

## **Supplemental Communications (2)**

(The following are communications received  
after 12pm, October 5 - 3pm, October 6.)

**Communication**

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**From:** Beth Roessner <beth@berkeleychamber.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 11:55 AM

**To:** Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>; Buckley, Steven <StBuckley@cityofberkeley.info>; Klein, Jordan <JKlein@cityofberkeley.info>

**Subject:** Bayer Planning Commission Support Letter

**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.

To the members of the Planning Commission-

Please see attached support letter for Bayer's DA and EIR.

Thank you,

**Beth Roessner, CEO**

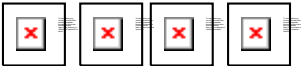
Berkeley Chamber

1834 University Ave.

Berkeley, CA 94703

(510) 549-7000

[www.berkeleychamber.com](http://www.berkeleychamber.com)



October 5, 2021

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

**Re: Recommendation for the Bayer HealthCare LLC Environmental Impact Report and Development Agreement Amendment**

Dear Berkeley Planning Commissioners,

My name is Beth Roessner, CEO of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce. I have spoken at several City of Berkeley meetings this year, and today, I am writing in support of Bayer's proposed Development Agreement (DA) Amendment and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certification. I truly believe it is important we keep Bayer's investment in Berkeley.

Bayer is Berkeley's largest private sector employer and an anchor to the Bay Area's biotechnology and life sciences industry. The company is a good, corporate citizen who has invested 30 years of opportunity to Berkeley and the region. As a Berkeley business leader and community member, we cannot take Bayer's presence in Berkeley for granted.

The biotech landscape has changed dramatically since 1992 and the industry is more competitive than ever. Cities such as Boston, Raleigh, and New York City are now centers of excellence in biotech; closer to home, Vacaville streamlined the entitlement process to attract the type of investment that Bayer proposes to make in Berkeley. Many locations offer tax incentives and enticements rather than extracting community benefits. In this climate, Berkeley cannot stand to lose Bayer who wants to be and already is an integral part of our community.

Bayer's proposal is the investment our region needs—through community benefits, quality, living-wage jobs, upgraded facilities, and more. I hope you recognize what an incredible opportunity this is for our city. Our community will benefit from their vision of new facilities which could create more robust, lucrative pipelines to successful careers in the biotech industry.

I support the amended DA and EIR because:

- Bayer's presence will continue to anchor the Bay Area as a global leader in the Biotech industry, benefitting our region with jobs and increased economic activity.
- The community benefits package is lucrative and will support local STEAM, affordable housing, arts, community resilience initiatives, and more.
- The project provides more opportunities for community engagement, integration, and job opportunities for people at all economic and education levels in West Berkeley.
- The proposed campus changes will provide improved aesthetics, updated walkways, more green space, and areas accessible by the public to enjoy.
- It will create 1000 new jobs at various educational attainment and income levels at a location that currently employs such a diverse workforce that a majority of employees identify as either Asian American, African America, Latino/Hispanic, two or more races, or other.

I urge the Planning Commission to approve the amended DA and EIR. Thank you for considering the benefits this project brings to the Berkeley community.

Respectfully,

Beth Roessner  
CEO  
Berkeley Chamber



October 6, 2021

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

**Re: Recommendation for the Bayer HealthCare LLC Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and Development Agreement Amendment**

Dear Berkeley Planning Commissioners,

My name is Lynda Gayden, and I serve as the Executive Director of Biotech Partners (BP). BP was established in 1993 as part of a Development Agreement (DA) between Bayer and the City of Berkeley. Our mission is to educate underserved youth from populations underrepresented in STEM fields with personal, academic and professional development experiences that increase participation in higher education and access to fulfilling science careers.

Biotech Partners would not exist today without Bayer. Since its inception, we have had 3,900 participants in our program. Each summer our rising seniors' intern in real-world bioscience environments in which they've cumulatively earned \$3.5million. Bayer has hosted 15 internship placements annually, virtually all from Berkeley High, totaling 450 young people who have gained meaningful work experience in various Bayer departments. Eighty-five of our participants fall in the "income challenged" bracket, and 85% identify either as people of color or as female.

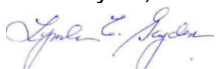
Bayer has been an invaluable partner to BP as we have offered students a supportive pathway out of economic hardship and into the rapidly growing and much needed bioscience industry. While Bayer's financial support and in-kind donation of facilities and equipment have been vital to BP's longevity and success, the work internships they've provided have been essential to our mission and to bettering the lives of Berkeley students over the long-term. Our graduates demonstrate the effectiveness of our approach. Over 54 alumni have gone on to lucrative careers at Bayer, other biotech companies, or other scientific fields. With Bayer's generous support, BP has been able to introduce students to bioscience careers and provide them complete wrap-around support to enable students' success.

Candidly, while supporting the DA will be a boom to the community, denying it will have huge negative consequences. Absent the DA, the city would lose a major employer, community benefits and source of economic growth in the coming years. COVID-19 has shown us both the intense and ongoing vulnerability of income challenged populations of color and the dire need for bioscience development.

I wholeheartedly support Bayer's new development agreement without hesitation because it will give the community ongoing access to opportunities for economic development and growth and learn in the STEM field, supporting Berkeley residents to gain an equitable start and bright future in the biotech field. This Development Agreement is a great project and a wonderful opportunity for the city to continue working with an entity that truly cares about the community in which it is rooted.

Given the decades of value the amended DA could bring to Berkeley and the region, I definitively support Bayer's Development Agreement. I urge you to recommend extending Bayer's DA in Berkeley.

Thank you,



Lynda Gayden  
Executive Director

## Communication

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**From:** Ranahan, Conor <[cranahan@ngkf.com](mailto:cranahan@ngkf.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 2:48 PM  
**To:** Redman Cleveland, Elizabeth <[ERCleveland@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:ERCleveland@cityofberkeley.info)>; Hollander, Eleanor <[EHollander@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:EHollander@cityofberkeley.info)>  
**Cc:** Rokeach, Ari <[Ari.Rokeach@nmrk.com](mailto:Ari.Rokeach@nmrk.com)>; Benton, Bill <[Bill.Benton@nmrk.com](mailto:Bill.Benton@nmrk.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: R&D Definition

Liz & Eleanor –

Thanks for all of your work and engagement on the R&D definition. I'm not sure the best place for this comment so feel free to share as you see fit. I think the new definition will be helpful (with some tweaking) but my concern is around use limitations. More specifically:

- 23E.80.060.F - Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Commercial Physical or Biological Laboratories using Class 2 Organisms are prohibited within 500 feet of a Residential or Mixed Use-Residential District.

According to both the [NIH & WHO](#), level 2 organisms represent a moderate risk to lab users but low risk to the community. Berkeley's zoning contemplates proximity to labs with Class 2 Organisms but I'm not sure proximity is relevant to the health and safety of the surrounding community. Most companies that do biology will need labs that can handle Class 2 Organisms (BSL2) therefore ruling out much of the MULI zoning in West Berkeley as a potential home. Neighboring cities do not have this proximity restriction. I'd urge planning to amend 23E.80.060 at the same time as the alteration to the R&D definition.

**Please note, my email address has changed**

**Conor Ranahan**  
*Managing Director*

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**Communication**

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**From:** Katelyn Burns <katelyn0918@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:00 PM

**To:** Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>; Buckley, Steven <StBuckley@cityofberkeley.info>; Klein, Jordan <JKlein@cityofberkeley.info>

**Subject:** Bayer Community Support Letter

**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 Pearson, Steve Buckley, and Jordan Klein,

Please find attached my letter of support for Bayer and the Biotech Partners Organization.

Sincerely, Katelyn Burns

October 1, 2021

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

**Re: Recommendation for the Bayer HealthCare LLC Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and Development Agreement Amendment**

Dear Berkeley Planning Commissioners,

My name is **Katelyn Burns**, and I am a community college student in the Bioscience Career Institute of Biotech Partners. Our organization was established in 1993 as part of a Development Agreement (DA) between Bayer and the City of Berkeley. Biotech Partners helps students, such as myself, and especially students who are from communities underrepresented in STEM fields, attain the personal, academic, and professional development needed for careers in biotech.

Biotech Partners would not exist today without Bayer. Since its inception, we have had 3,900 participants in program, 15 internship placements per summer at Bayer, as well as 8 year-long co-op jobs provided to our community college program, Biotech Partners and the support from Bayer has created an excellent pipeline for creating pathways into employment in a growing, lucrative, and meaningful industry born right here in the Bay Area.

**The Biotech Partners programs gave me a chance to explore career paths in STEM that I wouldn't have had the chance to otherwise explore. The biotech classes, job skill workshops, internships, and more provided by the Biotech Academy program were the highlights of my high school years. I can't wait to continue exploring STEM careers with the Biotech Career Institute program. I've been trying to find my right career path for a while and Biotech Partners has helped me so much with this goal.**

I support Bayer's new development agreement without hesitation because it will continue to give the community more opportunities to grow, develop, and learn in the STEM field, giving Berkeley natives an equitable start and bright future in Biotech. This DA is a great project and a wonderful opportunity for the City to continue working with an entity that truly cares about the community where it is rooted.

Given the decades of value the amended DA could bring to Berkeley and the region, I urge you to recommend extending Bayer's DA in Berkeley.

Thank you,

**Katelyn Burns**



**October 1, 2021**

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

**Re: Recommendation for the Bayer HealthCare LLC Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and Development Agreement Amendment**

Dear Berkeley Planning Commissioners,

My name is Alessandro Favognano , and I am a community college student in the Bioscience Career Institute of Biotech Partners. Our organization was established in 1993 as part of a Development Agreement (DA) between Bayer and the City of Berkeley. Biotech Partners helps students, such as myself, and especially students who are from communities underrepresented in STEM fields, attain the personal, academic, and professional development needed for careers in biotech.

Biotech Partners would not exist today without Bayer. Since its inception, we have had 3,900 participants in program, 15 internship placements per summer at Bayer, as well as 8 year-long co-op jobs provided to our community college program, Biotech Partners and the support from Bayer has created an excellent pipeline for creating pathways into employment in a growing, lucrative, and meaningful industry born right here in the Bay Area.

Bayer was able to give me the best two classes of my highschool education. Those two years of biotech which was funded by Bayer were the most valuable classes I had, giving me real world experience and lab know-how. By Bayer's help I was also able to find an internship during the pandemic to keep me working.

I support Bayer's new development agreement without hesitation because it will continue to give the community more opportunities to grow, develop, and learn in the STEM field, giving Berkeley natives an equitable start and bright future in Biotech. This DA is a great project and a wonderful opportunity for the City to continue working with an entity that truly cares about the community where it is rooted.

Given the decades of value the amended DA could bring to Berkeley and the region, I urge you to recommend extending Bayer's DA in Berkeley.

Thank you,  
Alessandro Favognano

## Communication

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**From:** Geoff Lomax <glomax@lmi.net>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 1:22 PM

**To:** Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>; Buckley, Steven <StBuckley@cityofberkeley.info>; Klein, Jordan <JKlein@cityofberkeley.info>

**Cc:** Taplin, Terry <ttaplin@cityofberkeley.info>

**Subject:** Comment: Planning Commission Hearing on Final Recommendation of Bayer DA and EIR

**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 Planning Commission Team:

**As a Berkeley parent and resident, I encourage you to approve the Bayer DA and EIR as amended in response to public deliberations.**

Please find support letter attached.

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

[Apearson@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:Apearson@cityofberkeley.info)  
[StBuckley@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:StBuckley@cityofberkeley.info)  
[JKlein@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:JKlein@cityofberkeley.info)

## **Bayer DA and EIR**

Dear Planning Commission Team:

**As a Berkeley parent and resident, I encourage you to approve the Bayer DA and EIR as amended in response to public deliberations.**

Visionary Values for the Future:

The Bayer proposal will work in synergy with the enormous innovation taking place in Berkeley directed toward addressing the world's pressing medical needs. Bayer is part of a growing innovation ecosystem in our city. This ecosystem includes UC Berkeley, numerous spin-off research enterprises, support services and educational opportunities. For example, City College recently received [\\$2.8 million in funding](#) to support education and training opportunities in this space. This support combined with Bayer's commitment to training will translate into career opportunities for our residents.

I have had the opportunity to meet directly with numerous academic and industry leaders in the Berkeley innovation ecosystem. They possess a compelling vision for how we can combine research and development into treatments for some of the world's greatest unmet medical needs.

**As a Commission, you have the opportunity to establish a firm foundation for Berkeley's role in furthering medical advancement.** As recent history has taught us, having the capacity to develop and deploy biomedical innovations rapidly is critical to global health. In the past decade, Berkeley has made enormous strides in becoming a hub of such innovation. Let's stay the course and position our city for the future.

Finally, in addition to the enormous medical and economic benefits of the plan, the revised agreement is responsive to housing, arts, aesthetics and the environment. I urge the Planning Commission to approve the amended DA and EIR expeditiously.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me. I have no financial or personal interest in Bayer, and I have over 15 years of experience with the medical, ethical and regulatory aspects of cell and gene therapies.

Geoffrey Lomax Dr. PH  
1507 M L King Jr Way 94709  
510-520-2993  
[glomax@lmi.net](mailto:glomax@lmi.net)

**October 4, 2021**

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

**Re: Recommendation for the Bayer HealthCare LLC Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and Development Agreement Amendment**

Dear Berkeley Planning Commissioners,

My name is Lauren Rawlins, Director of Purification at Bayer in Berkeley. I have written letters of support in the past and want to reiterate my enthusiasm and support for this project.

I have worked at Bayer for 18 years as a permanent employee, and I simply cannot stress enough how important Bayer is to me and the community where I grew up. As someone born and raised in Berkeley, I attended Berkeley High and participated in a Bayer internship through Biotech Partners. As a high school student, I got exposure to what a life in biotech could look like, and when I graduated from Laney College in 2003, I began my career at Bayer.

Over the years, I have worked hard to rise to the position I hold today. I love the team that I am a part of and the caring culture that Bayer cultivates to support its employees. Not only are we passionate about patients, but the company is committed to community and philanthropy.

Bayer's Berkeley campus is very diverse; about 70% of employees are from under-represented populations, and many got their start at Bayer just like I did—right out of high school. I participate in a business resource group called ARISE, which supports employees of African American descent. My colleagues and I are proud to make vitally important medicines for people with serious medical challenges, and we are proud of helping to strengthen a culture of inclusion in the company. Working with Bayer has meant stable jobs, mentorships, community connection, and growth opportunities. It has also meant that we can comfortably support ourselves, feel fulfilled in our career and personal lives, and give back to the community.

I support the amended DA and SEIR because:

- The proposed changes will provide improved aesthetics, updated walkways, more green space, and a new extended entry area that will be accessible by the public to enjoy.
- I am part of ARISE as a co-lead, BLEND, GROW, and the Women in Tech groups at Bayer, and we are always in need of different spaces to meet. Different atmosphere to work, meet and collaborate to bring a great team working environment.
- The transportation/parking options are appealing to me. I currently live in Antioch and having the option to take BART and use the West Berkeley shuttle provides different options for me to commute to work. Additionally, I am happy to see the surface parking lots become integrated into the building.

I am proud to be a Bayer employee, and I urge the Planning Commission to approve the amended DA and EIR. I'm excited for our future to continue here in Berkeley and for us to be even more engaged in the community just outside our gates.

Respectfully,

Lauren Rawlins

**RESTRICTED**

**October 1, 2021**

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

**Re: Recommendation for the Bayer HealthCare LLC Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and Development Agreement Amendment**

Dear Berkeley Planning Commissioners,

My name is Nadia Sanchez-Rivera, and I am a community college student in the Bioscience Career Institute of Biotech Partners. Our organization was established in 1993 as part of a Development Agreement (DA) between Bayer and the City of Berkeley. Biotech Partners helps students, such as myself, and especially students who are from communities underrepresented in STEM fields, attain the personal, academic, and professional development needed for careers in biotech.

Biotech Partners would not exist today without Bayer. Since its inception, we have had 3,900 participants in program, 15 internship placements per summer at Bayer, as well as 8 year-long co-op jobs provided to our community college program, Biotech Partners and the support from Bayer has created an excellent pipeline for creating pathways into employment in a growing, lucrative, and meaningful industry born right here in the Bay Area.

Although I have not yet had the chance to have an internship at Bayer. I hope that in the future I will get the chance to since it has been one of my many goals. I believe that with extending Bayer's DA in Berkeley it will give me and my classmates the chance to get an internship to further our knowledge in the science field. Without the support of Bayer at high school I believe that many people will lose the chance to further their knowledge and gain new experiences in the biotech program.

I support Bayer's new development agreement without hesitation because it will continue to give the community more opportunities to grow, develop, and learn in the STEM field, giving Berkeley natives an equitable start and bright future in Biotech. This DA is a great project and a wonderful opportunity for the City to continue working with an entity that truly cares about the community where it is rooted.

Given the decades of value the amended DA could bring to Berkeley and the region, I urge you to recommend extending Bayer's DA in Berkeley.

Thank you,

Nadia Sanchez-Rivera