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Bringing a Biotech Medical Park to LA County

Hoping to nurture talent, develop a new industry and increase medical innovation, the Board of Supervisors took a first step towards creating the first ever biotech medical park in Los Angeles County on the campus of the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

The 15-acre campus will be located next to the LA BioMed Research center, a non-profit institution with more than 60-years of successfully developing new medical procedures, devices and pharmaceuticals. Modern biotechnology includes research on genes, living organisms, agriculture and food processing.

When completed, the biotech campus, which is expected to house nearly 250,000 square-feet of office space, will be a public/private partnership that should generate between 800 to 900 jobs. The estimated private development cost of building the campus will likely be between \$110-million and \$125-million. The land, which is owned by the county and will be leased, has an estimated value of \$25-million to \$30-million.

“This will lay the groundwork to begin making Los Angeles a hub of biotech innovation,” said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, who authored the motion that was approved. “Now the county can begin to achieve its full potential as a leader in this industry, support new discoveries made by local researchers and attract bioscience companies to our region.”

A 2014 Battelle bioscience study, commissioned by the county, found that the bioscience industry faces significant hurdles in Los Angeles. In particular much of the research pioneered locally moves out of the county due to a lack of funding, facilities and support for new startups and early stage companies. Los Angeles falls behind the

San Francisco Bay area and San Diego in venture capital, initial public offerings and fast growing biotechnology companies.

Located in the in the South Bay area adjacent Carson and Torrance, the proposed Biotech Campus is ideally situated to meet needs of bioscience companies and their high-tech work force.

In addition to creating a biotech campus, the Board of Supervisors directed the Community Development Commission in November to establish a task force to carry out the recommendations of the Battelle study including creating bioscience hubs throughout the County.

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