Helios Energy Research Facility
Final Environmental Impact Report

SCH # 2007072107

Prepared for:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE FINAL ENVIONRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the University of California procedures for implementing CEQA, following completion of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) the University is required to consult with and obtain comments from public agencies that have jurisdiction by law or discretionary approval power with respect to the proposed project, and to provide the general public with opportunities to comment on the Draft EIR.

On November 19, 2007, the University of California (UC), as the Lead Agency under CEQA, issued a Draft EIR on the Helios Energy Research Facility Project proposed by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL or Berkeley Lab). A 53-day public-comment period (November 16, 2007, through January 11, 2008), which is longer than the mandated 45-day comment period required by state law, was provided by the University. However, in response to public and agency requests for an extension, the University extended the comment period further to end on February 1, 2008, and thereby provided a 74-day comment period. During this period, LBNL held a public meeting on the Draft EIR on December 17, 2007, to receive verbal comments. A court reporter prepared a transcript of the meeting.

The Final EIR is an informational document prepared by the Lead Agency that must be considered by decision makers before approving or denying the proposed project. CEQA Section 15132 specifies that the Final EIR shall consist of the following:

a) The Draft EIR or a revision to the draft.

b) Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary form.

c) A list or persons of the persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR.

d) The response of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in review and consultation process.

e) Any other information added by the Lead Agency.

The Draft EIR, which is incorporated by reference, and this document (including project refinements, EIR revisions, summary, and responses to comments) constitute the Final EIR. Copies of the Final EIR are available for review during normal business hours at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory at the following address and website

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
One Cyclotron Road, MS 69-201
Berkeley, California 94720
Contact: Jeff Philliber, Environmental Planning Group Coordinator
planning@lbl.gov

This document has been prepared pursuant to the *State CEQA Guidelines*. The Final EIR incorporates comments from public agencies and the general public, and contains responses by the Lead Agency to those comments that are relevant to the Draft EIR analysis. The Board of the Regents of the University of California (The Regents) is responsible for reviewing and certifying the adequacy of this environmental document and making a decision with respect to the proposed project.

1.2 ORGANIZATION OF THIS RESPONSE TO COMMENTS DOCUMENT

This document is organized into six sections. Following this introduction (**Section 1.0**), **Section 2.0, Project Refinements**, presents changes to the project description, some of which were made in response to comments on the Draft EIR. **Section 3.0, Revisions to the Draft EIR**, presents changes to the text of the Draft EIR, some of which were made in response to comments on the Draft EIR. **Section 4.0, Comments on the Draft EIR and Responses to Comments**, contains a list of persons who presented comments at the December 17, 2007, public hearing, a list of persons, agencies, and organizations that submitted written comments on the Draft EIR, a transcript of the public hearing, reproductions of the written comments, and responses to those comments. Each comment is labeled with a number in the margin. **Section 5.0, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**, contains the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project, and **Section 6.0**, **Report Preparation, Organizations and Persons Consulted,** lists persons involved in the preparation of the Final EIR.