



**2022**

# **Public Policy Recap**

Advocacy Priorities, Outcomes, and Member Benefits



[www.biocom.org](http://www.biocom.org)

# 2022 IN SUMMARY

In its third year of the global pandemic, Biocom California continued to engage in pandemic-related issues while advocating at all levels of government for many other issues affecting our life science industry such as funding, regulatory and reimbursement, intellectual property, trade, transportation, taxes, water, and economic development.

2022 was a reauthorization year for several federal statutes very important to our industry, including the prescription drug, medical devices and biological products user fees agreements, and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Biocom California worked closely with the House and Senate Committees of jurisdiction to ensure timely passage of the laws. Drug pricing remained a focus for Congress, culminating with the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which Biocom California opposed and will continue to work on to mitigate its impact on members. Biocom California was also instrumental in stopping detrimental intellectual property (IP) legislation as well as regulatory and legislative proposals taking aim at the accelerated approval pathway and coverage of such products.

Biocom California member companies enjoyed a strong year in the California State Legislature. Industry started the year with the reinstatement of the research and development tax credit that was suspended during the pandemic. The state budget overall was significantly better than originally anticipated and no major threats to the life sciences moved in 2022. Unfortunately, Governor Newsom did not choose to sign several measures to expand access to services and therapies in anticipation of deep revenue shortfalls in 2023. Still, Biocom California and its member companies in the life sciences enjoyed many successes in 2022.

We heard from local decision makers in many jurisdictions that they are interested in incentivizing life science industry growth in their cities and counties – we have worked with them on a variety of land use, regulatory, and policy changes that can support the industry. We helped to educate members on new land use policies including proposed reach codes changes and permitting updates. Through a state-wide drought emergency, we advocated for continued reliable, constant access to water and expanded water infrastructure.



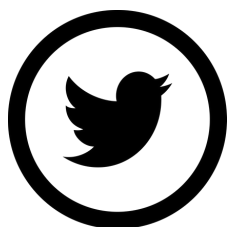
## NEWS PUBLICATIONS

- Monthly Public Policy Newsletters
- Monthly Regulatory & Reimbursement Newsletters
- Bi-Monthly Biocom California Newsletters
- Monthly San Diego & Bay Area Regional Newsletters
- Quarterly Los Angeles Regional Newsletters



## COMMENT LETTERS

- 58 Comment Letters and Letters of Support
  - 31 State Comment Letters
  - 10 Letters to Congress
  - 10 Regional Letters of Support
  - 4 Comment Letters to FDA
  - 3 Comment Letters to CMS and OSTP



## SOCIAL MEDIA

- 150+ Tweets and Retweets
- 7 LinkedIn Posts



## EVENTS

- 16 Roundtables with Lawmakers and Candidates
- 5 Congressional Briefings
- 5 In-Person Facilities and Committees Receptions
- 4 Webinars with Agency Officials
- 4 Spotlight Events and 3 Industry Tours
- 2 Workshops
- 1 Elected Officials and Candidates Reception
- Biotech 101 Training for Elected Staff at All Levels of Govt

# FEDERAL & STATE ADVOCACY

## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

---

- Worked with congressional committees to reauthorize the FDA User Fee Agreements for 5 years.
- Opposed the Inflation Reduction Act and educated about the impact of the law.
- Worked with agencies and congressional committees to reauthorize the SBIR/STTR programs for 5 years.
- Advocated for passage of the CHIPS Act to support the development of semiconductor chips.
- Educated lawmakers about the importance of intellectual property protections (IP) and helped stop negative legislation.
- Opposed TRIPS IP waivers of COVID-19 products and continued to engage in pandemic-related policies.
- Supported Medicare coverage of products approved under the accelerated approval pathway.
- Engaged with congressional committees on appropriations priorities.
- Advocated to protect the Orphan Drug Tax Credit.
- Engaged with agencies and committees in digital health policy.

---

## STATE PRIORITIES

- Defeated harmful drug manufacturer mandate legislation that would endanger the federal 340B program.
- Secured favorable amendments to the Russia divestiture bill that protects invaluable medical research.
- Improved cancer care in Medi-Cal by requiring managed care plans to include cancer centers in provider networks.
- Defeated harmful and duplicative data privacy legislation that would have jeopardized life-saving medical research.
- Bolstered the state testing workforce by reforming out-of-date laboratory testing regulations.
- Improved patient experience by allowing phlebotomy technicians to collect blood through a peripheral venous catheter device.
- Secured amendments to major battery recycling legislation to protect access to lifesaving medical devices.

# REGIONAL ADVOCACY

## GENERAL

---

- Supported and educated members on land use policies including: permitting, reach codes, zoning & land use definitions, and community plan updates.
- Advocated for continued reliable, constant access to water under drought conditions and expanded water infrastructure.
- Advocated for expansion of housing availability - especially middle income and workforce housing.
- Supported transportation projects for commuting workers.

---

## BAY AREA

- Advocated for a new ferry landing at Mission Bay in San Francisco.
- Worked with the City of Berkeley on their “Keep Innovation in Berkeley” package of policies.
- Opposed South San Francisco’s parcel tax measure targeting life science facilities – it failed in the November election.
- Educated decision makers on reach codes’ impact to the life science industry in Fremont, Emeryville, Redwood City, San Leandro, San Mateo.

## LOS ANGELES

---

- Worked closely with Supervisor Holly Mitchell and staff on a six-part package of county policy changes to support the life science industry.
- Initiated and passed a change to hazardous materials regulations in the City of Pasadena.

---

## SAN DIEGO

- Supported passage of City Council’s changes to Community Planning Group operations.
- Supported a budget increase for the city’s Development Services Department, which processes construction permits.
- Supported passage of increased housing density near transit stops.
- Supported the University Community Plan Update.
- Served on the county’s hiring committees for the Deputy Director of its Department of Environmental Health and Quality and Hazardous Materials Division Director.

# 2023 OUTLOOK

Going into 2023, the life science industry can expect elected officials to focus their attention on health care access and affordability, climate change, transportation, and economic development.

At the federal level, 2023 will in many ways be a continuation of the policies adopted in 2022, including the FDA user fee agreements reauthorization, SBIR/STTR reauthorization, and Inflation Reduction Act. Biocom California will engage with both Congress and federal agencies to monitor and influence the implementation of the new laws and ensure that our industry's interests are protected. Our advocacy efforts will also be driven by two laws expiring at the end of the fiscal year: the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act and the FARM bill. Biocom California will ensure that both statutes are reauthorized in a timely manner that supports members' priorities. We are also ready to engage in many issues that Congress may address this year, including pharmacy benefit managers (PBMS) oversight, data privacy regulation, IP legislation, and tax changes.

In the California Legislature, some lawmakers may continue to press for harmful price setting initiatives in the health care system and the discussion around 'single payer' will likely continue behind the scenes, if not openly, in legislation. Although the legislature will likely be dogged by a significant budget shortfall that limits new programs and coverage decisions. As part of Biocom California's proactive agenda, the life science industry will continue to work to expand access to therapies and reduce patients' costs at the pharmacy counter. Biocom California will also work to protect supply chains from disruptive legislation that could conflict with federal regulations. Finally, the new Office of Health Care Affordability could present new challenges for providers and hospitals by pressing for price setting within the health care system with far reaching consequences for all entities in the system.

In San Diego, an updated version of the city's Climate Action Plan will bring new rules for sustainability, including potential building electrification. Policies to change allowable density in areas around transit thoroughfares and an update to the land use plan for San Diego's life science hub will bring significant changes to future developments for our industry. We supported the Blue Line trolley extension to UC San Diego and University City and will continue to work with MTS and businesses on last-mile connections. A group of businesses and associations including Biocom California are working with the city on an update to its Economic Development Strategy, and we continue to meet with the city to address permitting delays. We look forward to working with newly elected Councilmember Kent Lee, whose District 6 will now include major parts of the life science industry as a result of redistricting.

# 2023 OUTLOOK

In the Bay Area, Biocom California continues to participate in conversations on land-use changes by working with local municipalities on policies dictating where labs can be located and allowable activities within facilities. We are watching to see how a major budget deficit will impact businesses in San Francisco, and any effects from prolonged drought conditions. Several counties might not meet their state-required housing development goals, which could result in a “builder’s remedy” allowing housing to be built freely in places like San Francisco and Marin. We will continue to advocate for additional housing to accommodate the ever-growing life science workforce and efficient transit options for commuters.

In Los Angeles, we will further our work on implementation of Supervisor Holly Mitchell's life science incentive package that we helped create. We will continue our Spotlight series highlighting strong and upcoming life science communities throughout the LA region with events focused on Thousand Oaks, Santa Clarita, and Santa Barbara. Finally, we plan to work on land use changes to support the industry with several jurisdictions, beginning with Pasadena.

Biocom California looks forward to advocating for the growth and success of our incredible life science partners.



# CONTACT OUR TEAM



**ZOE BILIS**

Associate Manager  
Regulatory Policy  
[zbilis@biocom.org](mailto:zbilis@biocom.org)



**EMILY CASSEL**

Govt. Affairs Events &  
Project Manager  
[ecassel@biocom.org](mailto:ecassel@biocom.org)



**LAURE CLARK**

Sr. Director, Federal  
Policy & Govt. Affairs  
[lclark@biocom.org](mailto:lclark@biocom.org)



**MELANIE COHN**

Sr. Director, Regional  
Policy & Govt. Affairs  
[mcohn@biocom.org](mailto:mcohn@biocom.org)



**FIELDING GREAVES**

Sr. Director  
State Govt. Affairs  
[fgreaves@biocom.org](mailto:fgreaves@biocom.org)



**JIMMY JACKSON**

Senior Vice President &  
Chief Policy Officer  
[jjackson@biocom.org](mailto:jjackson@biocom.org)



**CHRISTY SHIRILLA**

Manager  
Public Policy, Bay Area  
[cshirilla@biocom.org](mailto:cshirilla@biocom.org)



**RICHARD WHITE**

Associate Manager  
Federal Advocacy  
[rwhite@biocom.org](mailto:rwhite@biocom.org)