

MOTION BUDGET & FINANCE

Biotechnology is the application of scientific and technical advances in life sciences to develop commercial products. The bioscience industry is composed of four sectors: drugs and pharmaceuticals; medical devices and equipment; research, testing and medical labs; and agricultural feedstock and industrial biosciences. Many experts believe that the economic growth of the 21st century is biotechnology. Biotech jobs are a highly-diverse and growing industry which continues to demonstrate employment growth in spite of our slowed economy. More and more jurisdictions, including other cities, are willing to provide incentives in order to attract, retain, and expand biotechnology in their area.

The City of Los Angeles plays a vital role in creating conditions conducive to business development and retention. Government policies can make the difference between an investor deciding on the City or another market. The City must constantly take inventory of the policies, programs, and incentives in place for businesses. Regulations, taxes, and fees have had an impact on the ability to start, maintain, or grow a business, as does the extended permitting process.

Back in 2017, the City took the first step in creating those conditions that are beneficial for business development with the formation of the *Chatsworth-Northridge Industrial Core, Innov818*; the area generally bounded by the following geographical boundaries: Topanga Canyon Boulevard on the West; Lassen Street on the North (between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Mason Avenue); Mason Avenue on the East (between Lassen Street and Plummer Street); Plummer Street east bound to Corbin Avenue (between Mason Avenue and Corbin Avenue); Corbin Avenue on the east (between Plummer Street and Nordhoff Street); and Nordhoff Street on the South (between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Corbin Avenue).

This designation ensures that the necessary land use policies are enacted and enforced to preserve this area as a light industrial hub and as an engine of economic development and growth. The goal of this effort is to establish the area as a vibrant green-tech, clean-tech, and incubation space to attract technologically modernized industries, such as the bioscience industry, and the City needs to continue to take steps forward.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of City Planning, and the Department of Building and Safety, to report on the feasibility of creating an overlay zone and/or the use of other land use tools that would streamline the

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entitlement and permitting processes for bioscience-related uses within the *Chatsworth-Northridge Industrial Core, Innov818* zone.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer (CAO), Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and the Office of Finance to provide a comprehensive report to include:

- The feasibility of temporarily increasing the gross receipts tax exemption threshold along with an economic and financial analysis of increasing the threshold.
- Recommendations on implementing the higher exemption threshold, including cap amounts along with other incentives and/or tax exemptions that could be implemented to assist growth of the bioscience industry in the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY



JOHN S. LEE

Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY



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