

4. Project Benefit and Compatibility

d. Project Compatibility with Economic Development Activities

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The Higgins Development Team finds this project to be uniquely compatible with state, regional, and local economic development efforts.

Virginia's proximity to federal research institutions and regulatory agencies such as NIH and the FDA, along with its highly acclaimed research universities, makes it a choice location for research, development and production of pharmaceuticals and other bioscience products. The Commonwealth's colleges and universities award more than 9,400 bioscience-related degrees annually and Virginia is home to almost 19,000 doctoral scientists and engineers—the largest concentration in the Southeast.

In addition to a strategic location and an educated workforce, a Virginia location provides a pro-business climate characterized by a stable, competitive tax structure offering bioscience companies an economical operating environment. Virginia's ready-to-go sites, highly desirable quality of life and clear business advantages can provide an unrivaled, supportive environment for your business.

Prince William County has identified Bioscience as a Targeted Industry and has worked with the Division of Forensics and elected officials for some time to secure a Prince William County location for the new Northern Laboratory. The Northern Laboratory qualifies as a Targeted Industry and as such may enjoy related incentives such as 30-Day Fast Track Permitting, reducing Site Development Fees, and eligibility to access the County's Economic Development Opportunity Fund which can provide funds for infrastructure improvements, site preparation, work force services, and/or capital equipment purchases.