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# CU-Boulder plans \$2.65 million remodel for atmospheric chemistry research lab

Project plans to go before the regents in June

By **Brittany Anas** Camera Staff Writer  
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The University of Colorado is planning a \$2.65 million remodel project in its Cristol Chemistry building to house a lab for atmospheric chemistry and air quality research.

The Boulder Campus Planning Commission has given early approval of the project, and the plans are scheduled to go before the Board of Regents for approval in June.

CU expects construction to begin in the fall and be mostly complete by spring 2013. The project will make over the third and fourth floors of the chemistry building to house the lab and research group overseen by Jose-Luis Jimenez, an associate professor at CU since 2002 and a fellow with the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences.

Jimenez said the new lab will allow researchers to do new types of experiments and will allow multiple groups at CU and other institutions to collaborate. The centerpiece of the lab, he said, are two 25-cubic-meter chambers where researchers can introduce ultra-clean air and selectively add chemicals and expose them to simulated sunlight.

"Then we can follow the chemical and physical changes in the air composition over the course of many hours, while we sample with multiple state-of-the-art instruments," Jimenez said. "There are only a few comparable chambers in the U.S. The scientific goals include understanding chemical processes that play a role on climate change and air pollution."

Plans for the project show that the proposed lab would include the two atmospheric chambers with strict temperature, humidity and lighting controls. A room would allow for the input of

precise amounts of pollutants in one chamber. Open space around the chambers would allow for instrumentation to record results. Also, office space would be located adjacent to the lab space for researchers.

The proposed project would backfill wet lab space that is currently occupied by Nobel Prize-winning scientist Tom Cech's labs. Those labs are scheduled to move to the newly built Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology building on CU's East Campus. In the remodeled space, CU plans to install new specialized heating and cooling equipment to accommodate the environmental requirements of the atmospheric chambers.

CU architect Paul Leef said the university is in the process of evaluating options for future use of any other vacated space in Cristol Chemistry.

Malinda Miller-Huey, a spokeswoman for CU, said that construction would be paid for with CU's indirect cost recovery on grants.

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