



March 12, 2018

Carolina Ilic, Senior Regional Planner
San Diego Association of Governments
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: Letter of Support for City of San Diego University Community Plan Update - Smart Growth Incentive Plan Grant Application

Dear Ms. Ilic:

I am writing to express Biocom's support for the City of San Diego's application to the SANDAG Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) to fund comprehensively updating the University Community Plan.

Biocom is the largest, most experienced leader and advocate for California's life science sector. Headquartered in San Diego, we work on behalf of over 1,000 members to drive public policy, build a network of industry leaders, create access to capital, introduce cutting-edge STEM education programs, and create value-driven purchasing programs.

The University Community Plan was last updated in 1987 and the area has experienced tremendous growth over the last three decades. SGIP funding would support integration of smart growth principles into the community plan by building upon the community's role as a major employment, retail, education, and housing center intersected by an expanding regional transportation system. These funds could be utilized to inform a study of how to best capitalize on the community's role as a smart growth area and one of the country's leading life science hubs.

Biocom members are particularly interested in publicly accessible, local shuttle systems and other options that make it easier to access employment centers from transit stops. We are pleased that eligible grant projects must include improvement of internal mobility.

The majority of Biocom members doing business in San Diego County have operations in the University Community Plan area. Biocom staff regularly attends University Community Planning Group meetings, and actively participates in current and future planning for the area. We look forward to working with the City of San Diego on the plan update.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Jackson, Sr. Vice President & Chief Policy Officer
Biocom

