



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

Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: October 13, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD
Director Public Health Department
Contact Info: Suzanne Jacobson, CPA (805) 681-5183
Deputy Director
SUBJECT: **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) allocation for COVID-19
Activities during FYs 2020/2021 through 2022/2023 and Salary Resolution**

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Public Health Department Director to accept and receive funding for expanding Epidemiology and Laboratory capacity for coronavirus response through the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) from the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act HR 266 for the period of May 18, 2020 through November 17, 2022 in the amount of \$6,112,535 (Attachment A); and
- b) Approve and authorize Budget Revision BJE 0007223 in the amount of \$1,528,134 to establish appropriations for \$1,528,134, of unanticipated revenue from CDPH as a 25% advance on the funding to increase Salaries and Benefits and Services and Supplies for FY 2020/2021 in the County's financial system (Attachment B); and
- c) Adopt the attached Salary Resolution (Attachment C), which allocates to the Public Health Department one legal position, classified as one (1) full-time Epidemiologist/Biostatistician (job class 003320) effective October 19, 2020 and;
- d) Determine that the above recommended actions are not a "Project" with the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and are exempt per CEQA Guideline section 15378(b)(4), since the recommended actions are government fiscal activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to authorize the Public Health Department (PHD) to accept an allocation from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Award Number COVID-19ELC42. This funding comes from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) from the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act HR 266 to provide critical resources to local health departments in support of a broad range of COVID 19/SARS-CoV-2 testing and epidemiologic surveillance related activities. This allocation can be used for to increase response capacity and staffing levels during the coronavirus-related public health emergency, to provide support for increased testing and disease containment, and to lay the foundation for future public health surveillance.

Background:

The CDC, through CDPH, has made these awards available to Local Health Departments (LHD) as part of a historic U.S. response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. LHDs may use this award to build infrastructure to protect their communities by detecting coronavirus; preventing, testing for and “boxing in” COVID-19, and to maintain or increase health capacity and staffing levels to continue to address the necessary public health surveillance beyond the federal emergency period. Since the Coronavirus crisis commenced, it was recognized that LHDs would need additional resources in assisting communities in addressing the disease and responding to the pandemic.

The awards span six different strategies that will better prepare LHDs to respond to the coronavirus over at least the next 24 months and to prioritize and target resources to those most vulnerable to the impacts of the disease. The awards will be used locally to help maintain or increase LHD capacity and staff by covering some costs associated with PHD enhanced extra help COVID-19 unit and epidemiology staff salaries and benefits, costs of increased SARS-CoV-2 testing, contact tracing, outreach to vulnerable populations, and additional Health Officer support for enhanced infection prevention in settings such as skilled nursing facilities and schools. One full time regular position for an additional ordinance Epidemiologist/Biostatistician for ongoing and increasing data reporting needs is also requested and is built into the work plan and spend plan for this allocation.

Performance Measure:

CDPH requires that PHD develop and submit a work plan and a spend plan for the funds that allocates the funds by 6 *strategy areas*, including epidemiology, laboratory, and other actions to address the disease. PHD must report on progress, activities, and expenditures on a quarterly basis. Specific required performance measures will be automatically reported to the state because the PHD is using the state’s CalCONNECT platform for disease investigation and contact tracing.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Approving and authorizing the Public Health Director to accept this allocation and the related Budget Revision Request will provide funding for the Department’s efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing funding for testing costs, as well as support the salaries and benefits for enhanced staffing for epidemiology and assistant Health Officer physician support. Funding in the amount of \$1,528,134 which represents 25% of the total award has been advanced by CDPH and received by the PHD. Budget Revision Request BJE 0007223 will amend the Fiscal Year 2020-21 adopted budget for the appropriation. The budget revision will add \$773,435 to Salaries and Benefits to cover the costs of the new ordinance Epidemiologist/Biostatistician and extra help COVID-19 Unit staff,

\$754,699 to services and supplies to cover costs for laboratory testing and indirect costs. It is anticipated that the \$1,528,134 will be braided with the use of County CARES Act funds (through December 31, 2020) and other funds to extend and cover the cost of public health response activities through June 30, 2021. If other funds from the allocation are necessary for expenditures during this Fiscal Year, we will return to your Board with a Budget Revision at that time.

This action will not result in the need for any additional facilities.

Key Contract Risks:

NA

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

1

FTEs:

1

Special Instructions:

Please return an electronic copy of the Minute Order and an electronic copy of the fully executed Salary Resolution to the PHD Contracts Unit at Kelly.Lazarus@sbcphd.org.

Please also return one (1) copy of the fully executed Salary Resolution as well one (1) copy of the Minute Order to Stefan Brewer, Senior Workforce Planning Analyst, Human Resources Department, at SBrewer@sbcountyhr.org.

Attachments:

- A. CDPH Allocation letter COVID-19ELC42
- B. Budget Revision Request #0007223
- C. Salary Resolution

Authored by:

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