



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Actions Title: Bayview Parcel 1 Cleanup Project and BioEPIC Project, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
(**LB-CX-19-03**)

Program or Field Office: Berkeley Site Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Berkeley, Alameda County, California

Proposed Actions Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes projects to remediate and restore the Bayview Planning Area Parcel 1 (the **Bayview Parcel 1 Cleanup Project**) and to design, construct, operate, and modify a parcel lease for a new facility called the Biological and Environmental Program Integration Center (BioEPIC; also herein “the **BioEPIC Project**”) at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). Both projects would take place within the LBNL “Bayview Planning Area,” with some overlap in project footprints and construction schedules. Although each project would be a “stand-alone” project with independent utility, in keeping with 40 CFR §1508.25(a)(3) and reflected herein, DOE has evaluated and considered these proposed projects together as “similar actions” with “common timing and geography” in its categorical exclusion decision making process. This is a prudent approach to ensure consideration of any potential cumulative effects of similar actions (40 CFR §1508.7 and §1508.8), and to document the determination that such effects do not constitute cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)). This is consistent with the discretion NEPA provides to federal lead agencies (e.g., 40 CFR §1506.4).

Bayview Parcel 1 Cleanup Project

The purpose of this proposed Bayview Parcel 1 Cleanup Project is to remove abandoned foundation elements and tunnels along with any legacy subsurface contamination. This includes material and substances associated with the former Bevatron (accelerator facility) and associated facilities that were demolished and removed during the past fifteen years (Demolition of Building 51 and the Bevatron, DOE/EA—1541, FONSI, March, 2008; Bldg. 51B Demolition CX, 2003). The Bayview Parcel 1 Cleanup Project would include excavation, testing for contamination in subsurface soils and artifacts, demolition and disposal of existing utility tunnels and building slabs that were located beneath the former Building 51B, removal of currently active and inactive utilities, demolition and removal of Building 51F, and remediation of subsurface soil contamination.

At present, the 1.4-acre Bayview Parcel 1 Cleanup project site is mostly flat, paved, and used for parking, lay-down, and storage (see Figure 1). Building foundation slabs and tunnels that had underlain the former Building 51B (a large experimental support building) were not removed as part of the Bevatron demolition project. These slabs and tunnels may contain small areas of induced radiological contamination along with potential lead-based paint, asbestos, mercury, beryllium dust, and/or polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination. Building 51F is an approximately 1,500 square-foot sheet-metal building that was installed in 1979. The utility tunnels contain piping, electrical wiring, and communication lines including several active but antiquated services (e.g., 12kV electrical, water, and sanitary sewer) and other inactive systems (e.g., steam and gas lines). Site soils are suspected to contain pockets of mercury, PCB, and volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination.

The proposed work would follow a process that would include a planning phase followed by field implementation and final closeout phases. Remediation standards would be set following receipt of analytical results of testing conducted during the project planning and preparation phase and possible regulatory agency notification and involvement. The project planning and preparation phase is expected to commence in mid-2019, with the main tunnel and slab removal work expected to begin in late 2019 and continue off-and-on until mid-2022. The project would focus first on excavating and clearing the southern portion of Parcel 1; afterward, efforts would focus on a smaller site in the northern portion of Parcel 1. Wastes would be handled, packaged, and transported for disposal or other disposition at appropriate facilities. Work shifts would occur during normal business hours, likely four days per week. An average of 20 workers is anticipated on site during any work shift. An estimated 400 truckloads of material may be off-hauled over the project life, which averages to about one or fewer out-bound trucks per day during field implementation. Dust and soil track-out control measures would be implemented during all excavation and soil transportation activities.

BioEPIC Project

The BioEPIC Project’s purpose is to provide, within close proximity to LBNL’s user facilities and other resources, a unique platform for multidisciplinary study of carefully controlled ecosystems. In particular, BioEPIC would explore the relationship between microbial communities and environmental systems, or biomes. The proposed BioEPIC Project would include construction of an approximately 55,000—90,000 gross-square-foot (gsf), four-story laboratory/office building (roughly 57% laboratory and 43% office and support space); site development, including roadway, plaza, and service areas; and utility connections to existing Lab infrastructure, including to the nearby Modular Utility Building (MUP) (Please see Figures 2 through 5). The leased parcel containing BioEPIC would be modified and extended for a 50-year term.

BioEPIC would accommodate approximately 210 occupants, all of whom are expected to be drawn from the LBNL’s existing population. Approximately 125 occupants would likely be relocated from the “Potter Street” off-site leased facility in nearby Emeryville, with the remainder drawn from existing staff at LBNL’s main campus site. The BioEPIC Project would also include “interface” activities such as moving staff and installing furnishings, equipment, and utility/IT infrastructure into the building. Building sustainability goals include achieving LEED v4 Gold Certification.

At present, the 49,270-square-foot proposed BioEPIC project site is mostly flat, paved, and used for parking, lay-down, and storage. The approximately 24-month BioEPIC construction would be scheduled to commence in early 2021; occupancy would begin as early as the beginning of 2023. Construction would include minor excavation for foundation placement, building erection and finishing, and installation of exterior elements such as utility connections, service roadway, and landscape elements. Heavy equipment and hauling trucks would be employed; work would be expected to take place during business hours on weekdays. An average of 100-140 on-site workers would be anticipated during any work day. An estimated 2,500 truckloads of material are anticipated to be hauled in or out over the construction period.

Cumulative Context

The on-going Integrative Genomics Building construction would be completed prior to the field implementation/construction phases of either the Bayview Parcel 1 Cleanup or the BioEPIC project. The approved Bayview Site Utility Replacement Project (SURP) is the only other reasonably foreseeable project in the Bayview Planning Area. Additional lab/office buildings have been the subject of Bayview area long-range conceptual planning studies but are neither proposed nor reasonably foreseeable at this time. There would be some intermittent schedule overlap among the SURP, Bayview Parcel 1 Cleanup, and BioEPIC projects, so project activities would be coordinated and staged to avoid potential conflicts and, wherever possible, to create efficiencies and opportunities. In cases where work areas might spatially overlap, project schedules would be staggered to avoid simultaneous work. At times when project schedule overlap would occur, activity levels (e.g., numbers of construction trucks, on-site workers, etc.) would not be expected to exceed the activity levels of recent large projects in the Bayview Planning Area (e.g., IGB Construction and Bevatron Demolition projects).

All projects would be subject to LBNL’s Standard Project Features for minimizing environmental effects, including for dust and air emissions. Excavation and soil movement would be minimized by staging projects to take advantage of earlier excavations. Design and Construction Management Procedures and EH&S safety procedures and control processes would be in effect, along with applicable stormwater management systems. All Bayview Planning Area projects would be managed under LBNL’s construction truck coordination protocols and monitored for noise disturbances to off-site sensitive receptors.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

Bayview Parcel 1 Cleanup Project

- B1.6 – Asbestos Removal
- B1.7 – Polychlorinated biphenyl removal
- B1.23 – Demolition and disposal of buildings
- B1.27 – Disconnection of utilities
- B1.28 – Placing a facility in an environmentally safe condition
- B1.30 – Transfer actions
- B1.33 – Stormwater runoff control
- B1.34 – Lead-based paint containment, removal, and disposal
- B2.5 – Facility safety and environmental improvements
- B3.1 – Site characterization and environmental monitoring
- B5.3 – Modification or abandonment of wells
- B6.1 – Cleanup actions

BioEPIC Project

- B1.15 – Support Structures
- B1.24 – Property transfers
- B1.31 – Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment
- B1.33 – Stormwater runoff control
- B3.6 – Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects
- B3.12 – Microbiological and biomedical facilities
- A1 – Routine DOE Business Actions
- A2 – Clarifying or Administrative Contract Actions

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

I concur that the above description accurately describes the proposed actions.

LBNL Environmental Planner:


Jeff Philliber

Date Determined: FEB 26, 2019

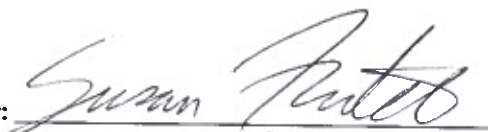
BSO Project Manager:


Hemant Patel

Date Determined: 2/26/19

The above description accurately describes the proposed actions, which reflects the requirements of the CX cited above. Therefore, I recommend that the proposed actions be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

BSO NEPA Program Manager:


Susan Fields

Date Determined: 2/26/19

BSO Operations Division Director:


Mary Gross

Date Determined: 2/26/19

Based on my review of the proposed actions, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1 B), I have determined that the proposed actions fit within the specified class(es) of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed actions are hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: Peter R. Siebach



Date Determined:

Click here to enter a date.

2/27/2019



Figure 1: Proposed Project Site and Environs

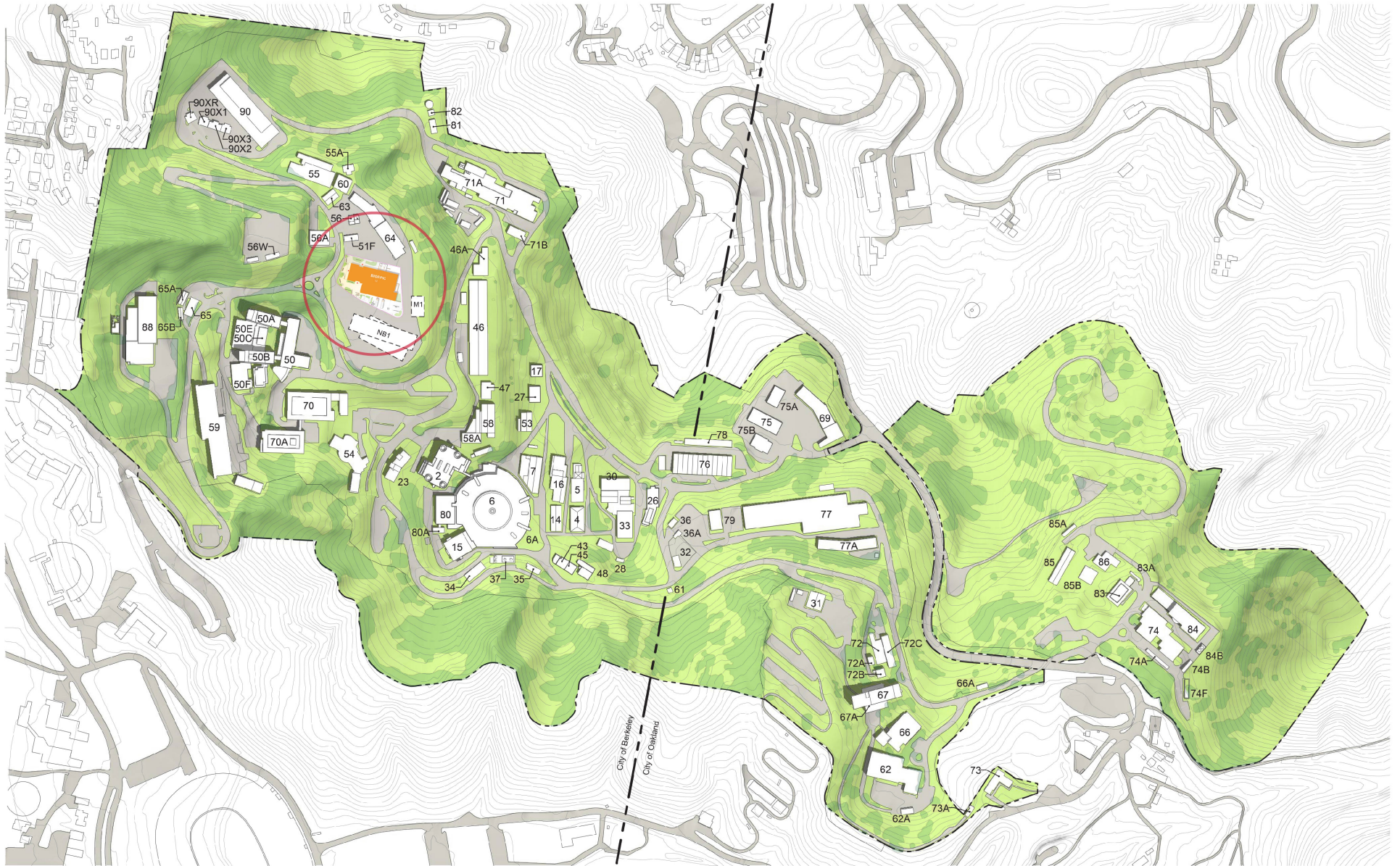


Figure 2: BioEPIC Location

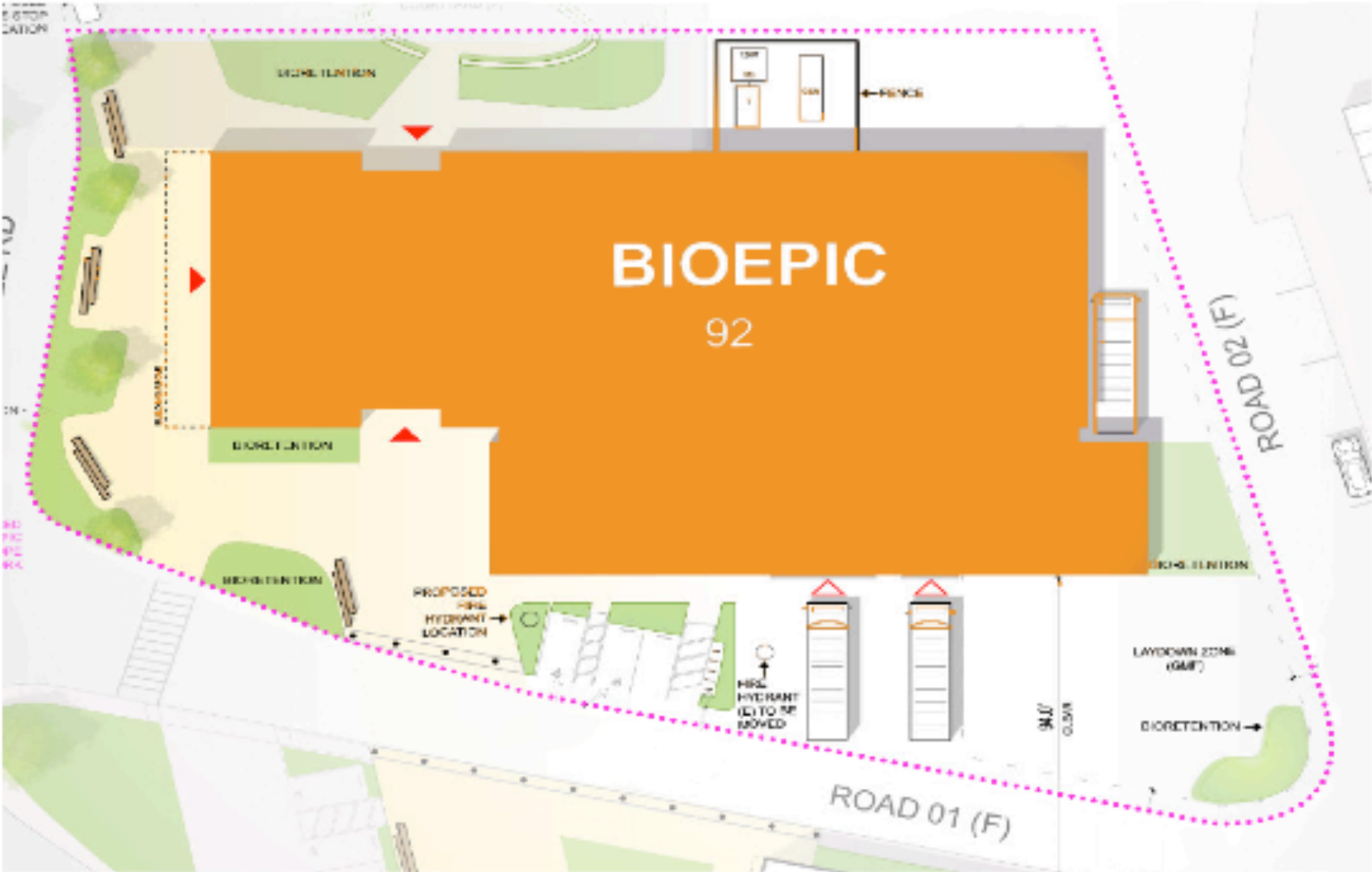


Figure 3: BioEPIC Site and Footprint

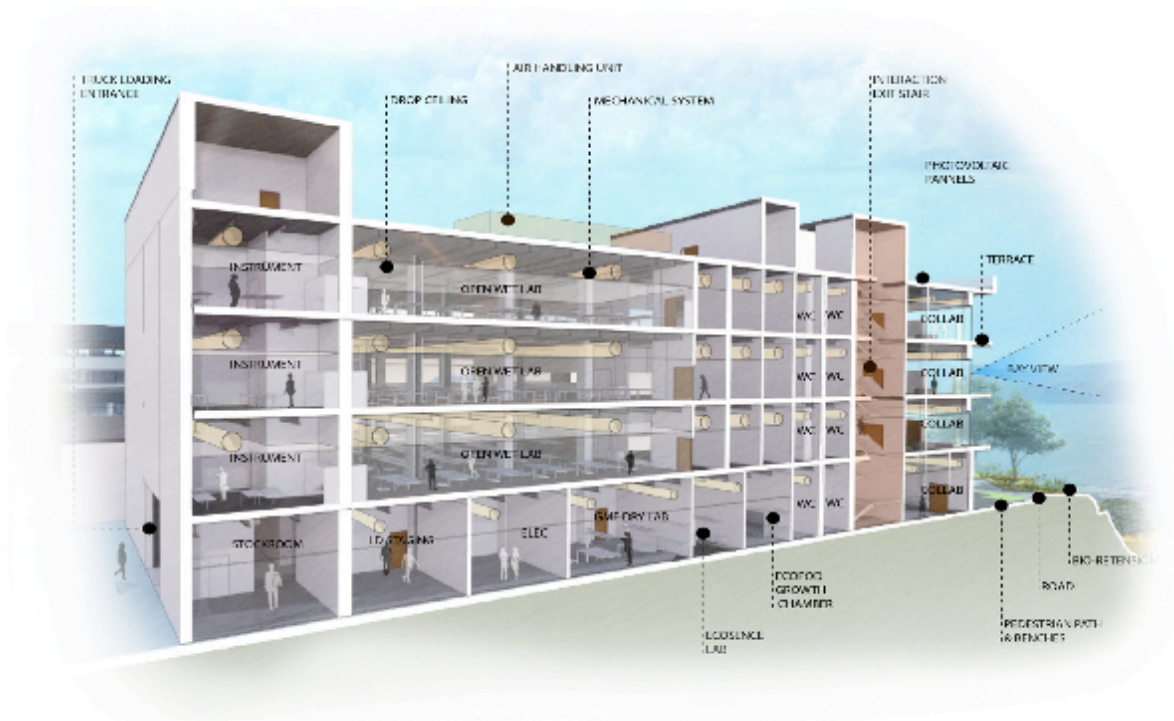


Figure 4: BioEPIC Cross Section (southward-looking view)



Figure 5: BioEPIC Rendering (western/northwestern-looking view)