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April 19, 2005

Walter Barnes, Chief Administrative Officer
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VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 450-2435

RE: Sacramento CIRM Headquarters Proposal

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Thank you for your letter of April 15, 2005 and your congratulatory message regarding the City of Sacramento's proposal being selected as a finalist in the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's (CIRM) headquarters site search process. In preparation for the Site Search Committee's next meeting on April 25, 2005, you ask for comments regarding preliminary points assigned to our proposal thus far. Per your request, our comments are given below:

The Finalists' Points Matrix (Attachment F) in Section 1.b. indicates that points were to be assigned based on qualified professionals residing between 45 and 90 minutes from the proposed building. Sacramento received zero out of five possible points in this sub-category. However, as the RFP only requested numbers of qualified professionals within 45 minutes, we did not provide information regarding those within 45 and 90 minutes. We do have information that indicates that there are many more biomedical professionals within 90 minutes of Sacramento than those indicated within our proposal. With all due respect to the expertise and intentions of the preliminary review team, we feel that the existing base of biomedical professionals has been over-weighted in the ranking process to date. We do hope that, in the course of its full deliberation, the Site Selection Committee will consider this criterion in the context of the staffing requirements of the CIRM, which we understand to be approximately 50 people.

In Section 3 (No/low cost conference facilities) subsection a., the Sacramento proposal was awarded 2 points (out of a possible 5, based on cost, number of years available, stringency and other conditions). We are somewhat puzzled by our score in this category, as another City offering facilities for 4 years (as opposed to 10 years in

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Sacramento) actually scored more points. I will note that our proposal on page 4 indicates that conference facilities are available at no charge to the CIRM. Page 13 notes that 150 or participants can be accommodated at virtually anytime. As this offers the CIRM maximum flexibility with respect to the scheduling of its conferences at no cost for ten years, I hope that the Sacramento proposal can be given the maximum (5 points) in this category.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the preliminary point assignments. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 808-1931 with any questions.

Very truly yours,



TOM ZEIDNER
Senior Economic Development Project Manager