



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVES COUNTYWIDE BIOTECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

A countywide partnership between public and private biotechnology enterprises is one step closer to becoming a reality.

In approving a motion sponsored by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Don Knabe, the Board of Supervisors Tuesday put in motion Phase II of the Countywide Biotechnology Partnership Program. The next step will be for the chief executive officer to seek a consultant to develop a master plan and to deliver a report with findings and recommendations to the Board by January 2012.

Today's motion comes after the CEO's office issued the results of a feasibility assessment last month that not only supports the expansion of biotechnology partnerships but confirms that such partnerships between countywide public and private biotechnology programs would foster outstanding public health care, create jobs, and promote research.

The detailed report also confirms that Los Angeles lags behind other California cities such as San Francisco and San Diego, where research universities, biotech investment, venture capital, partner with government to form strong biotech programs.

"Today's approval from the Board brings these nonprofit researchers closer to working towards cures, treatments, and success over illnesses that have plagued people around the nation," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

The field is also important for job creation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics lists biomedical engineering as one of the fastest growing occupations in the United States ending in 2018. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that it will grow by 72% between 2008 and 2018.

“I commend the Board for investing in innovation and exploration,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “The future of biotechnology will be substantial, robust, and exciting.”

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