



Statement by Berkeley Lab on the Conclusion of the Berkeley Global Campus Community Working Group

Good evening. Berkeley Lab Director Mike Witherell is unable to be here tonight but sends his best regards. He asked me to share this message with you.

Berkeley Lab sincerely thanks the members of the Community Working Group and all the community partners who have dedicated their time and effort over the last year and a half to help us develop the Recommendations Report for the Berkeley Global Campus.

As you know, Berkeley Lab significantly scaled back its intentions to develop at the Richmond Field Station when funding from its fiscal sponsor, the U.S. Department of Energy, did not materialize due to budget impasses in Washington during that time period, and consequently ended its support for the project. When UC Berkeley then announced its intention to pursue development of the Berkeley Global Campus at the Richmond Field Station, Berkeley Lab was pleased to have an opportunity to partner with the campus in the hopes of identifying a way to move forward.

Unfortunately, the impacts of several years of compounding flat budgets have forced Berkeley Lab to conclude that there are no longer the means to develop any projects at the Richmond Field Station. Therefore, the Lab is ending its partnership with UC Berkeley to develop the Berkeley Global Campus.

The Lab realizes this is disappointing to you, and the community, as it is to the Lab. However, this does not mean that Berkeley Lab is stepping away from the Richmond community entirely. The Lab will continue, as it has for many years, to dedicate targeted workforce development, education and small business programs and resources in the Richmond community. Some of those include:

- The designation of Richmond and West Contra Costa County as priority communities for its educational resources;
- Partnering with local educational organizations and institutions to expand learning and academic preparation for residents;
- Partnering with local school districts to advise on STEM content and programs for college and career readiness as it relates to STEM careers at Berkeley Lab;
- Expanding efforts to highlight procurement best practices in government contracting so small businesses in Richmond can better navigate doing business with Berkeley Lab. To that end the Lab, in partnership with UC Berkeley, plans on conducting 4-6 procurement training workshops annually in the Richmond community;
- Serving as a resource to review and provide feedback on training curricula and other materials developed by the City of Richmond, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and other minority professional organizations, to assist local businesses prepare for upcoming procurement opportunities with Berkeley Lab.

In the coming months, Berkeley Lab also intends to reach out to and meet with the City of Richmond to identify additional ways that the Lab can strengthen and advance its partnerships with the Richmond community in pursuit of the advancement of world-leading scientific research and discovery.