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Supervisor, Second District

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BIOSCIENCE INITIATIVE

The Los Angeles region generates significant cutting edge life science research and offers a trained workforce capable of launching and supporting commercial enterprises emerging from local research institutions and incubators. In 2014, the Battelle Memorial Institute release a study that affirmed Los Angeles County's potential for becoming a national bioscience hub. Battelle identified strategies for attracting the resources and retaining the talent needed to support the industry.

Based on the Battelle study and input from key leaders in the industry, the following outlines the ongoing effort first launched in 2015 by the County of Los Angeles to grow and sustain the regional bioscience industry sector.

1. Bioscience Los Angeles County (BioLA)

The creation of a countywide non-profit entity, *Bioscience Los Angeles County* (BioLA), will serve as an innovation catalyst and entrepreneurial hub for government, research institutions, and private investors to accelerate startup activity and amplify economic opportunity throughout the region. BioLA was established in December 2018 as a California public benefit corporation, tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) and is being funded by life science stakeholders, civic leaders and LA-based bioscience companies.

2. LAEDC Bioscience Council

The LA County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) Bioscience Council is a network of LA Basin-based leaders from the region's Biopharmaceutical and Medical Device industry clusters (taken together, "Bioscience") dedicated to creating a vibrant life sciences ecosystem, from basic research to product commercialization, with an emphasis on cultivating, recruiting, and retaining the industry-specific workforce in the region.

3. Bio-Flex Program

A partnership that includes South Bay Workforce Investment Board, California State University Dominguez Hills, Biocom, LAEDC, and representatives from local bioscience companies, 2019 will see the launch of a first-of-its-kind Biosciences Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship training program (Bio-Flex). The aim of this initiative is to develop an employer driven apprenticeship

framework that will meet the workforce development needs common to industry partners, while providing a framework to allow each employer to design or “flex” their own program. This will allow employers to tailor the curriculum to meet their individual training needs around a specific occupation or department.

4. Bioscience Investment Fund

LA County is looking to partner with a qualified organization to capitalize, launch, and manage an investment fund supporting bioscience startup companies in Los Angeles County. As part of its economic development program, the County has earmarked up to \$15 million towards the launch of the Fund, with the expectation that the County’s participation will attract additional capital for investment in start-ups and early stage companies.

5. Biotech Industrial Park

The County has designated 15 acres of the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Campus for the development of a biotech park in partnership with the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute (LA BioMed). The biotech park has up to 250,000 SF of new construction will be located on the western portion of the Medical Campus and is intended to provide affordable expansion space for early-stage bioscience companies and start-ups graduating from local bioscience incubators.

6. Bio Land Use And Entitlement Expediting

Business leaders have expressed concerns that current land use restrictions and the building permitting process are barriers to expansion plans and efforts to attract companies to the area. In response, the Board of Supervisors directed County departments to identify and implement creative solutions to streamline permitting and to improve the process for bioscience companies to secure the permits they need in the unincorporated areas of the County.

7. Bioscience Incubation

LA County has provided funding for the construction of bioscience incubators located at California State University Los Angeles (LA BioSpace Incubator at the Rongxiang Xu Bioscience Innovation Center LA) and on LA BioMed campus located in the South Bay area. Both incubators are under construction and will be completed by March, 2019. The LA BioSpace Incubator is approximately 20,000 SF. LA BioMed’s incubator will occupy approximately 18,000 SF of LA BioMed’s new 87,000 SF bioscience research pavilion.