

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
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FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Developing a Countywide Public and Private Biotechnology Partnership Program

Biotechnology is a growing field that refers to the use of living organisms or their products to modify human health and the human environment. Applications include health care for improved therapies and drugs to treat diabetes, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, cancers, arthritis, bone fractures, multiple sclerosis and cardiovascular disorders. This health-related field is also called biomedical technology or biomedical engineering. Applications also include environmental protection, such as improved methods to recycle, treat waste and clean up oil spills.

Even during this recession, the biotechnology and, in particular, the biomedical industry enjoys steady and rapid growth, adding jobs that fuel the local economy. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists biomedical engineering as one of the fastest growing occupations in the U.S. for the decade ending in 2018. BLS estimates that it

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FEBRUARY 8, 2011
PAGE 2**

will grow by 72% between 2008 and 2018. The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation calls biomedicine part of Los Angeles County's growing and vibrant "new economy."

Further, research funding for biomedical research has grown rapidly. For example, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) received \$10.4 billion in new funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS direct the Chief Executive Office, the Director of the Department of Health Services, and other appropriate County departments to:

1. Conduct a feasibility assessment for developing or supporting a countywide public and private biotechnology partnership program that would promote outstanding public health care delivery, job creation and research.
2. This feasibility assessment should:
 - a. Identify opportunities for potential private academic and research partnerships at each of the County-owned hospital campuses (LAC+USC Hospital, Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Olive View Medical Center and MLK Medical Center);
 - b. Identify potential existing and upcoming local biotechnology initiatives on which public and private collaboration would be aligned with County Strategic Plan Goals;

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
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FEBRUARY 8, 2011
PAGE 3**

- c. Identify potential sources of both public and private resources that could support this effort;
 - d. Identify key potential private and public academic and research partners;
 - e. Identify potential approaches that the County could take to ensure the County realizes tangible benefits from a public and private biotechnology partnership program, including potential performance benchmarks;
 - f. Identify potential challenges; and
 - g. Develop a potential implementation schedule.
3. Report back in writing within 60 days on progress.

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