

Implementing Strategies and Action Plan for Equitable Development and Growth of Life Sciences in Los Angeles County

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell



HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR ♦ 2ND DISTRICT

Background + purpose

- Over the past decade, the local life sciences industry jobs only grew by 9%, lagging behind the national average of 28%, and behind peer regions like San Diego and Cambridge that have seen job growth of more than 60%. If the County had kept up with the national job growth rate, **it would have created nearly 10,000 new life science jobs in the past 10 years.**
- LA County's Life Sciences Industry Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2030), Dalberg Study. Initiated as part of a July 2022 motion.
- **Purpose:** Motion before us implements the top recommendations from the Study to help LA County retain life science firms, create workforce development opportunities, and reform zoning amendments and permitting improvements to create additional physical space for life science startups.

Biopharma

Biomanufacturing

Convergence with Tech & AI

Medical Devices

Pillars

I. Alleviate physical space constraints as a foundation for the cluster

II. Encourage life sciences firms to start, grow, and hire in LA County across the lifecycle

III. Strengthen cluster infrastructure, connectivity, and brand

IV. Boost the inclusivity of the life sciences workforce, building on strengths

Strategic initiatives

1 Expand graduation space so local life sciences firms can stay and grow in LA County

3 Provide targeted packages of incentives to keep key life sciences firms growing in LA County

4 Build a pathway to long-term relational infrastructure through collaborative working structures

5 Better connect workforce offerings to industry and diverse talent needs

2 Champion zoning & permitting reform to unlock space for life sciences firms & compete with other regions

6 Improve ease of early company formation in life sciences, especially in key growth areas

8 Unite around a compelling opportunity narrative for LA County's life sciences cluster, and broadcast it to the world

7 Mobilize public & private sources of early to seed-stage capital for life sciences firms & founders

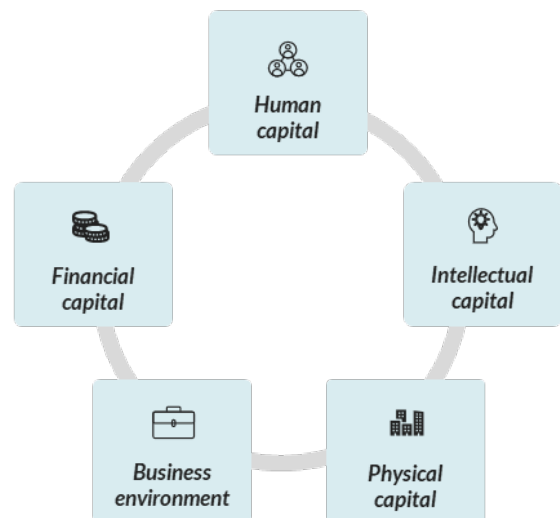
Four Pillars from the Report



To build on the existing life sciences infrastructure in LA County, past efforts, strengths and successes the report focuses its findings on the following four pillars.

- Alleviate physical space constraints as a foundation for the cluster
- Encourage life sciences firms to start, grow and hire in LA County across the lifecycle
- Strengthen cluster infrastructure, connectivity and brand
- Boost the inclusivity of the life sciences workforce, building on strengths




Key Findings from the Report

Factor endowments of the life sciences industry



 Human capital	Skills, expertise, and availability of labor force related to life sciences
 Intellectual capital	Life sciences knowledge, innovations, and intellectual assets

Strengths of LAC's life sciences sector that should be leveraged in any growth strategy for the cluster, especially LAC's diverse workforce and early-stage intellectual capital

 Physical capital	Factors relating to the physical environment, including infrastructure, facilities, transportation and logistics
 Business environment	Firm concentration, collaboration, and the regulatory and cost factors that impact business viability
 Financial capital	Access to financial resources to support companies from research to commercialization

Key challenges for LAC's life sciences sector that should be addressed in any growth strategy for the sector, especially binding constraints related to Physical capital and Business environment

This motion addresses the key challenges facing LA County to catalyze further growth for the life science sector, while embracing the strength that is our diverse workforce.

Directives (1-3)

1. Direct DEO and CEO to
 - a. Recommit \$5.7m in the Bioscience Loan Fund for graduation space to grow and retain new firms, finance tenant improvement and prevent relocation with the goal of growing the Fund to \$10 million.
 - b. Launch workforce pathways into the industry and invest in High Road Training Partnerships.
2. Direct DEO to
 - a. Develop a partnership strategy for multi-tenant graduation space and process for a master lease holder to allow firms that have been created in LA to stay and grow locally.
 - b. Work with DRP to amend zoning Title 22 to remove common barriers that prevent life science firms from staying in LA, and incentivize life science development
3. Direct DRP, in coordination with DEO, to seek stakeholder feedback to inform amendments to Title 22 to help life science firms stay in LA.

Directives (4-6)

4. Direct DRP, in coordination with DEO, to create a clear classification within the County's EPIC-LA permitting system to establish a methodology for prioritizing life science permit applications based on community benefits.
5. Direct DEO to develop and launch a Life Sciences Business Attraction, Retention, and Expansion Program
 - a. Outreach, technical assistance and marketing.
 - b. Help interested parties access County and State incentives.
 - c. Promote existing properties suitable for life science uses.
 - d. Consult with a coalition of industry partners to advise DEO on a retention strategy.
 - e. Develop an education and outreach campaign about County resources for life science growth.
 - f. Re-establish the Manufacturing Revolving Loan Fund with a focus on life sciences.

Directives (6-8)

6. Direct the Director of DEO, in collaboration with the CEO, to identify additional potential funding sources to implement the Strategy and Action Plan.
7. Direct DEO to accept new or additional funds related to life science growth and allocate the funds to the Strategy and Action Plan.
8. Direct the Director of DEO to report back to the Board in writing in 150 days.

Next Steps and Discussion

Timeline

- July 2, 2025: Cluster discussion + feedback
- Forthcoming – Dahlberg Report published
- July 15, 2025: Vote by Board of Supervisors

Discussion + Questions