

2023 Los Angeles Policy Priorities



Land Use
Permits & Inspection
Access to Water & Other Utilities

Housing
Workforce Development
Transportation
Gross Receipts Tax

Industry Impact

According to Biocom California's 2022 Life Science Economic Impact Report¹, Los Angeles County's life science cluster employs 91,633 people in five sectors: research, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and diagnostics, bio-renewables, and wholesale and distribution. The county's life science employees support an additional 153,045 jobs for a total countywide impact of 244,678 jobs. These jobs pay an average wage of \$94,728 and generate \$87.4 billion in annual economic activity. Biocom California represents more than 1,700 members in California; we focus on initiatives that positively influence the region's life science community in the development and delivery of innovative products that improve health and quality of life.

LAND USE

One of the most important factors impacting life science development is where our facilities are allowed to locate, and the activities allowed within facilities. Preserving industrial land for manufacturing, research and development (R&D), and distribution is vital to long-term industry stability and growth. We also encourage local governments to identify and incentivize physical areas for life science establishments where appropriate.

In 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed the Bioscience Overlay Zone, which streamlines the entitlement process for life science companies looking to locate within county unincorporated areas. Additionally, in July 2022 Supervisor Holly Mitchell introduced a package of measures aimed at expanding the life science industry that includes diversifying access to life science careers, start-up assistance for small companies, a tenant improvement fund, a county life science ombudsman, and a life science mixed-use zone.

Local jurisdictions throughout LA County can use these model policies to encourage industry growth within their territories.

PERMITS & INSPECTION

Biocom California supports efforts to make city and county permitting processes predictable, transparent, and efficient. We appreciate efforts to ensure inspections are done consistently and in collaboration with businesses. In 2022, we worked with the City of Pasadena to bring their hazardous materials reporting requirements in line with state rules.

ACCESS TO WATER & OTHER UTILITIES

Since its inception, Biocom California has communicated with legislators and regulators about how the life science industry uses water, and why reliable, constant access to water is necessary for our member companies to conduct daily business activities. Biocom California supports practical ways to diversify water supply, such as indirect potable reuse and desalination.

Similarly, natural gas, electricity, telecommunications, and other utilities are critical to research operations, and we advocate for reliability and transparent pricing.

¹ Deloitte, 2022. Biocom California's 2022 Life Science Economic Impact Report.



HOUSING

It is common knowledge that there is a housing shortage in the Los Angeles area—the median price of a single-family home is \$823,500². Biocom California supports incentivizing the building of additional middle income housing units via a variety of approaches, including:

- exemption of middle-income housing from new/existing construction fees as appropriate
- increased density around transit hubs
- relaxation of parking and related requirements

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Biocom California supports a robust talent pipeline to fuel the life science industry. We sit on the City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board (LAWDB) to advocate for workforce development efforts that will support our industry. It is a common misconception that life science careers require an advanced degree; we educate decision makers about the variety of jobs available in life science, including for job seekers with no college education and the availability of on-the-job training programs.

Other workforce development opportunities to cultivate and retain diverse talent that we are involved in include:

- Assisting in the creation of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Certification Programs.
- Collaboration with the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) and its Bioscience High Road Training Partnership Meetings.
- Participating on the planning committee for City of STEM, the largest science festival in the region.
- Along with the 10th Council District and LAUSD's Humanizing Education for Equitable Transformation (H.E.E.T.), launched the South LA (SOLA) BioInnovation Lab.

² Lazarus, David. "You need to earn this much to buy a home in LA." KTLA5, 21 November, 2022, <https://ktla.com/news/money-smart/you-need-to-earn-this-much-to-buy-a-home-in-la/>

Since its founding in 1995, Biocom California has emerged as the most respected association voice for California life sciences in regional government, the State Capitol, and Washington, D.C.

Please direct any questions to

Biocom California's Senior Director of Regional Policy and Government Affairs, Melanie Cohn, at mcohn@biocom.org or 858.832.4158.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is a key element in the quality of life in LA County, impacting the ability of employees to commute in a reasonable time as well as the ability of companies to attract the necessary workforce and transport goods and products. Investment in transportation infrastructure is critical for LA's future growth and population needs.

As the life science industry continues to expand its research and development facilities, it is important for government entities to fund the necessary transportation improvement projects.

GROSS RECEIPTS TAX

Gross receipts tax the total amount a company receives from all sources, without subtracting expenses or considering whether the company has a commercialized product. These taxes disproportionately impact companies with low or no profit margins such as small and mid-sized life sciences.

Biocom California encourages policy makers to consider lowering or eliminating gross receipts taxes on the life sciences and/or companies that are not yet profitable. We urge local jurisdictions to evaluate the impact of reducing or eliminating business taxes on firms in the Los Angeles area, as these adjustments can encourage industry growth.

