

May 5, 2010 (transcribed from original)

Dear Professor Emeritus Curtis:

Thank you for your letter dated April 11, 2010, advising us of the USGS predictions related to the Hayward fault. We appreciate your expressed concerns, and, as we discussed at our meeting with you on March 31, 2010, the Lab has devoted considerable effort to study the local geology in relation to human safety and construction. The risks posed by future seismic events are significant for all residents and organizations in the East Bay, and we should work together to prepare for such an event.

It is also important to assess risks on the basis of evidence. In our meeting, you acknowledged that your caldera hypothesis does not match the full range of evidence that is now available. I hope that you have given more thought to the matter and have reconsidered in light of the new data presented to you. In the interest of presenting the full case to the public, I invite you to attend our next Community Advisory Group meeting on July 8, present your current thinking and hear more of the research presented by our geologists. This will afford interested members of the public an opportunity to hear a full spectrum of views on the matter.

As you know, the Berkeley Lab has been a fixture of the East Bay for over 80 years with an auspicious history. As the current Director I am acutely aware of the need for responsible stewardship on behalf of the neighborhood residents, the larger East Bay community, and the nation.

Thank you again, for taking the time to meet with me and others at Berkeley Lab. I look forward to continuing our dialogue and hope that you will join us on July 8.

Sincerely, A. Paul Alivisatos
Director