



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: June 9, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney
Contact: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Agreement Renewal with California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) to
Provide Emergency Funds for Crime Victims; Agreement No. S26-036

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution approving, ratifying, and authorizing the District Attorney or designee to renew an Agreement with the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) (Agreement No. S26-036) for CalVCB to reimburse the District Attorney's expedited payments of funeral/burial expenses, crime scene clean-up expenses, and emergency domestic violence and sexual assault relocation expenses for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, in the amount of \$65,000 annually for a total of up to \$195,000 for the three-year period;
- b) Approve and authorize the District Attorney or designee to execute any amendments to the Standard Agreement extending the term thereof through December 30, 2029, or for a supplemental grant award in the amount not to exceed \$25,000 annually for a total of \$270,000 for the three-year period, with the concurrence of County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller; 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:

Through this agreement with the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB), the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Victim-Witness Assistance Program staff assists qualifying victims by paying expenses on an emergency basis when the applicant would suffer substantial financial hardship if the payment was not made. The grant agreement is for the period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, in the amount of \$65,000 annually, for a total of up to \$195,000 for the three-year period. This program is a critical service to victims in crisis and is recommended for continuation.

Per the CalVCB Agreement, the District Attorney is required to maintain written documentation on file showing authorization by the Board of Supervisors for the District Attorney to sign the Agreement.

Discussion:

The purpose of this Board Letter is to request that the Board formally authorize the District Attorney to sign the Agreement with CalVCB to provide reimbursement of expedited payment of funeral/burial expenses, crime scene clean-up expenses, and emergency domestic violence and sexual assault relocation expenses for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.

Victim-Witness claims staff processes eligible applicant claims and authorizes the immediate payment of funeral and burial expenses, crime scene clean-up expenses, and relocation expenses for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Claims are paid from a County revolving trust account directly to the service provider and/or the victim. Staff then processes and submits claims to CalVCB, and CalVCB issues reimbursements to the District Attorney's Office to replenish the trust account. Claims are reviewed and evaluated to ensure the reimbursement amounts do not exceed the amounts authorized.

Background:

Since Fiscal Year 1987-88, the Office of the District Attorney has contracted with the California Victim Compensation Board (formerly the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board) to verify claims for victims of serious crimes in order to obtain reimbursement for losses suffered as a result of those crimes. Following the sudden death of a loved one, families are often placed under significant financial hardship due to the cost of funeral/burial expenses. Typically, these types of service providers are unable to wait to receive their payments until CalVCB reimburses claims.

In January 1999, CalVCB established an agreement with the Office of the District Attorney, which enabled the Victim Witness Assistance Program to provide immediate payment of a victim's funeral/burial expense directly to the service provider through a County trust account, thereby alleviating the surviving family's financial burden. Effective July 2000, the program was mandated to provide emergency relocation funds to victims of domestic violence. It was later expanded to include victim reimbursement for crime scene clean-up expenses and emergency relocation expenses for victims of sexual assault.

During the prior agreement period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026, \$45,226 in funeral/burial expenses were paid to victims of violent crime and reimbursed by CalVCB.

Performance Measures:

Monthly ledgers will be provided by District Attorney claims reviewers, and a monthly reconciliation of the fund will be completed and provided to CalVCB 15 days after each month closes for the prior month.

Fiscal Analysis:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agreement. To establish a revolving fund account, CalVCB advanced the District Attorney’s Office \$25,000.00 in Fiscal Year 2000-01 to pay qualifying claims. An additional \$40,000.00 was awarded in Fiscal Year 2019-20. The revolving fund will be continually replenished on an expense reimbursement basis for the agreement period.

Funding Source	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	Total
General Fund				
State	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 195,000
Federal				
Fees				
[Other Source]				
Total	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 195,000

Special Instructions:

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

- a) One (1) Minute Order
- b) One (1) copy of a fully-executed Resolution

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution

Attachment B – CalVCB Standard Agreement No. S26-036

Contact Information:

John DeAlba
 Department Business Specialist
 jodealba@countyofsb.org