

Los Angeles County Bioscience Innovation Hubs and Academic Partnerships

On August 5, 2012, the Board of Supervisors (Board) received the final feasibility study from Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle) for advancing the bioscience industry in Los Angeles County (County). Battelle’s analysis indicated that although biotechnology is a key economic driver for the regional economy, there is tremendous untapped potential to expand the industry and for establishing the County as a top national region for bioscience research and development. Currently, the universities in the County produce over 5,000 graduates in the sciences, engineering and technology fields, more than in San Francisco and San Diego combined, yet the County ranks 14th in national biotechnology investment, well behind #1 ranked San Francisco and #3 ranked San Diego.

Engaging educational institutions that are supporting significant advancements in bioscience research is vital to the success of efforts to expand the bioscience industry and reaping the benefits from the well-paying jobs and the increased tax revenues it will provide. What Silicon Valley created for computer technology, the County can create for biotechnology – development of an innovative, thriving environment encompassing academic institutions, training centers and companies with the support of local communities.

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**REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND HILDA SOLIS
DECEMBER 15, 2015
PAGE 2**

Battelle's analysis set forth initiatives that focused on commercialization of new technologies, keeping and attracting new biotech talent, collaborating with university technology transfer offices, and marketing the region to new start-up companies in addition to established national and international bioscience companies.

A major impediment is the "paucity of dedicated commercial bioscience lab space in the County, which is particularly a burden for new and emerging bioscience companies." Battelle recommended the development of multi-tenant bioscience specific labs and support facilities. Given the size and potential of the region, Battelle recommended that the County establish three to five "signature bioscience innovation hubs" to serve the needs of startup and emerging bioscience firms. Battelle recommended exploring the feasibility of using public properties including the County hospital campuses in collaboration with the County's academic partners and non-hospital sites near UCLA and City of Hope.

On April 28, 2015, the Board recognized the potential value of its real property assets for achieving the Battelle recommendations by directing the Department of Public Works to include a 250,000 square foot bioscience tech park in the master plan for the Harbor/UCLA Medical Center and the environmental review documents for the campus master plan. Other near-term opportunities have been identified adjacent to the LAC+USC Healthcare Campus, and with the planned repurposing a portion of the former MLK hospital to include a bioscience incubator and wet lab space for early stage startups.

On November 10, 2015, Board approved the selection of a consultant team led by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) to formulate an implementation plan to move the Battelle recommended initiatives forward. The other members of the consultant team include BioAccel, BioCom and Collaborative Economics. The work of the consultant team will be guided by a working group of public and private bioscience experts and representatives from key County departments

**REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND HILDA SOLIS
DECEMBER 15, 2015
PAGE 3**

convened by the Community Development Commission pursuant to a Board motion approved on November 5, 2014.

For LAEDC and its consultant team to formulate an effective implementation plan, the County needs to provide the team with baseline information and an analysis of the availability of its real property assets. The information provided should include the status of the property, realistic timelines for making the property available for development and any studies or information the County may have on its current use, soil conditions, history, availability of utilities, easements and land use restrictions.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in consultation with the Executive Director of the Community Development Commission (CDC), Department of Public Works and other relevant departments, to assemble existing documentation on the County properties that are potential candidates for the development of bioscience innovation hubs in partnership with the County's academic partners with private sector funding;
2. Direct the CEO, in consultation with Department of Health Services, the Executive Director of the CDC and relevant County Departments, to analyze alternative disposition strategies for the subject properties that will facilitate the timely development of bioscience innovation hubs including identifying any potential impacts on County operations and alternatives for mitigating this impact, and direct the CEO to report back in writing to the Board in 120 days; and
3. Direct the CEO, in consultation with the Executive Director of the CDC, to report back in writing in 30 days with a work plan and a timeline that would be needed to:
 - a. Analyze the complementary and competing uses of all County property within a five-mile radius of the LAC+USC Healthcare Campus.

**REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND HILDA SOLIS
DECEMBER 15, 2015
PAGE 4**

- b. Recommend a long-term disposition and use strategy for these assets with the goal of most optimally locating the most complementary or critical County health functions on or near the LAC+USC Healthcare Campus.
- c. Identify options for location and development of a bioscience innovation hub on or near the LAC+USC Healthcare Campus and define the best practice process for soliciting proposals and for evaluating unsolicited proposals for such a partnership.
- d. Identify options for location and development of the public benefits identified by the CDC in its community outreach program on County property within the same five-mile radius.

WE FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, ACTING AS THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

1. Direct the Executive Director of the CDC to initiate a community outreach program on the County's bioscience industry sector initiative and provide recommendations based on the public comments received on the types of community benefits that should be realized from the development of bioscience innovations hubs involving County-owned properties. Public benefits that could be considered include providing access to employment and training opportunities, youth mentoring, small business and social enterprise participation, expanding medical care and public health programs, support for local community-based organizations, ongoing community engagement programs, increasing the supply of affordable housing, transportation improvements, and improvements that address deficient local services and resources. The CDC should report the results of its community outreach effort to the Board in writing in 180 days;

**REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND HILDA SOLIS
DECEMBER 15, 2015
PAGE 5**

2. Direct the Executive Director of the CDC to provide a preliminary timeline to the Board in writing in 120 days for making County properties available for the development of bioscience innovation hubs on or adjacent to County medical campuses; and
3. Direct the Executive Director of the CDC to provide a written assessment to the Board in 30 days of the potential and feasibility of utilizing the former MLK community hospital for bioscience related uses.

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