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May 5th, 2008

CALIFORNIA BUILDING
STANDARDS COMMISSION

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Ms. Rosario Marin, Chair
Mr. Steven Winkel
Mr. Isam Hasenin
Mr. Richard Sawhill
Mr. Stephen Jensen
Ms. Christina Jamison
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Ms. Susan Dowty
California Building Standards Commission
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Express Terms for Proposed Building Standards of the Office of the State Fire Marshall (SFM) Regarding the 2007 California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 9

Dear Madame Chair and Commissioners:

Alexandria Real Estate Equities Inc., is a real estate investment trust (REIT) traded in the New York Stock Exchange. Our focus is the development, management, and maintenance of laboratory facilities for the Life Science industry. We own and operate over 12 million square feet of laboratory facilities across the country, with the majority of it in California including the San Diego/Orange County region and the San Francisco Bay Area. The company offers its properties for lease to a broad range of entities including universities and independent not-for-profit institutions; pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, life science product, service, bio-defense, and translational research entities, as well as governmental agencies.

We are writing in support of the aforementioned Express Terms being proposed by the State Fire Marshall (SFM) to be included in Section 443 of the 2007 California Building Code. In this section of the Code, the L-Occupancy provides important controls and safety provisions for research and development laboratories containing hazardous materials in the State of California which cannot use the B-Occupancy designation. The L-Occupancy is critical to the ongoing growth and development of the biotechnology industry in California.

The biotechnology industry is a quickly evolving industry that requires a broad range of biological and chemical work to be performed in a laboratory environment. Although

many facilities will continue to use a B-Occupancy as provided for in the Code, certain facilities will require greater flexibility than provided for by the control zone concept. These types of facilities are usually located in proximity of major research institutions—such as UCSF and UCSD. Researchers at educational institutions such as UCSF and UCSD are also performing similar type of experimental activities and will be working in buildings using the L-Occupancy. Therefore, clarifying and codifying the L-Occupancy in the 2007 California Building Code for use by private as well as public research and development laboratories will ensure that all such facilities be developed with the same controls and safety provisions.

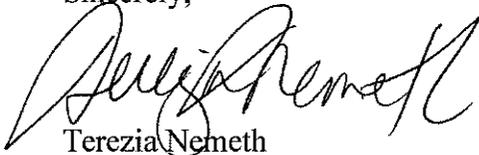
Our work in other parts of the country makes us eminently aware of the fact that the growing life science industry is the target of economic development efforts from many states and cities throughout the country and the world. California has the distinction of being the cradle of this industry, but if we don't continue to make it feasible for life science companies to build here, the growth of the industry could find its way to other parts of the world. This would be a very negative impact on California's economy.

Therefore, we are very supportive of the SFM proposing these code amendments that will ensure that laboratories can continue to be developed in California. We believe that the SFM's leadership and authority as described in the California Health and Safety Code Section 18949.2(b) is not only appropriate but necessary to ensure the orderly development of laboratory space in California. The State is well served by the work that the SFM has done in ensuring that all laboratory facilities throughout the State of California are built to the same safe standards.

We are supportive of the extensive and inclusive process created by the SFM's Office in the development of the L-Occupancy. It has been a very positive, constructive process that has addressed all the issues and included representatives of industry and regulatory organizations from across the State. We want to thank State Fire Marshall Kate Dargan, Chief Tonya Hoover, and their staff for their leadership in this important endeavor.

We heartily endorse these Express Terms as they serve to clarify the requirements for any research and development laboratory and to enhance the safety measures and controls that will ensure safe operations. Please adopt the Express Terms as submitted.

Sincerely,



Terezia Nemeth
Vice President, Development
Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc.

cc: State Fire Marshall Kate Dargan