



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: District Attorney
Department No.: 021
Agenda Date: February 3, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney
Contact: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Accept \$25,000 Grant from Craig Thompson Environmental Protection Prosecution (CTEPP) Fund to support the District Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit

Signed by:

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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management, CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the District Attorney, or designee, to execute a grant agreement with the Craig Thompson Environmental Protection Prosecution Fund to support the District Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit for the period of December 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$25,000;
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0010947 to increase appropriations of \$25,000 in the District Attorney General Fund for Services and Supplies funded by unanticipated grant revenue from the Craig Thompson Environmental Protection Prosecution Fund (4/5 vote required); and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions are not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) because they consist of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

The District Attorney's Office requests your Board's approval to execute a grant agreement with the Craig Thompson Environmental Protection Prosecution (CTEPP) Fund, for the period of December 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$25,000. This grant will facilitate essential upgrades to equipment used in the investigation of consumer and environmental cases throughout Santa Barbara County. This is a one-time grant award that must be expended by June 30, 2026.

Discussion:

This grant funding will be used to purchase essential personal protective equipment (PPE), inspection tools, and vehicle equipment to support waste inspections and enforcement audits:

- Approximately \$7,000 will be allocated for PPE and tools including protective gear, tarps, scales, measuring and decontamination materials, and other reusable equipment needed to safely supply all workers during audits for one to two years. To ensure secure and ready access to these supplies, a storage locker will be purchased or rented and placed at the County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) facility in Santa Barbara due to limited on-site storage at the District Attorney's Office.
- Approximately \$9,000 will be utilized to outfit a recently purchased enforcement vehicle with necessary equipment including secure storage drawers in the truck bed, a ventilated snug top, and a locking rifle rack installed under the rear seat. These upgrades will allow for safe transport and secure storage of law enforcement gear, PPE, and inspection tools.
- The remaining \$9,000 will be applied toward sampling equipment and laboratory costs for testing hazardous waste.

Background:

The District Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit investigates and prosecutes complex violations of consumer and environmental laws, including fraudulent and unlawful business practices. The Unit seeks to expand its use of waste audits as a proactive enforcement and investigative tool to ensure compliance with California hazardous waste laws and to prevent the unlawful disposal of hazardous materials into the solid waste stream. Waste audits serve multiple critical purposes, including identifying improper hazardous waste handling practices, detecting violations before they result in environmental harm, supporting criminal and civil enforcement actions, and educating regulated entities on lawful disposal requirements. Audits also help safeguard public health by reducing the risk of hazardous substances entering landfills, recycling facilities, or wastewater systems where they may endanger workers, first responders, and the community.

Although the Unit has previously assisted other California counties with commercial waste audits, it has not yet conducted audits within Santa Barbara County. With the addition of a dedicated, full-time District Attorney Investigator approximately three years ago, the Unit now has the staffing capacity and investigative expertise necessary to develop and implement a comprehensive waste audit program locally. This program will support both local and multi-jurisdictional hazardous waste investigations, including audits of retail and commercial facilities, and will enhance the Unit's ability to identify systemic violations and emerging trends. The first waste audit conducted under this program is anticipated in mid-2026.

The CTEPP Fund was established in 2005 as a result of the enforcement action in the case of *People of the State of California v. 7-Eleven*. The fund continues to be supported by environmental

protection settlements statewide and is intended to offset investigative and litigation costs incurred by prosecutors in pursuing environmental violations by large companies. Eligible expenditures include expert witness services, scientific testing, document management, and other necessary investigative or litigation-related expenses.

To prepare for the District Attorney’s waste audit program implementation, the Office identified the need for essential safety and operational resources. These include, but are not limited to, secure storage, PPE, vehicle modifications, inspection and sampling tools, laboratory analysis, waste disposal services, and meeting-related costs. The Office has recently acquired a Ford F-150 electric vehicle to serve as the primary command vehicle during waste audits, which this grant will help outfit as indicated above. These resources are critical to ensuring staff safety and operational readiness when handling hazardous materials.

Performance Measure:

The program goal listed in the grant application is to conduct the first waste audit in mid-2026. The District Attorney’s Office will track the number of waste audits completed each fiscal year.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No; recommended approval of Budget Revision Request No. 0010947 attached.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	Total
General Fund		
State		
Federal		
Fees		
CTEPP Fund	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total	\$25,000	\$25,000

This is a one-time grant award in the amount of \$25,000 that must be expended by June 30, 2026. Grant funds will support all components of the waste audit program, including the investigative and operational costs described above. Funding will cover up to two years of startup expenses necessary to develop and implement this new program. Accepting this grant will have no impact on the General Fund.

Staffing Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist:

- a) One (1) Minute Order

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Attachments:

Attachment A – Grant Agreement

Attachment B – Budget Revision Request No. 0010947

Contact Information:

John DeAlba

Department Business Specialist

jodealba@countyofsb.org