

TO: Berkeley City Council

DATE: August 30, 2016

RE: Berkeley Deep Green Building Support

Dear Members of the Berkeley City Council,

I am an architect practicing in Berkeley for the last 20 years. With a deep concern for the environment, my practice has always been focused on green architecture. My firm has won awards for its innovations in green design, including the prestigious national AIA Top Ten Green Projects for our project at 2808 Adeline Street. While I am pleased over the years to have been able to contribute to advancing a green building agenda, I have increasingly felt that environmental problems are no longer being adequately addressed by the standard green architecture measures. The increasing severity of environmental problems requires more ambitious measures and a much faster pace of adoption.

I strongly support Berkeley Deep Green Building because it outlines a series of ambitious and in some cases unique green building measures which, if broadly adopted, could significantly help reduce green house gas emissions and toxic chemical generation while minimizing habitat destruction. I also appreciate that the program is tailored to Berkeley with its particular mix of building priorities and energy use patterns.

First and foremost Berkeley Deep Green has an aggressive and community based energy efficiency program. The energy efficiency goals for individual buildings are very high.

However, while encouraging zero net energy and solar photovoltaics and solar hotwater installation for individual buildings, the program acknowledges that in an urban environment, solar access can be limited. Zero net energy must be achieved on a community wide scale.

To that end, the program astutely supports all electric buildings as part of an energy efficiency program.

Currently building operation accounts for close to half of Berkeley's greenhouse gas emissions and more than 60% of the energy comes from gas. While GHG emissions have declined since the inception of the city's Climate Action Program, we are not on target to meet GHG reduction goals. For the city to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals, energy use needs to drop but it also needs to shift to clean, renewably generated electricity. With efforts already underway in the city to shift our community wide electricity sources to 100% renewable energy in the next year, it is essential that we just as quickly, shift our building's to 100% electric.

- architecture
- construction
- ecology

Berkeley Deep Green further sets itself apart as a comprehensive green building program in the way it addresses the toxicity and carbon footprint or embodied energy of materials. It encourages use of materials with a low carbon footprint like wood, straw, bamboo, earth and stone in lieu of energy intensive materials like plastic, metals, fired clay and concrete. Using

low carbon footprint materials provides reductions in greenhouse gas emissions now, when our efforts will have the greatest impact. I also support Berkeley Deep Green's specific standards to facilitate the avoidance of worst-of-class toxic chemicals.

Finally, there are also several other unique and ambitious components in Berkeley Deep Green including comprehensive post-construction performance monitoring and greywater reuse and rainwater collection requirements.

If broadly adopted, this program will go far in assisting the city in meeting greenhouse gas reduction goals, while also reducing water consumption and the use of toxic chemicals.

I encourage the Council to support this program and city staff to craft the implementation to encourage swift and widespread adoption of the measures.

Sincerely,

Cate Leger, Principal  
Leger Wanaselja Architecture