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BY E-MAIL

June 2, 2023

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky
Councilmember John S. Lee
Councilmember Heather Hutt
John Ferraro Council Chamber
200 N. Spring Street, Room 340
Los Angeles, CA 90012
c/o Candy Rosales, Legislative Assistant
clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

Marie Pichay, Planning Assistant
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**Re: Comment on Sustainable Communities Project Exemption
905 Beacon Ave. Project (ENV-2020-7605-SCPE)**

Dear Chair Harris-Dawson and Members of the Planning and Land Use Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Supporters Alliance for Environmental Responsibility ("SAFER"), a California nonprofit benefit corporation, regarding the proposed development of a 7-story, 119,508 square foot mixed-use building, located in the City of Los Angeles and known as the 905 Beacon Avenue Project ("Project"). The City has determined that the project is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21155.1 ("Section 21155.1"), which provides an exemption for sustainable communities projects. However, the Project does not meet the criteria for a sustainable communities project and, therefore, does not qualify for an exemption from CEQA under Section 21155.1. SAFER respectfully requests that the Planning and Land Use Management Committee not approve the Project, and instead direct staff to prepare necessary environmental documents under CEQA.

This comment has been prepared with the assistance of expert noise consulting firm Wilson Ihrig and Certified Industrial Hygienist, Francis "Bud" Offermann, PE, CIH. Wilson Ihrig's comments are attached as Exhibit A, and Mr. Offermann's comments are attached as Exhibit B. We incorporate the Wilson Ihrig and Offermann comments herein by reference.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project consists of the demolition and removal of the existing surface parking lot from the Project site in order to facilitate the development of a 7-story, 119,508 square foot mixed-use building. The building will include 145 multi-family residential dwelling units, up to 2,000 square feet of neighborhood serving commercial uses, and 1.5 above ground parking levels and 2 underground levels. The Project proponents are requesting site plan review, permission to use base incentives and three additional incentives, and a vesting tentative tract map.

LEGAL STANDARD

CEQA mandates that “the long-term protection of the environment . . . shall be the guiding criterion in public decisions” throughout California. (PRC § 21001(d).) To achieve its objectives of environmental protection, CEQA has a three-tiered structure. (14 CCR § 15002(k); *Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan v. City of Los Angeles* (2008) 161 Cal.App.4th 1168, 1185-86.) First, if a project falls into an exempt category, or it can be seen with certainty that the activity in question will not have a significant effect on the environment, no further agency evaluation is required. (*Id.*) Second, if there is a possibility the project will have a significant effect on the environment, the agency must perform an initial threshold study. (*Id.*; 14 CCR § 15063(a).) If the study indicates that there is no substantial evidence that the project or any of its aspects may cause a significant effect on the environment the agency may issue a negative declaration. (*Id.*; 14 CCR §§ 15063(b)(2), 15070.) Finally, if the project will have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report (“EIR”) is required. (*Id.*) Here, since the County exempted the Project from CEQA entirely, the first step of the CEQA process applies.

Here, the City is alleging that the proposed Project is exempt from CEQA review under the Sustainable Communities Project exemption (“SCPE”) exemption. (PRC § 21155.1.) PRC 21155.1 applies to transit priority projects which meet certain criteria and are considered sustainable communities projects, and are rendered exempt from CEQA requirements. In order to qualify for a SCPE, a legislative body must find, after public hearing, that the transit priority project meets all of the requirements from PRC 21155.1 subdivision (a) and (b), and one of the requirements of subdivision (c).

Subdivision (a) lists out environmental criteria including requirements that the project can be served by existing utilities, does not impact wildlife habitat, is not included on the Cortese list, does not impact historical resources, is not located on developed open space, and is 15 percent more energy efficient than required under Title 24. Subdivision (a) also lists out specific environmental health hazards that a project cannot be subject to, including “[r]isk of a public health exposure at a level that would exceed the standards established by any state or federal agency.” (PRC § 21155.1(a)(6)(C).)

Subdivision (b) lists out land use criteria that a project must meet, including size requirements, a limit on residential units, and requirements regarding affordable housing, among others. Relevant here, subdivision (b) requires that “[a]ny applicable mitigation measures or performance standards or criteria set forth in the prior environmental impact reports, and adopted in findings, have been or will be incorporated into the transit priority project.” (PRC § 21155.1(b)(5).)

Lastly, subdivision (c) states that the transit priority project must meet at least one of the following three criteria:

(1) The transit priority project meets both of the following:

(A) At least 20 percent of the housing will be sold to families of moderate income, or not less than 10 percent of the housing will be rented to families of low income, or not less than 5 percent of the housing is rented to families of very low income.

(B) The transit priority project developer provides sufficient legal commitments to the appropriate local agency to ensure the continued availability and use of the housing units for very low, low-, and moderate-income households at monthly housing costs with an affordable housing cost or affordable rent, as defined in Section 50052.5 or 50053 of the Health and Safety Code, respectively, for the period required by the applicable financing. Rental units shall be affordable for at least 55 years. Ownership units shall be subject to resale restrictions or equity sharing requirements for at least 30 years.

(2) The transit priority project developer has paid or will pay in-lieu fees pursuant to a local ordinance in an amount sufficient to result in the development of an equivalent number of units that would otherwise be required pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) The transit priority project provides public open space equal to or greater than five acres per 1,000 residents of the project.

(PRC § 21155.1(c).)

As discussed below, the proposed Project does not qualify for a SCPE because it fails to meet one of the criteria of subdivision (a) and one of the criteria in subdivision (b). The exemption is therefore improper, and instead, an initial study should be prepared, followed by the appropriate CEQA document, either an MND or an EIR.

DISCUSSION

I. The City Incorrectly Applied CEQA’s Sustainable Communities Project Exemption to the Project and Instead an Initial Study is Required.

This Project fails to meet some of the necessary criteria due to its potentially significant noise and indoor air quality impacts. As such, the Project does not qualify for a SCPE and the City must prepare an initial study and either an MND or an EIR for the Project.

a. The SCPE failed to impose all mitigation measures for noise.

To qualify for a SCPE, a Project must meet certain land use criteria, including that “[a]ny applicable mitigation measures or performance standards or criteria set forth in the prior environmental impact reports, and adopted in findings, have been or will be incorporated into the transit priority project.” (PRC § 21155.1(b)(5).) The City found that the only applicable EIR for this SCPE was the SCAG 2020-2045 RTP/SCS Program EIR (“RTP/SCS PEIR”), and it applied two of the noise-related mitigation measures from that PEIR to the proposed Project.

Jack Meighan of expert noise consulting firm Wilson Ihrig reviewed the Project and associated documents and found that the Project failed to adequately analyze noise impacts, and therefore failed to impose all applicable mitigation measures from the RTP/SCS PEIR. The Project therefore does not meet the requirements for a SCPE. Mr. Meighan’s comments are attached hereto as Exhibit A, and are summarized below.

First of all, Mr. Meighan found that the RTP/SCS PEIR does not study operational noise and vibration, and therefore the mitigation measures it proposes and which have been applied to this Project would not serve to mitigate any of the Project’s operational noise and vibration impacts. (Ex. A, p. 1.) Therefore, Mr. Meighan concluded that neither the RTP/SCS PEIR nor the SCPE have actually studied operational noise and vibration, and further CEQA review must be conducted to analyze those potential impacts. (*Id.*)

Next, one of the mitigation measures the Project imposes for noise impacts is to prohibit amplified noises from exceeding ambient noise levels of adjacent properties by more than 5 dBA. However, Mr. Meighan points out that because the SCPE for the Project does not include noise measurements, it is impossible to identify which measures are necessary to achieve this requirement, and whether such measures are feasible. (Ex. A, p. 1-2.) He notes that “reasonable worse-case construction scenarios may not be able to stay 5 dBA within the ambient at the adjacent property that borders the site directly to the south.” (*Id.* at 2.) Without this information, the City has failed to demonstrate that the Project meets the requirements of a SCPE, and an initial study should be prepared to adequately measure and document the Project’s ambient noise levels, and determine what specific mitigation is necessary.

Lastly, Mr. Meighan found that the Project’s noise impact analyses are incomplete. The analysis prepared by the City does not include any calculations showing operational and construction noise and vibration impacts that would result from this Project. (Ex. A, p. 2.) In an effort to estimate potential impacts, Mr. Meighan ran sample calculations from projects with assumptions similar to this Project and used Project-specific details. (*Id.*) He found that construction noise and vibration would most likely be significant and have the potential to cause damage to nearby buildings. (*Id.*) The City has therefore failed to demonstrate that it has

imposed all applicable mitigation measures for noise from prior EIRs, and the Project does not qualify for a SCPE. An initial study, followed by either an MND or an EIR, must be prepared for this Project.

b. There is Substantial Evidence that the Project Will Have a Significant Health Risk Impact from its Indoor Air Quality Impacts.

The SCPE cannot apply if a project site is subject to “[r]isk of a public health exposure at a level that would exceed the standards established by any state or federal agency.” (PRC § 21155.1(a)(6)(C).)

Here, there is substantial evidence demonstrating that the Project will have public health impacts which exceed state standards. Specifically, the Project will result in significant increased cancer risks from emissions of formaldehyde. Therefore, the Project does not qualify for the SCPE and the City must prepare an initial study to determine the appropriate level of CEQA review for this Project, either an MND or an EIR.

Certified Industrial Hygienist, Francis “Bud” Offermann, PE, CIH, has conducted a review of the proposed Project and relevant documents regarding the Project’s indoor air emissions. Indoor Environmental Engineering Comments (December 12, 2022) (Exhibit B). Mr. Offermann concludes that it is likely that the Project will expose residents and commercial employees of the Project to significant impacts related to indoor air quality, and in particular, emissions of the cancer-causing chemical formaldehyde. Mr. Offermann is a leading expert on indoor air quality and has published extensively on the topic. Mr. Offermann’s expert comments and curriculum vitae are attached as Exhibit B.

Mr. Offermann explains that many composite wood products used in building materials and furnishings commonly found in offices, warehouses, residences, and hotels contain formaldehyde-based glues which off-gas formaldehyde over a very long time period. He states, “[t]he primary source of formaldehyde indoors is composite wood products manufactured with urea-formaldehyde resins, such as plywood, medium density fiberboard, and particleboard. These materials are commonly used in building construction for flooring, cabinetry, baseboards, window shades, interior doors, and window and door trims.” (Ex. B, p. 2-3.)

Formaldehyde is a known human carcinogen. Mr. Offermann states that future residential occupants would be exposed to a cancer risk of 120 in one million, and future commercial employees would be exposed to a cancer risk of 17.7 in one million. (Ex. B, p. 4-5.) These calculations are assuming all materials are compliant with the California Air Resources Board’s formaldehyde airborne toxics control measure. (*Id.*) These potential exposure levels exceed the South Coast Air Quality Management District’s (“SCAQMD”) CEQA significance threshold for airborne cancer risk of 10 per million. (*Id.*)

Mr. Offermann concludes that these significant environmental impacts should be analyzed in accordance with CEQA and mitigation measures should be imposed to reduce the

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risk of formaldehyde exposure. (*Id.* at 6.) Mr. Offermann identifies mitigation measures that are available to reduce these significant health risks, including the installation of air filters and a requirement that the applicant use only composite wood materials (e.g. hardwood plywood, medium density fiberboard, particleboard) for all interior finish systems that are made with CARB approved no-added formaldehyde (NAF) resins or ultra-low emitting formaldehyde (ULEF) resins in the buildings' interiors. (*Id.* at 12-14.)

Because the Project's formaldehyde emissions constitute a "public health exposure at a level that would exceed" SCAQMD's significance threshold for increased cancer risk, the Project does not qualify for the SCPE. (*See* PRC § 21155.1(a)(6)(C).) Therefore, the City must prepare an initial study for the Project and either an MND or EIR to disclose and mitigate the potential environmental impacts to future users of the building.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above comments, the Project does not meet the requirements of the SCPE due to its potential noise impacts and public health risk impacts. The City must prepare an initial study followed by an EIR for the Project, or at least an MND, and the draft CEQA document should be circulated for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amalia Bowley Fuentes", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amalia Bowley Fuentes
Lozeau Drury LLP

EXHIBIT A



WI #22-004.33

June 2nd, 2023

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SUBJECT: Comments on 905 Beacon Ave. Project Noise Analysis

Dear Ms. Fuentes,

Per your request, I have reviewed the subject matter document for the 905 Beacon Ave. Sustainable Communities Project Exemption (SCPE) in Los Angeles, California. The proposed project involves the construction, use and maintenance of a 119,508-square-foot mixed-use building, which would include 145 multi-family residential dwelling units and up to 2,000 square feet of commercial uses. The Noise Impact Analysis is contained in Appendix G of the SCPE. The Project is surrounded by noise sensitive uses –residences located directly to the south and to the west.

1. Analysis Cites Incomplete EIR

The SCPE has identified one prior EIR with mitigation measures that could apply to the Project – SCAG 2020-2045 RTP/SCS Final Program EIR. However, the SCPE states that the EIR “does not include project-level mitigation measures that would be required of the Project. The SCAG MMRP provides a list of mitigation measures that SCAG determined a lead agency can or should consider, as applicable and feasible.” As such, two mitigation measures are studied in the SCPE, Impact NOISE-1 and Impact NOISE-2. NOISE-1 presents 24 mitigation techniques that can be used to mitigate construction noise, while NOISE-2 presents 6 mitigation techniques that can be used to mitigate construction vibration.

The EIR, however, does not study operational noise and vibration. None of the mitigation measures are meant to mitigate noise or vibration from these sources. As a result, operational noise and vibration are not studied in either the EIR or the SCPE. A more thorough EIR should be conducted to make sure that this project does not create significant noise and vibration impacts to nearby receptors. See Section 3 for a breakdown of potential operational noise issues.

2. Baseline Noise Level characterizations are Incomplete

PMM NOISE-1 states “The Project shall prohibit any amplified noises, especially those from outdoor sources, from exceeding the ambient noise levels of adjacent properties by more than 5 dBA, pursuant to LAMC Section 112.01. Any amplified noises would also be prohibited from being audible

at any distance greater than 150 feet from the Project's property line" Without noise measurements, it would be impossible to identify what measures would be necessary to achieve this requirement and whether such measures would be feasible. Reasonable worst-case construction scenarios may not be able to stay 5 dBA within the ambient at the adjacent property that borders the site directly to the south. An example of an operational noise impact is presented in Section 3. The document needs at least to commit to a requirement that an acoustical report addressing noise sources should be submitted for review and approval during the permitting phase. Or, if the analysis is performed using a design goal, there should be a plan explicitly stating monitoring and reporting.

3. Impact Analyses are Incomplete

The analysis does not include any calculations. Below are sample calculations, taken from projects with similar assumptions, to show the typical operational and construction noise and vibrations impacts are possible with this project.

Construction Noise

The Federal Highway Administration's Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM) cites noise levels¹ for equipment typically used on construction sites. For the grading phase, typical pieces of equipment include a Grader and a Backhoe. The closest receivers are approximately 20 feet from the construction site. Using the reference levels and usage factors cited in RCNM, the overall Leq is 90 dBA. It is hard to imagine that this level would not be considered an impact. As such, more study should be done to determine mitigation options in a full Environmental Impact Statement.

Table 1: Summary of Typical Construction Noise Calculation

| Piece of Equipment | Spec. Lmax @ 50ft (dBA) | Usage Factor |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|
| Backhoe | 80 | 40% |
| Grader | 85 | 40% |
| All Sources Combine for an Hourly Leq of 90 dBA at 20 feet | | |

Construction Vibration

Vibration Levels could be over common building damage threshold at the closest point to the new construction in this building, and this was not mentioned in the analysis. The closest building to the south of the project site is roughly 20 feet from heavy construction. A vibratory roller has a cited PPV (Peak Particle Velocity) level of 0.21 in/sec at 25 feet, via the Federal Transit Administration's Transit (FTA) Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual². At 20 feet, this is 0.29 PPV, which is over the FTA's suggested threshold of 0.2 PPV for non-engineered timber and masonry buildings. It is worth noting that other criteria exist and can be chosen, and that this document does not directly govern this project. However, there is potential for damage to nearby buildings. As such, there would be a significant impact and mitigation measures, such as a vibration control plan, should be provided in project documents.

¹ https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Environment/noise/construction_noise/rcnm/rcnm01.cfm#table1

² https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/research-innovation/118131/transit-noise-and-vibration-impact-assessment-manual-fta-report-no-0123_0.pdf

Conclusions

There are several errors and omissions in the SCPE noise analysis. Correcting these would potentially identify several significant impacts which require mitigation.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions on this information.

Very truly yours,

WILSON IHRIG

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Meighan", is written over a horizontal line.

Jack Meighan
Associate

wilson ihrig - comments on 905 beacon ave. project noise analysis.docx

EXHIBIT B



INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING



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Date: December 12, 2022

To: Amalia Bowley Fuentes
Lozeau | Drury LLP
1939 Harrison Street, Suite 150
Oakland, California 94612

From: Francis J. Offermann PE CIH

Subject: Indoor Air Quality: 905 Beacon Avenue Project, Los Angeles, CA
(IEE File Reference: P-4652)

Pages: 19

Indoor Air Quality Impacts

Indoor air quality (IAQ) directly impacts the comfort and health of building occupants, and the achievement of acceptable IAQ in newly constructed and renovated buildings is a well-recognized design objective. For example, IAQ is addressed by major high-performance building rating systems and building codes (California Building Standards Commission, 2014; USGBC, 2014). Indoor air quality in homes is particularly important because occupants, on average, spend approximately ninety percent of their time indoors with the majority of this time spent at home (EPA, 2011). Some segments of the population that are most susceptible to the effects of poor IAQ, such as the very young and the elderly, occupy their homes almost continuously. Additionally, an increasing number of adults are working from home at least some of the time during the workweek. Indoor air quality also is a serious concern for workers in hotels, offices and other business establishments.

The concentrations of many air pollutants often are elevated in homes and other buildings relative to outdoor air because many of the materials and products used indoors contain and release a variety of pollutants to air (Hodgson et al., 2002; Offermann and Hodgson,

2011). With respect to indoor air contaminants for which inhalation is the primary route of exposure, the critical design and construction parameters are the provision of adequate ventilation and the reduction of indoor sources of the contaminants.

Indoor Formaldehyde Concentrations Impact. In the California New Home Study (CNHS) of 108 new homes in California (Offermann, 2009), 25 air contaminants were measured, and formaldehyde was identified as the indoor air contaminant with the highest cancer risk as determined by the California Proposition 65 Safe Harbor Levels (OEHHA, 2017a), No Significant Risk Levels (NSRL) for carcinogens. The NSRL is the daily intake level calculated to result in one excess case of cancer in an exposed population of 100,000 (i.e., ten in one million cancer risk) and for formaldehyde is 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{day}$. The NSRL concentration of formaldehyde that represents a daily dose of 40 μg is 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, assuming a continuous 24-hour exposure, a total daily inhaled air volume of 20 m^3 , and 100% absorption by the respiratory system. All of the CNHS homes exceeded this NSRL concentration of 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The median indoor formaldehyde concentration was 36 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and ranged from 4.8 to 136 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, which corresponds to a median exceedance of the 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ NSRL concentration of 18 and a range of 2.3 to 68.

Therefore, the cancer risk of a resident living in a California home with the median indoor formaldehyde concentration of 36 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, is 180 per million as a result of formaldehyde alone. The CEQA significance threshold for airborne cancer risk is 10 per million, as established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD, 2015).

Besides being a human carcinogen, formaldehyde is also a potent eye and respiratory irritant. In the CNHS, many homes exceeded the non-cancer reference exposure levels (RELs) prescribed by California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA, 2017b). The percentage of homes exceeding the RELs ranged from 98% for the Chronic REL of 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 28% for the Acute REL of 55 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The primary source of formaldehyde indoors is composite wood products manufactured with urea-formaldehyde resins, such as plywood, medium density fiberboard, and

particleboard. These materials are commonly used in building construction for flooring, cabinetry, baseboards, window shades, interior doors, and window and door trims.

In January 2009, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted an airborne toxics control measure (ATCM) to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, including hardwood plywood, particleboard, medium density fiberboard, and also furniture and other finished products made with these wood products (California Air Resources Board 2009). While this formaldehyde ATCM has resulted in reduced emissions from composite wood products sold in California, they do not preclude that homes built with composite wood products meeting the CARB ATCM will have indoor formaldehyde concentrations below cancer and non-cancer exposure guidelines.

A follow up study to the California New Home Study (CNHS) was conducted in 2016-2018 (Singer et. al., 2019), and found that the median indoor formaldehyde in new homes built after 2009 with CARB Phase 2 Formaldehyde ATCM materials had lower indoor formaldehyde concentrations, with a median indoor concentrations of $22.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (18.2 ppb) as compared to a median of $36 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ found in the 2007 CNHS. Unlike in the CNHS study where formaldehyde concentrations were measured with pumped DNPH samplers, the formaldehyde concentrations in the HENGH study were measured with passive samplers, which were estimated to under-measure the true indoor formaldehyde concentrations by approximately 7.5%. Applying this correction to the HENGH indoor formaldehyde concentrations results in a median indoor concentration of $24.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, which is 33% lower than the $36 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ found in the 2007 CNHS.

Thus, while new homes built after the 2009 CARB formaldehyde ATCM have a 33% lower median indoor formaldehyde concentration and cancer risk, the median lifetime cancer risk is still 120 per million for homes built with CARB compliant composite wood products. This median lifetime cancer risk is more than 12 times the OEHHHA 10 in a million cancer risk threshold (OEHHHA, 2017a).

With respect to the 905 Beacon Avenue Project, Los Angeles, CA the buildings consist of residential and commercial spaces.

The residential occupants will potentially have continuous exposure (e.g. 24 hours per day, 52 weeks per year). These exposures are anticipated to result in significant cancer risks resulting from exposures to formaldehyde released by the building materials and furnishing commonly found in residential construction.

Because these residences will be constructed with CARB Phase 2 Formaldehyde ATCM materials, and be ventilated with the minimum code required amount of outdoor air, the indoor residential formaldehyde concentrations are likely similar to those concentrations observed in residences built with CARB Phase 2 Formaldehyde ATCM materials, which is a median of $24.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Singer et. al., 2020).

Assuming that the residential occupants inhale 20 m^3 of air per day, the average 70-year lifetime formaldehyde daily dose is $482 \mu\text{g}/\text{day}$ for continuous exposure in the residences. This exposure represents a cancer risk of 120 per million, which is more than 12 times the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million. For occupants that do not have continuous exposure, the cancer risk will be proportionally less but still substantially over the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million (e.g. for 12/hour/day occupancy, more than 6 times the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million).

The employees of the commercial spaces are expected to experience significant indoor exposures (e.g., 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year). These exposures for employees are anticipated to result in significant cancer risks resulting from exposures to formaldehyde released by the building materials and furnishing commonly found in offices, warehouses, residences and hotels.

Because the commercial spaces will be constructed with CARB Phase 2 Formaldehyde ATCM materials, and be ventilated with the minimum code required amount of outdoor air, the indoor formaldehyde concentrations are likely similar to those concentrations observed in residences built with CARB Phase 2 Formaldehyde ATCM materials, which is a median of $24.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Singer et. al., 2020)

Assuming that the employees of commercial spaces work 8 hours per day and inhale 20

m³ of air per day, the formaldehyde dose per work-day at the offices is 161 µg/day.

Assuming that these employees work 5 days per week and 50 weeks per year for 45 years (start at age 20 and retire at age 65) the average 70-year lifetime formaldehyde daily dose is 70.9 µg/day.

This is 1.77 times the NSRL (OEHHA, 2017a) of 40 µg/day and represents a cancer risk of 17.7 per million, which exceeds the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million. This impact should be analyzed in an environmental impact report (“EIR”), and the agency should impose all feasible mitigation measures to reduce this impact. Several feasible mitigation measures are discussed below and these and other measures should be analyzed in an EIR.

In addition, we note that the average outdoor air concentration of formaldehyde in California is 3 ppb, or 3.7 µg/m³, (California Air Resources Board, 2004), and thus represents an average pre-existing background airborne cancer risk of 1.85 per million. Thus, the indoor air formaldehyde exposures describe above exacerbate this pre-existing risk resulting from outdoor air formaldehyde exposures.

Additionally, the Project site is located in an area with high vehicle traffic. The SCAQMD’s Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (“MATES V”) identifies an existing cancer risk at the site of 730 per million due to the site’s elevated ambient air contaminant concentrations, which are due to the area’s high levels of vehicle traffic. These impacts would further exacerbate the pre-existing cancer risk to residents, which result from exposure to formaldehyde in both indoor and outdoor air.

Appendix A, Indoor Formaldehyde Concentrations and the CARB Formaldehyde ATCM, provides analyses that show utilization of CARB Phase 2 Formaldehyde ATCM materials will not ensure acceptable cancer risks with respect to formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products.

Even composite wood products manufactured with CARB certified ultra low emitting formaldehyde (ULEF) resins do not insure that the indoor air will have concentrations of formaldehyde that meet the OEHHA cancer risks that substantially exceed 10 per million. The permissible emission rates for ULEF composite wood products are only 11-15% lower than the CARB Phase 2 emission rates. Only use of composite wood products made with no-added formaldehyde resins (NAF), such as resins made from soy, polyvinyl acetate, or methylene diisocyanate can insure that the OEHHA cancer risk of 10 per million is met.

The following describes a method that should be used, prior to construction in the environmental review under CEQA, for determining whether the indoor concentrations resulting from the formaldehyde emissions of specific building materials/furnishings selected exceed cancer and non-cancer guidelines. Such a design analyses can be used to identify those materials/furnishings prior to the completion of the City's CEQA review and project approval, that have formaldehyde emission rates that contribute to indoor concentrations that exceed cancer and non-cancer guidelines, so that alternative lower emitting materials/furnishings may be selected and/or higher minimum outdoor air ventilation rates can be increased to achieve acceptable indoor concentrations and incorporated as mitigation measures for this project.

Pre-Construction Building Material/Furnishing Formaldehyde Emissions Assessment

This formaldehyde emissions assessment should be used in the environmental review under CEQA to assess the indoor formaldehyde concentrations from the proposed loading of building materials/furnishings, the area-specific formaldehyde emission rate data for building materials/furnishings, and the design minimum outdoor air ventilation rates. This assessment allows the applicant (and the City) to determine, before the conclusion of the environmental review process and the building materials/furnishings are specified, purchased, and installed, if the total chemical emissions will exceed cancer and non-cancer guidelines, and if so, allow for changes in the selection of specific material/furnishings and/or the design minimum outdoor air ventilations rates such that cancer and non-cancer guidelines are not exceeded.

1.) Define Indoor Air Quality Zones. Divide the building into separate indoor air quality zones, (IAQ Zones). IAQ Zones are defined as areas of well-mixed air. Thus, each ventilation system with recirculating air is considered a single zone, and each room or group of rooms where air is not recirculated (e.g. 100% outdoor air) is considered a separate zone. For IAQ Zones with the same construction material/furnishings and design minimum outdoor air ventilation rates. (e.g. hotel rooms, apartments, condominiums, etc.) the formaldehyde emission rates need only be assessed for a single IAQ Zone of that type.

2.) Calculate Material/Furnishing Loading. For each IAQ Zone, determine the building material and furnishing loadings (e.g., m^2 of material/ m^2 floor area, units of furnishings/ m^2 floor area) from an inventory of all potential indoor formaldehyde sources, including flooring, ceiling tiles, furnishings, finishes, insulation, sealants, adhesives, and any products constructed with composite wood products containing urea-formaldehyde resins (e.g., plywood, medium density fiberboard, particleboard).

3.) Calculate the Formaldehyde Emission Rate. For each building material, calculate the formaldehyde emission rate ($\mu\text{g}/\text{h}$) from the product of the area-specific formaldehyde emission rate ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2\text{-h}$) and the area (m^2) of material in the IAQ Zone, and from each furnishing (e.g. chairs, desks, etc.) from the unit-specific formaldehyde emission rate ($\mu\text{g}/\text{unit-h}$) and the number of units in the IAQ Zone.

NOTE: As a result of the high-performance building rating systems and building codes (California Building Standards Commission, 2014; USGBC, 2014), most manufacturers of building materials furnishings sold in the United States conduct chemical emission rate tests using the California Department of Health “Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions for Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers,” (CDPH, 2017), or other equivalent chemical emission rate testing methods. Most manufacturers of building furnishings sold in the United States conduct chemical emission rate tests using ANSI/BIFMA M7.1 Standard Test Method for Determining VOC Emissions (BIFMA, 2018), or other equivalent chemical emission rate testing methods.

CDPH, BIFMA, and other chemical emission rate testing programs, typically certify that a material or furnishing does not create indoor chemical concentrations in excess of the maximum concentrations permitted by their certification. For instance, the CDPH emission rate testing requires that the measured emission rates when input into an office, school, or residential model do not exceed one-half of the OEHHA Chronic Exposure Guidelines (OEHHA, 2017b) for the 35 specific VOCs, including formaldehyde, listed in Table 4-1 of the CDPH test method (CDPH, 2017). These certifications themselves do not provide the actual area-specific formaldehyde emission rate (i.e., $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2\text{-h}$) of the product, but rather provide data that the formaldehyde emission rates do not exceed the maximum rate allowed for the certification. Thus, for example, the data for a certification of a specific type of flooring may be used to calculate that the area-specific emission rate of formaldehyde is less than $31 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2\text{-h}$, but not the actual measured specific emission rate, which may be 3, 18, or $30 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2\text{-h}$. These area-specific emission rates determined from the product certifications of CDPH, BIFA, and other certification programs can be used as an initial estimate of the formaldehyde emission rate.

If the actual area-specific emission rates of a building material or furnishing is needed (i.e. the initial emission rates estimates from the product certifications are higher than desired), then that data can be acquired by requesting from the manufacturer the complete chemical emission rate test report. For instance if the complete CDPH emission test report is requested for a CDHP certified product, that report will provide the actual area-specific emission rates for not only the 35 specific VOCs, including formaldehyde, listed in Table 4-1 of the CDPH test method (CDPH, 2017), but also all of the cancer and reproductive/developmental chemicals listed in the California Proposition 65 Safe Harbor Levels (OEHHA, 2017a), all of the toxic air contaminants (TACs) in the California Air Resources Board Toxic Air Contamination List (CARB, 2011), and the 10 chemicals with the greatest emission rates.

Alternatively, a sample of the building material or furnishing can be submitted to a chemical emission rate testing laboratory, such as Berkeley Analytical Laboratory (<https://berkeleyanalytical.com>), to measure the formaldehyde emission rate.

4.) Calculate the Total Formaldehyde Emission Rate. For each IAQ Zone, calculate the total formaldehyde emission rate (i.e. µg/h) from the individual formaldehyde emission rates from each of the building material/furnishings as determined in Step 3.

5.) Calculate the Indoor Formaldehyde Concentration. For each IAQ Zone, calculate the indoor formaldehyde concentration (µg/m³) from Equation 1 by dividing the total formaldehyde emission rates (i.e. µg/h) as determined in Step 4, by the design minimum outdoor air ventilation rate (m³/h) for the IAQ Zone.

$$C_{in} = \frac{E_{total}}{Q_{oa}} \text{ (Equation 1)}$$

where:

C_{in} = indoor formaldehyde concentration (µg/m³)

E_{total} = total formaldehyde emission rate (µg/h) into the IAQ Zone.

Q_{oa} = design minimum outdoor air ventilation rate to the IAQ Zone (m³/h)

The above Equation 1 is based upon mass balance theory, and is referenced in Section 3.10.2 “Calculation of Estimated Building Concentrations” of the California Department of Health “Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions for Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers”, (CDPH, 2017).

6.) Calculate the Indoor Exposure Cancer and Non-Cancer Health Risks. For each IAQ Zone, calculate the cancer and non-cancer health risks from the indoor formaldehyde concentrations determined in Step 5 and as described in the OEHHA Air Toxics Hot Spots Program Risk Assessment Guidelines; Guidance Manual for Preparation of Health Risk Assessments (OEHHA, 2015).

7.) Mitigate Indoor Formaldehyde Exposures of exceeding the CEQA Cancer and/or Non-Cancer Health Risks. In each IAQ Zone, provide mitigation for any formaldehyde exposure risk as determined in Step 6, that exceeds the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million or the CEQA non-cancer Hazard Quotient of 1.0.

Provide the source and/or ventilation mitigation required in all IAQ Zones to reduce the

health risks of the chemical exposures below the CEQA cancer and non-cancer health risks.

Source mitigation for formaldehyde may include:

- 1.) reducing the amount materials and/or furnishings that emit formaldehyde
- 2.) substituting a different material with a lower area-specific emission rate of formaldehyde

Ventilation mitigation for formaldehyde emitted from building materials and/or furnishings may include:

- 1.) increasing the design minimum outdoor air ventilation rate to the IAQ Zone.

NOTE: Mitigating the formaldehyde emissions through use of less material/furnishings, or use of lower emitting materials/furnishings, is the preferred mitigation option, as mitigation with increased outdoor air ventilation increases initial and operating costs associated with the heating/cooling systems.

Further, we are not asking that the builder “speculate” on what and how much composite materials be used, but rather at the design stage to select composite wood materials based on the formaldehyde emission rates that manufacturers routinely conduct using the California Department of Health “Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions for Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers,” (CDPH, 2017), and use the procedure described earlier above (i.e. Pre-Construction Building Material/Furnishing Formaldehyde Emissions Assessment) to insure that the materials selected achieve acceptable cancer risks from material off gassing of formaldehyde.

Outdoor Air Ventilation Impact. Another important finding of the CNHS, was that the outdoor air ventilation rates in the homes were very low. Outdoor air ventilation is a very important factor influencing the indoor concentrations of air contaminants, as it is the primary removal mechanism of all indoor air generated contaminants. Lower outdoor air exchange rates cause indoor generated air contaminants to accumulate to higher indoor air

concentrations. Many homeowners rarely open their windows or doors for ventilation as a result of their concerns for security/safety, noise, dust, and odor concerns (Price, 2007). In the CNHS field study, 32% of the homes did not use their windows during the 24-hour Test Day, and 15% of the homes did not use their windows during the entire preceding week. Most of the homes with no window usage were homes in the winter field session. Thus, a substantial percentage of homeowners never open their windows, especially in the winter season. The median 24-hour measurement was 0.26 air changes per hour (ach), with a range of 0.09 ach to 5.3 ach. A total of 67% of the homes had outdoor air exchange rates below the minimum California Building Code (2001) requirement of 0.35 ach. Thus, the relatively tight envelope construction, combined with the fact that many people never open their windows for ventilation, results in homes with low outdoor air exchange rates and higher indoor air contaminant concentrations.

According to the Sustainable Communities Project Exemption – 905 Beacon Avenue Project (CAJA Environmental Services, 2022) the Project is close to roads with moderate to high traffic (e.g., Beacon Avenue, West Olympic Avenue, James M. Wood Boulevard, South Burlington Avenue, etc.).

As a result of the high outdoor traffic noise levels, the current project will require a mechanical supply of outdoor air ventilation to allow for a habitable interior environment with closed windows and doors. Such a ventilation system would allow windows and doors to be kept closed at the occupant's discretion to control exterior noise within building interiors.

PM_{2.5} Outdoor Concentrations Impact. An additional impact of the nearby motor vehicle traffic associated with this project, are the outdoor concentrations of PM_{2.5}. According to the Sustainable Communities Project Exemption – 905 Beacon Avenue Project (CAJA Environmental Services, 2022) the Project is located in the South Coast Air Basin, which is a State and Federal non-attainment area for PM_{2.5}.

Additionally, the SCAQMD's MATES V study cites an existing cancer risk of 760 per million at the Project site due to the site's high concentration of ambient air contaminants resulting from the area's high levels of motor vehicle traffic.

An air quality analyses should to be conducted to determine the concentrations of PM_{2.5} in the outdoor and indoor air that people inhale each day. This air quality analyses needs to consider the cumulative impacts of the project related emissions, existing and projected future emissions from local PM_{2.5} sources (e.g. stationary sources, motor vehicles, and airport traffic) upon the outdoor air concentrations at the Project site. If the outdoor concentrations are determined to exceed the California and National annual average PM_{2.5} exceedence concentration of 12 µg/m³, or the National 24-hour average exceedence concentration of 35 µg/m³, then the buildings need to have a mechanical supply of outdoor air that has air filtration with sufficient removal efficiency, such that the indoor concentrations of outdoor PM_{2.5} particles is less than the California and National PM_{2.5} annual and 24-hour standards.

It is my experience that based on the projected high traffic noise levels, the annual average concentration of PM_{2.5} will exceed the California and National PM_{2.5} annual and 24-hour standards and warrant installation of high efficiency air filters (i.e. MERV 13 or higher) in all mechanically supplied outdoor air ventilation systems.

Indoor Air Quality Impact Mitigation Measures

The following are recommended mitigation measures to minimize the impacts upon indoor quality:

Indoor Formaldehyde Concentrations Mitigation. Use only composite wood materials (e.g. hardwood plywood, medium density fiberboard, particleboard) for all interior finish systems that are made with CARB approved no-added formaldehyde (NAF) resins (CARB, 2009). CARB Phase 2 certified composite wood products, or ultra-low emitting formaldehyde (ULEF) resins, do not insure indoor formaldehyde concentrations that are below the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million. Only composite wood products

manufactured with CARB approved no-added formaldehyde (NAF) resins, such as resins made from soy, polyvinyl acetate, or methylene diisocyanate can insure that the OEHHA cancer risk of 10 per million is met.

Alternatively, conduct the previously described Pre-Construction Building Material/Furnishing Chemical Emissions Assessment, to determine that the combination of formaldehyde emissions from building materials and furnishings do not create indoor formaldehyde concentrations that exceed the CEQA cancer and non-cancer health risks.

It is important to note that we are not asking that the builder “speculate” on what and how much composite materials be used, but rather at the design stage to select composite wood materials based on the formaldehyde emission rates that manufacturers routinely conduct using the California Department of Health “Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions for Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers”, (CDPH, 2017), and use the procedure described above (i.e. Pre-Construction Building Material/Furnishing Formaldehyde Emissions Assessment) to insure that the materials selected achieve acceptable cancer risks from material off gassing of formaldehyde.

Outdoor Air Ventilation Mitigation. Provide each habitable room with a continuous mechanical supply of outdoor air that meets or exceeds the California 2016 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (California Energy Commission, 2015) requirements of the greater of 15 cfm/occupant or 0.15 cfm/ft² of floor area. Following installation of the system conduct testing and balancing to insure that required amount of outdoor air is entering each habitable room and provide a written report documenting the outdoor airflow rates. Do not use exhaust only mechanical outdoor air systems, use only balanced outdoor air supply and exhaust systems or outdoor air supply only systems. Provide a manual for the occupants or maintenance personnel, that describes the purpose of the mechanical outdoor air system and the operation and maintenance requirements of the system.

PM_{2.5} Outdoor Air Concentration Mitigation. Install air filtration with sufficient PM_{2.5} removal efficiency (e.g. MERV 13 or higher) to filter the outdoor air entering the mechanical outdoor air supply systems, such that the indoor concentrations of outdoor PM_{2.5} particles are less than the California and National PM_{2.5} annual and 24-hour standards. Install the air filters in the system such that they are accessible for replacement by the occupants or maintenance personnel. Include in the mechanical outdoor air ventilation system manual instructions on how to replace the air filters and the estimated frequency of replacement.

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APPENDIX A

INDOOR FORMALDEHYDE CONCENTRATIONS AND THE CARB FORMALDEHYDE ATCM

With respect to formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, the CARB ATCM regulations of formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, do not assure healthful indoor air quality. The following is the stated purpose of the CARB ATCM regulation - *The purpose of this airborne toxic control measure is to “reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, and finished goods that contain composite wood products, that are sold, offered for sale, supplied, used, or manufactured for sale in California”*. In other words, the CARB ATCM regulations do not “assure healthful indoor air quality”, but rather “reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products”.

Just how much protection do the CARB ATCM regulations provide building occupants from the formaldehyde emissions generated by composite wood products? Definitely some, but certainly the regulations do not “*assure healthful indoor air quality*” when CARB Phase 2 products are utilized. As shown in the Chan 2019 study of new California homes, the median indoor formaldehyde concentration was of $22.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (18.2 ppb), which corresponds to a cancer risk of 112 per million for occupants with continuous exposure, which is more than 11 times the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million.

Another way of looking at how much protection the CARB ATCM regulations provide building occupants from the formaldehyde emissions generated by composite wood products is to calculate the maximum number of square feet of composite wood product that can be in a residence without exceeding the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million for occupants with continuous occupancy.

For this calculation I utilized the floor area ($2,272 \text{ ft}^2$), the ceiling height (8.5 ft), and the number of bedrooms (4) as defined in Appendix B (New Single-Family Residence Scenario) of the Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions for Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1, 2017, California

Department of Public Health, Richmond, CA. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHLB/IAQ/Pages/VOC.aspx>.

For the outdoor air ventilation rate I used the 2019 Title 24 code required mechanical ventilation rate (ASHRAE 62.2) of 106 cfm (180 m³/h) calculated for this model residence. For the composite wood formaldehyde emission rates I used the CARB ATCM Phase 2 rates.

The calculated maximum number of square feet of composite wood product that can be in a residence, without exceeding the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million for occupants with continuous occupancy are as follows for the different types of regulated composite wood products.

Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) – 15 ft² (0.7% of the floor area), or
Particle Board – 30 ft² (1.3% of the floor area), or
Hardwood Plywood – 54 ft² (2.4% of the floor area), or
Thin MDF – 46 ft² (2.0 % of the floor area).

For offices and hotels the calculated maximum amount of composite wood product (% of floor area) that can be used without exceeding the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million for occupants, assuming 8 hours/day occupancy, and the California Mechanical Code minimum outdoor air ventilation rates are as follows for the different types of regulated composite wood products.

Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) – 3.6 % (offices) and 4.6% (hotel rooms), or
Particle Board – 7.2 % (offices) and 9.4% (hotel rooms), or
Hardwood Plywood – 13 % (offices) and 17% (hotel rooms), or
Thin MDF – 11 % (offices) and 14 % (hotel rooms)

Clearly the CARB ATCM does not regulate the formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products such that the potentially large areas of these products, such as for flooring, baseboards, interior doors, window and door trims, and kitchen and bathroom cabinetry,

could be used without causing indoor formaldehyde concentrations that result in CEQA cancer risks that substantially exceed 10 per million for occupants with continuous occupancy.

Even composite wood products manufactured with CARB certified ultra low emitting formaldehyde (ULEF) resins do not insure that the indoor air will have concentrations of formaldehyde that meet the OEHHA cancer risks that substantially exceed 10 per million. The permissible emission rates for ULEF composite wood products are only 11-15% lower than the CARB Phase 2 emission rates. Only use of composite wood products made with no-added formaldehyde resins (NAF), such as resins made from soy, polyvinyl acetate, or methylene diisocyanate can insure that the OEHHA cancer risk of 10 per million is met.

If CARB Phase 2 compliant or ULEF composite wood products are utilized in construction, then the resulting indoor formaldehyde concentrations should be determined in the design phase using the specific amounts of each type of composite wood product, the specific formaldehyde emission rates, and the volume and outdoor air ventilation rates of the indoor spaces, and all feasible mitigation measures employed to reduce this impact (e.g. use less formaldehyde containing composite wood products and/or incorporate mechanical systems capable of higher outdoor air ventilation rates). See the procedure described earlier (i.e. Pre-Construction Building Material/Furnishing Formaldehyde Emissions Assessment) to insure that the materials selected achieve acceptable cancer risks from material off gassing of formaldehyde.

Alternatively, and perhaps a simpler approach, is to use only composite wood products (e.g. hardwood plywood, medium density fiberboard, particleboard) for all interior finish systems that are made with CARB approved no-added formaldehyde (NAF) resins.

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Education

M.S. Mechanical Engineering (1985)
Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

Graduate Studies in Air Pollution Monitoring and Control (1980)
University of California, Berkeley, CA.

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (1976)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

Professional Experience

President: Indoor Environmental Engineering, San Francisco, CA. December, 1981 - present.

Direct team of environmental scientists, chemists, and mechanical engineers in conducting State and Federal research regarding indoor air quality instrumentation development, building air quality field studies, ventilation and air cleaning performance measurements, and chemical emission rate testing.

Provide design side input to architects regarding selection of building materials and ventilation system components to ensure a high quality indoor environment.

Direct Indoor Air Quality Consulting Team for the winning design proposal for the new State of Washington Ecology Department building.

Develop a full-scale ventilation test facility for measuring the performance of air diffusers; ASHRAE 129, Air Change Effectiveness, and ASHRAE 113, Air Diffusion Performance Index.

Develop a chemical emission rate testing laboratory for measuring the chemical emissions from building materials, furnishings, and equipment.

Principle Investigator of the California New Homes Study (2005-2007). Measured ventilation and indoor air quality in 108 new single family detached homes in northern and southern California.

Develop and teach IAQ professional development workshops to building owners, managers, hygienists, and engineers.

Air Pollution Engineer: Earth Metrics Inc., Burlingame, CA, October, 1985 to March, 1987.

Responsible for development of an air pollution laboratory including installation a forced choice olfactometer, tracer gas electron capture chromatograph, and associated calibration facilities. Field team leader for studies of fugitive odor emissions from sewage treatment plants, entrainment of fume hood exhausts into computer chip fabrication rooms, and indoor air quality investigations.

Staff Scientist: Building Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Program, Energy and Environment Division, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, CA. January, 1980 to August, 1984.

Deputy project leader for the Control Techniques group; responsible for laboratory and field studies aimed at evaluating the performance of indoor air pollutant control strategies (i.e. ventilation, filtration, precipitation, absorption, adsorption, and source control).

Coordinated field and laboratory studies of air-to-air heat exchangers including evaluation of thermal performance, ventilation efficiency, cross-stream contaminant transfer, and the effects of freezing/defrosting.

Developed an *in situ* test protocol for evaluating the performance of air cleaning systems and introduced the concept of effective cleaning rate (ECR) also known as the Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR).

Coordinated laboratory studies of portable and ducted air cleaning systems and their effect on indoor concentrations of respirable particles and radon progeny.

Co-designed an automated instrument system for measuring residential ventilation rates and radon concentrations.

Designed hardware and software for a multi-channel automated data acquisition system used to evaluate the performance of air-to-air heat transfer equipment.

Assistant Chief Engineer: Alta Bates Hospital, Berkeley, CA, October, 1979 to January, 1980.

Responsible for energy management projects involving installation of power factor correction capacitors on large inductive electrical devices and installation of steam meters on physical plant steam lines. Member of Local 39, International Union of Operating Engineers.

Manufacturing Engineer: American Precision Industries, Buffalo, NY, October, 1977 to October, 1979.

Responsible for reorganizing the manufacturing procedures regarding production of shell and tube heat exchangers. Designed customized automatic assembly, welding, and testing equipment. Designed a large paint spray booth. Prepared economic studies justifying new equipment purchases. Safety Director.

Project Engineer: Arcata Graphics, Buffalo, N.Y. June, 1976 to October, 1977.

Responsible for the design and installation of a bulk ink storage and distribution system and high speed automatic counting and marking equipment. Also coordinated material handling studies which led to the purchase and installation of new equipment.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)

- Chairman of SPC-145P, Standards Project Committee - Test Method for Assessing the Performance of Gas Phase Air Cleaning Equipment (1991-1992)
- Member SPC-129P, Standards Project Committee - Test Method for Ventilation Effectiveness (1986-97)
 - Member of Drafting Committee
- Member Environmental Health Committee (1992-1994, 1997-2001, 2007-2010)
 - Chairman of EHC Research Subcommittee
 - Member of Man Made Mineral Fiber Position Paper Subcommittee
 - Member of the IAQ Position Paper Committee
 - Member of the Legionella Position Paper Committee
 - Member of the Limiting Indoor Mold and Dampness in Buildings Position Paper Committee
- Member SSPC-62, Standing Standards Project Committee - Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality (1992 to 2000)
 - Chairman of Source Control and Air Cleaning Subcommittee
- Chairman of TC-4.10, Indoor Environmental Modeling (1988-92)
 - Member of Research Subcommittee
- Chairman of TC-2.3, Gaseous Air Contaminants and Control Equipment (1989-92)
 - Member of Research Subcommittee

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)

- D-22 Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres
 - Member of Indoor Air Quality Subcommittee
- E-06 Performance of Building Constructions

American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH)

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH)

- Bioaerosols Committee (2007-2013)

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)

Cal-OSHA Indoor Air Quality Advisory Committee

International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ)

- Co-Chairman of Task Force on HVAC Hygiene

U. S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

- Member of the IEQ Technical Advisory Group (2007-2009)
- Member of the IAQ Performance Testing Work Group (2010-2012)

Western Construction Consultants (WESTCON)

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Licensed Professional Engineer - Mechanical Engineering

Certified Industrial Hygienist - American Board of Industrial Hygienists

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AND SYMPOSIA

Biological Contamination, Diagnosis, and Mitigation, Indoor Air'90, Toronto, Canada, August, 1990.

Models for Predicting Air Quality, Indoor Air'90, Toronto, Canada, August, 1990.

Microbes in Building Materials and Systems, Indoor Air '93, Helsinki, Finland, July, 1993.

Microorganisms in Indoor Air Assessment and Evaluation of Health Effects and Probable Causes, Walnut Creek, CA, February 27, 1997.

Controlling Microbial Moisture Problems in Buildings, Walnut Creek, CA, February 27, 1997.

Scientific Advisory Committee, Roomvent 98, 6th International Conference on Air Distribution in Rooms, KTH, Stockholm, Sweden, June 14-17, 1998.

Moisture and Mould, Indoor Air '99, Edinburgh, Scotland, August, 1999.

Ventilation Modeling and Simulation, Indoor Air '99, Edinburgh, Scotland, August, 1999.

Microbial Growth in Materials, Healthy Buildings 2000, Espoo, Finland, August, 2000.

Co-Chair, Bioaerosols X- Exposures in Residences, Indoor Air 2002, Monterey, CA, July 2002.

Healthy Indoor Environments, Anaheim, CA, April 2003.

Chair, Environmental Tobacco Smoke in Multi-Family Homes, Indoor Air 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark, July 2008.

Co-Chair, ISIAQ Task Force Workshop; HVAC Hygiene, Indoor Air 2002, Monterey, CA, July 2002.

Chair, ETS in Multi-Family Housing: Exposures, Controls, and Legalities Forum, Healthy Buildings 2009, Syracuse, CA, September 14, 2009.

Chair, Energy Conservation and IAQ in Residences Workshop, Indoor Air 2011, Austin, TX, June 6, 2011.

Chair, Electronic Cigarettes: Chemical Emissions and Exposures Colloquium, Indoor Air 2016, Ghent, Belgium, July 4, 2016.

SPECIAL CONSULTATION

Provide consultation to the American Home Appliance Manufacturers on the development of a standard for testing portable air cleaners, AHAM Standard AC-1.

Served as an expert witness and special consultant for the U.S. Federal Trade Commission regarding the performance claims found in advertisements of portable air cleaners and residential furnace filters.

Conducted a forensic investigation for a San Mateo, CA pro se defendant, regarding an alleged homicide where the victim was kidnapped in a steamer trunk. Determined the air exchange rate in the steamer trunk and how long the person could survive.

Conducted *in situ* measurement of human exposure to toluene fumes released during nailpolish application for a plaintiffs attorney pursuing a California Proposition 65 product labeling case. June, 1993.

Conducted a forensic *in situ* investigation for the Butte County, CA Sheriff's Department of the emissions of a portable heater used in the bedroom of two twin one year old girls who suffered simultaneous crib death.

Consult with OSHA on the 1995 proposed new regulation regarding indoor air quality and environmental tobacco smoke.

Consult with EPA on the proposed Building Alliance program and with OSHA on the proposed new OSHA IAQ regulation.

Johnson Controls Audit/Certification Expert Review; Milwaukee, WI. May 28-29, 1997.

Winner of the nationally published 1999 Request for Proposals by the State of Washington to conduct a comprehensive indoor air quality investigation of the Washington State Department of Ecology building in Lacey, WA.

Selected by the State of California Attorney General's Office in August, 2000 to conduct a comprehensive indoor air quality investigation of the Tulare County Court House.

Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory IAQ Experts Workshop: "Cause and Prevention of Sick Building Problems in Offices: The Experience of Indoor Environmental Quality Investigators", Berkeley, California, May 26-27, 2004.

Provide consultation and chemical emission rate testing to the State of California Attorney General's Office in 2013-2015 regarding the chemical emissions from e-cigarettes.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS :

F.J.Offermann, C.D.Hollowell, and G.D.Roseme, "Low-Infiltration Housing in Rochester, New York: A Study of Air Exchange Rates and Indoor Air Quality," *Environment International*, 8, pp. 435-445, 1982.

W.W.Nazaroff, F.J.Offermann, and A.W.Robb, "Automated System for Measuring Air Exchange Rate and Radon Concentration in Houses," *Health Physics*, 45, pp. 525-537, 1983.

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“Workshop 18: Criteria for Cleaning of Air Handling Systems”, Healthy Buildings 2000, Espoo, Finland, August 2000.

“Closing Session Summary: ‘Building Investigations’ and ‘Building Design & Construction’”, Healthy Buildings 2000, Espoo, Finland, August 2000.

“Managing Building Air Quality and Energy Efficiency, Meeting the Standard of Care”, BOMA, MidAtlantic Environmental Hygiene Resource Center, Seattle, WA, May 23rd, 2000; San Antonio, TX, September 26-27, 2000.

“Diagnostics & Mitigation in Sick Buildings: When Good Buildings Go Bad,” University of California Berkeley, September 18, 2001.

“Mold Contamination: Recognition and What To Do and Not Do”, Redwood Empire Remodelers Association; Santa Rosa, CA, April 16, 2002.

“Investigative Tools of the IAQ Trade”, Healthy Indoor Environments 2002; Austin, TX; April 22, 2002.

“Finding Hidden Mold: Case Studies in IAQ Investigations”, AIHA Northern California Professionals Symposium; Oakland, CA, May 8, 2002.

“Assessing and Mitigating Fungal Contamination in Buildings”, Cal/OSHA Training; Oakland, CA, February 14, 2003 and West Covina, CA, February 20-21, 2003.

“Use of External Containments During Fungal Mitigation”, Invited Speaker, ACGIH Mold Remediation Symposium, Orlando, FL, November 3-5, 2003.

Building Operator Certification (BOC), 106-IAQ Training Workshops, Northwest Energy Efficiency Council; Stockton, CA, December 3, 2003; San Francisco, CA, December 9, 2003; Irvine, CA, January 13, 2004; San Diego, January 14, 2004; Irwindale, CA, January 27, 2004; Downey, CA, January 28, 2004; Santa Monica, CA, March 16, 2004; Ontario, CA, March 17, 2004; Ontario, CA, November 9, 2004, San Diego, CA, November 10, 2004; San Francisco, CA, November 17, 2004; San Jose, CA, November 18, 2004; Sacramento, CA, March 15, 2005.

“Mold Remediation: The National QUEST for Uniformity Symposium”, Invited Speaker, Orlando, Florida, November 3-5, 2003.

“Mold and Moisture Control”, Indoor Air Quality workshop for The Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS), San Francisco, December 11, 2003.

“Advanced Perspectives In Mold Prevention & Control Symposium”, Invited Speaker, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 7-9, 2004.

“Building Sciences: Understanding and Controlling Moisture in Buildings”, American Industrial Hygiene Association, San Francisco, CA, February 14-16, 2005.

“Indoor Air Quality Diagnostics and Healthy Building Design”, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, March 2, 2005.

“Improving IAQ = Reduced Tenant Complaints”, Northern California Facilities Exposition, Santa Clara, CA, September 27, 2007.

“Defining Safe Building Air”, Criteria for Safe Air and Water in Buildings, ASHRAE Winter Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 27, 2008.

“Update on USGBC LEED and Air Filtration”, Invited Speaker, NAFA 2008 Convention, San Francisco, CA, September 19, 2008.

“Ventilation and Indoor air Quality in New California Homes”, National Center of Healthy Housing, October 20, 2008.

“Indoor Air Quality in New Homes”, California Energy and Air Quality Conference, October 29, 2008.

“Mechanical Outdoor air Ventilation Systems and IAQ in New Homes”, ACI Home Performance Conference, Kansas City, MO, April 29, 2009.

“Ventilation and IAQ in New Homes with and without Mechanical Outdoor Air Systems”, Healthy Buildings 2009, Syracuse, CA, September 14, 2009.

“Ten Ways to Improve Your Air Quality”, Northern California Facilities Exposition, Santa Clara, CA, September 30, 2009.

“New Developments in Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality in Residential Buildings”, Westcon meeting, Alameda, CA, March 17, 2010.

“Intermittent Residential Mechanical Outdoor Air Ventilation Systems and IAQ”, ASHRAE SSPC 62.2 Meeting, Austin, TX, April 19, 2010.

“Measured IAQ in Homes”, ACI Home Performance Conference, Austin, TX, April 21, 2010.

“Respiration: IEQ and Ventilation”, AIHce 2010, How IH Can LEED in Green buildings, Denver, CO, May 23, 2010.

“IAQ Considerations for Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB)”, Northern California Facilities Exposition, Santa Clara, CA, September 22, 2010.

“Energy Conservation and Health in Buildings”, Berkeley High School Green Career Week, Berkeley, CA, April 12, 2011.

“What Pollutants are Really There ?”, ACI Home Performance Conference, San Francisco, CA, March 30, 2011.

“Energy Conservation and Health in Residences Workshop”, Indoor Air 2011, Austin, TX, June 6, 2011.

“Assessing IAQ and Improving Health in Residences”, US EPA Weatherization Plus Health, September 7, 2011.

“Ventilation: What a Long Strange Trip It’s Been”, Westcon, May 21, 2014.

“Chemical Emissions from E-Cigarettes: Direct and Indirect Passive Exposures”, Indoor Air 2014, Hong Kong, July, 2014.

“Infectious Disease Aerosol Exposures With and Without Surge Control Ventilation System Modifications”, Indoor Air 2014, Hong Kong, July, 2014.

“Chemical Emissions from E-Cigarettes”, IMF Health and Welfare Fair, Washington, DC, February 18, 2015.

“Chemical Emissions and Health Hazards Associated with E-Cigarettes”, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY, August 15, 2014.

“Formaldehyde Indoor Concentrations, Material Emission Rates, and the CARB ATCM”, Harris Martin’s Lumber Liquidators Flooring Litigation Conference, WQ Minneapolis Hotel, May 27, 2015.

“Chemical Emissions from E-Cigarettes: Direct and Indirect Passive Exposure”, FDA Public Workshop: Electronic Cigarettes and the Public Health, Hyattsville, MD June 2, 2015.

“Creating Healthy Homes, Schools, and Workplaces”, Chautauqua Institution, Athenaeum Hotel, August 24, 2015.

“Diagnosing IAQ Problems and Designing Healthy Buildings”, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, October 6, 2015.

“Diagnosing Ventilation and IAQ Problems in Commercial Buildings”, BEST Center Annual Institute, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, January 6, 2016.

“A Review of Studies of Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality in New Homes and Impacts of Environmental Factors on Formaldehyde Emission Rates From Composite Wood Products”, AIHce2016, May, 21-26, 2016.

“Admissibility of Scientific Testimony”, Science in the Court, Proposition 65 Clearinghouse Annual Conference, Oakland, CA, September 15, 2016.

“Indoor Air Quality and Ventilation”, ASHRAE Redwood Empire, Napa, CA, December 1, 2016.