

# QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRACY BIOWARFARE AGENT RESEARCH FACILITY



- ▶ In early 2006 the US Department of Homeland Security asked interested parties to submit proposals to house a “National Bio and Agrodefense Facility.”
- ▶ The University of California Regents applied to locate this facility in California. The only site in California mentioned in the application is the Livermore nuclear weapons Lab’s Site 300, which is the Lab’s high explosives testing range near the City of Tracy.
- ▶ Site 300 is already heavily contaminated -- it is on the EPA’s “Superfund” list of most contaminated sites in the country. The government has not yet settled on a cleanup agreement for this site.
- ▶ If this bio-lab is approved, it will experiment with some of the most deadly pathogens known to humankind. The biolab will be an integrated human, animal, and zoonotic disease research, development and testing facility. Zoonotic diseases are animal diseases that can transfer to humans.
- ▶ The facility’s structure is planned to encompass 500,000 square feet and the outer grounds will require a minimum of 30 acres for experiments.
- ▶ The facility will conduct experiments on livestock such as cattle, sheep and swine.
- ▶ The Department of Homeland Security is planning to announce the “finalist” candidate sites before the end of 2006.
- ▶ The Department of Homeland Security will evaluate each proposed site to determine whether there is “community acceptance” -- a major factor for determining the ultimate location of the biowarfare agent research facility.
- ▶ This facility will require half a million square feet of Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 **and** BSL 4 lab space.

**BSL-4 labs** are facilities where work is done with dangerous and exotic agents that pose a high individual risk of aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections and life-threatening diseases for which there is no known cure, such as:

- Central European tick-borne encephalitis
- Hemorrhagic Fever

**BSL-3 labs** are facilities where work is done with infectious or exotic pathogens that are potentially lethal, such as:

- live anthrax
- plague
- Q fever



## What we think:

This is the wrong place to experiment with these deadly pathogens. Site 300 is between the Central Valley to the East and the highly-populated San Francisco Bay Area to the West.

Agricultural disease should not be studied in California’s agricultural heartland. A release could be devastating to our health and economic security.

Advanced biowarfare agent research should not be located inside a classified lab used for the development of nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

Collocating “bugs & bombs” could weaken the Biological Weapons Convention, which is the international treaty intended to control the global spread of bioweapons.

Now is the time for the community to REJECT this plan. We need to show that there is no “community acceptance” here. SIGN & MAIL the petition on the reverse side.

Get more information at  
[www.trivalleycares.org](http://www.trivalleycares.org)

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