

Good morning, I'm Melanie Cohn, Director of Regional Policy and Government Affairs for Biocom, the statewide trade association for the life sciences.

We represent over 1,100 members throughout California and beyond. Members include basic research being done by tiny companies in incubators and by large universities, biotech companies developing treatments, and major pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, plus the service trades that support these companies. The life science industry in LA County represents an annual economic impact of over \$40 billion.

Biocom is working to unite and accelerate the life sciences in LA by bringing peers together, educating elected officials about the industry and how they can support it, and actively engaging in the myriad activities shaping the future of the industry here.

We see the life sciences in LA County at an exciting time, with the creation of BioLA. Our Los Angeles Executive Director will be serving on its board.

New facilities are taking shape throughout the county – at least four multi-tenant projects will support companies graduating from incubators, ensuring they remain in our area as they grow.

We are also seeing a rise in private developments in this sector throughout the county.

Back in August, we testified in support of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' motion for the county to explore land use and permitting tools to support the life sciences, and today I return to share Biocom's support for the creation of a Bioscience Overlay Zone.

One of the most common concerns we hear from Biocom members building or renovating facilities in LA is the variability of the regulatory environment. Our members are excited to build here, but it is important that they have predictability throughout the development process. Delays can result in high costs related to additional fees, time delays, and lost productivity. Permit processing and regulations should be clear, and builders should know who to approach when they encounter obstacles in the development process.

Therefore, we wholeheartedly support the motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Solis to create the overlay zone that will streamline the entitlement and permitting processes in the unincorporated county specifically for our industry.

Once implemented, we have seen similar tools encourage industry growth in other jurisdictions. We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the development of these tools, and look forward to working with the county to ensure future success of the life sciences in LA.

Thank you for your time.