

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

October 5, 2021

Proclaiming the Second Week of October “Los Angeles Bioscience Week”

Through our world class institutions, intentional incubation and public and private investment, Los Angeles County (County) generates cutting edge bioscience research and development, and a trained workforce capable of launching and supporting companies that emerge from local research institutions and incubators. Over past economic cycles, including the Great Recession, jobs in the bioscience sector have proven resilient through economic downturns. The industry creates jobs for young and semi-skilled persons, as well as for scientists and entrepreneurs. In 2020, the bioscience sector generated \$44.2 billion dollars in economic activity in the County while employing over 195,000 people in the region. By proclaiming “Los Angeles Bioscience Week” the County is recognizing the diverse bio-ecosystem of the human and animal health sectors, green and clean technology, educational research, and industrial biotechnology, all of which are critical to the County’s economy and competitiveness in the global market.

In 2018, the County created Bioscience Los Angeles County Inc., (BioscienceLA) to address the needs of the County’s innovation ecosystem. BioscienceLA’s mission is to serve as an innovation catalyst and entrepreneurial hub for government, research institutions, and private investors to accelerate start-up activity and amplify economic opportunity throughout the region. BioscienceLA serves as an independent focal point for

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bioscience connectivity in the region, expands the pipeline of early-stage start-up companies and provides the resources to improve these businesses quality and readiness. BioscienceLA also builds a workforce development strategy that aligns public investments to industry needs in order to create a diverse and inclusive career pipeline into the life sciences.

Several efforts have been made to advance the County's strategic investments in the bioscience sector. In May 2019, the County completed a solicitation process to procure a bioscience investment fund manager interested and qualified to capitalize, launch, and manage an investment fund supporting bioscience start-up companies in the County as well as the local ecosystem to which they belong. In June 2020, the Board approved a loan of up to \$15 million to target early-stage companies with Seed and Series A investments.

October 2020 saw the County hosting its first-ever virtual Los Angeles County Bioscience Forum, centered on "Advancing Diversity and Equity" in the industry. The event brought together leaders in the life science and healthcare fields to take a deep dive on addressing healthcare disparities in marginalized communities as well as increasing diversity in the life science field. That same month, the first-ever virtual Countywide Youth Bioscience Summit was held for high school and community college students, with a focus on increasing awareness of STEM career pathway programs at various organizations, colleges, and companies. Additionally, the event offered students a live interactive lab experience.

Moreover, \$53 million in annual Workforce Investment Act funds were allocated throughout the County to support key industry sectors such as bioscience. Federal and State guidelines require a demand-driven approach to ensure that the industry has a skilled workforce to remain competitive. This year, BioscienceLA launched BioFutures, a paid internship program to equip underserved youth and community college students with job readiness and hands-on experience with a life science employer. This will serve to build out the pipeline for a diverse bioscience industry of the future.

To demonstrate the County's commitment to growth of the life science sector and in celebration of Bioscience Week, on October 13th this year BioscienceLA will host a

ribbon-cutting ceremony for BioscienceLA's new headquarters in Culver City, and several virtual and in-person events will be held bringing together the public and private sector to promote life science.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Recognize the importance of fostering the life science sector in Los Angeles County and proclaim the week of October 11th as Los Angeles County Bioscience Week, and further direct the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Executive Director and leadership of Los Angeles County's forthcoming Economic and Workforce Development Department to assist in collaborating with BioscienceLA on this year's and future Los Angeles Bioscience Week activities, including the annual Los Angeles County Bioscience Forum.

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