



858.455.0300

Biocom.org

10996 Torreyana Road

Suite 200

San Diego, CA 92121

To:

City of San Diego Redistricting Commission

1222 First Avenue, Fifth Floor

San Diego, CA 92101

November 4, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to convey Biocom California's input on the draft city council district map that was released following the commission's meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

We support a map that unifies life science employers, research institutions, and their employees into one district. From the maps available so far, the Communities Collaboration Map accomplishes this goal best.

Biocom California is the state's leading advocate for life science, with over 1,400 members. We were founded in San Diego in 1995 and are now headquartered in Torrey Pines with an additional regional office in UTC.

Life science is a major driver of San Diego's economy – our life science hub is the third largest in the nation, closely following Boston/Cambridge and the San Francisco Bay Area. San Diego's life science hub is heavily concentrated in a five-mile radius around the University of California, San Diego. Our 2021 Biocom California Economic Impact Report found that within the City of San Diego, 77,824 people were directly and indirectly employed by the industry in 2020 at an annual average wage of \$121,521. There are 846 life science establishments in the city, representing 705 companies. In 2020 we brought in over \$137 million in federal grant funding and over \$6 billion in government contract funding. The industry generates over \$40 billion in annual economic activity.

Life science in the city grew 6% from 2019 to 2020 and we anticipate growth will continue. There is a less than 1% vacancy rate in the city's life science hub – companies want to locate and grow here at a faster pace than can be accommodated. The Torrey Pines Mesa is completely built out and land for future development is limited. The life science hub will continue to grow outside "the mesa" – more and more companies are locating in the surrounding communities of Sorrento Valley, Mira Mesa, and UTC. The life science industry is an exemplary community partner, developing and redeveloping properties along with the surrounding communities and delivering a myriad of public amenities.

According to SANDAG commute data, most people affiliated with the life industry do not live in La Jolla, they live in the neighborhoods to the north and east. The councilmember for District 1 has traditionally been focused on the beach communities, whose residents' priorities lie outside of the growth of our industry in San Diego. The industry deserves council representation that doesn't compete with communities with disparate interests. The entire life science community should be united into Council District 6, including UCSD, UTC, Sorrento Valley, Torrey Pines, and Mira Mesa. The southern boundary of this new District 6 should be the planning area west of I-5 and Rose Canyon east of I-5.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MC', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanie Cohn  
Director of Regional Policy & Government Affairs  
Biocom California