

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Melanie Cohn  
**Date Submitted:** 09/13/2023 11:49 AM  
**Council File No:** 22-1274  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Letter of support for Lee-Blumenfield motion related to life science CF #22-1274



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Councilmember Bob Blumenfield  
Chair, Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chair Blumenfield,

I am writing to express Biocom California's strong support for item #15 on the September 13 Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee agenda (CF #22-1274). This motion by Councilmember Lee and yourself – relative to the feasibility of creating an overlay zone and/or the use of other land use tools that would streamline the entitlement and permitting processes for bioscience related uses within the Innov818 zone, and exploring financial incentives to assist in the growth of the life science industry – would send a clear message to current and future life science companies that Los Angeles is supportive of the industry and its employees.

Biocom California is the leading advocate for the state's life science industry, representing 1,700 members. Our members include local biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device, and bioinformatics companies, contract research organizations, academic/research institutions, service providers, and investment firms. Membership ranges from organizations with under ten employees to those with five hundred plus employees.

Our 2023 Economic Impact Report shows that the average life science worker in LA makes \$107,000 per year. Our industry provides good jobs with opportunities for employment and advancement at every level of education and every background.

We have seen in other cities in California that are working with us that land use and taxation policies can have some of the biggest impacts on where companies choose to build. Moving forward with these changes will send a message to our industry that LA is a good place for life science to locate. Life science supported LA through the pandemic as our research institutions and companies worked directly on treatments and cures for COVID-19. We are an economic driver that is resilient to downturns and helps fuel the regional economy.

We see the potential for zoning changes in the Chatsworth-Northridge Industrial Core, Innov818 zone to serve as a pilot project for other areas of the city where it makes sense to expand life science. We encourage committee support for this item, and we stand ready to work with you, your colleagues, and city departments on helping these proposed policies become a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe D. Panetta", written over a light gray circular background.

Joe Panetta  
President & CEO  
Biocom California