits and mitigation portions of the proposed 30-year Development Agreement by Bayer has been under a shroud of secrecy. We have not been able to receive clear, concise answers to how the community benefits have been calculated. It is not clear to us why Bayer has not been cooperative in this respect. The staff report is woefully inadequate in addressing these issues.

I write to implore you to not take any actions without our community reaching an agreement on benefits and mitigations after we have an opportunity to review and discuss Bayer's proposals.

Bayer's Community Benefit Proposal (Attachment 3 in the ZAB packet), asserts that "the primary value to Bayer is expedited and predictable permitting for new facilities," and opaquely concludes the Net Present Value of this "value" is \$14.9 million, based on a review and "agreement" by EPS. The public has not seen either the methodology or the calculations. What's more is the absence of necessary findings to justify a myriad of height variances Bayer needs, and simply justifies the "valuation of community benefits is based on efficiency gained for overall ... project."

Accordingly, Bayer's calculation of Net Present Value for Affordable Housing and Childcare fees of \$1.9 million appears to use a very unreasonable discount rate of 8.00%! Time-value of money over 30 years should be closer to 2.00% discount rate. Below, is a brief table showing the calculations that at a 2.00% discount rate, the NPV of the fees is closer to double what Bayer is proposing.

Impact Fees for Housing/Ci	niidcare				
	Total SQFT	\$/SQFT	Total Fees	Dicount Rate	Net Present Value
Aff Hsing Impact Fees	1,740,000.0	\$2.25	\$3,915,000		
Childcare Impact Fees	1,740,000.0	\$0.75	\$1,305,000		
Total Fees in today's dollars			\$5,220,000	8.00%	\$1,961,127
			\$5,220,000	2.00%	\$3,922,148

For the above reason, the community deserves to see and understand the underlying assumptions for Bayer's \$14.9 million NPV calculation of the benefits in has presented.

The issues with Bayer's current proposal are in three categories:

- 1. Current proposal is 27% lower than the 1992 DA;
- 2. Current proposal is woefully lower than City's Impact Fees for multifamily developments;
- 3. Current proposal is significantly below a recent project at 600 Addison.

Bayer's current proposal of \$720,000/year amounts to \$21.6 million in today's dollars for both Impact Fees and Community Benefits, versus its payments between 1992-2019 (27 years) is \$26.7 million, which would be \$29.7 million for 30 years ending in 2021, a reduction of 27%!!

The below table summarizes the City's imposition of Housing Impact Fees on six multifamily projects approved in 2020. Except for the payment of fees for 2150 Kitteredge project amounting to 3.83% of Total Development Costs (TDC) (which appears to be an outlier, or a reporting error), all other projects payments as a percentage of TDC are round 10%-11%, while Bayer's proposed \$21.6 million amounts to less than 2% of its TDC!

Berkeley approved Deve	lopments 2020					
Affordable Housing Impact Fees						
	Total SQFT	Total units	#of BMR	Cash Pmt	Cost/Unit	
2590 Bancroft Way		87	5	\$2,160,000	\$800,000	
2150 Kittredge		165	0	\$6,000,000	\$950,000	
3000 San Pablo		78	7	\$1,500,000	\$800,000	
2028 Shattuck		48	4	\$977,000	\$800,000	
2650 Te legraph		45	4	\$872,100	\$800,000	
2720 San Pablo		25	2.	\$600,000	\$950,000	

Finally, As Erin Rhoades has pointed out (see enclosed email to Mayor), the City's total fees of \$7 million for 600 Addison is significantly higher than Bayer's proposal.

Late Communications Planning Commission July 14, 2021

I hope you will encourage Bayer to work with the community in an open and transparent manner so that we can reach an equitable agreement and get behind supporting its request for a 30-year Development Agreement. Cheers.

Ali R. Kashani

MPI Homes

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