



**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: March 18, 2008  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer  
Director Public Health Department  
Contact Info: Nancy Lapolla, MPH  
Emergency Medical Services Agency Director (681-5264)  
**SUBJECT:** Agreement with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for Medical Reserve Corps

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve and authorize the Public Health Director to execute an agreement with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for a grant to support the Santa Barbara County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) in the amount of \$5,000.

**Summary Text:**

The Santa Barbara County Medical Reserve Corps was established as part of the county's Pandemic Flu planning effort which began in 2006. It was one of the original 21 project teams created to prepare our county in the event of a disaster. This grant will pay for some costs necessary for the development of the corps. The MRC currently has a medical director, steering committee, policies and procedures for operations and web site for membership. There are currently 33 professional volunteers with the MRC and it is anticipated to grow to as many as 100 volunteers in the next 12 months.

NACCHO has received a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to build the capacity of local Medical Reserve Corps ("MRC") units and NACCHO has agreed, among other things, to provide support to MRC units and to encourage these units to provide certain information to the Office of the Surgeon General's Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps.

The term "capacity building" is used by NACCHO to describe the initial startup and on going maintenance costs to establish a MRC. The effective time period for this grant is February 13, 2008 through July 31, 2008 however to be accepted, this agreement must be signed prior to July 31, 2008.

The Santa Barbara County MRC has on going costs for recruitment, ID photo cards, background checks, uniforms, communications, brochures, etc. This is the second grant from NACCHO for this purpose. On June 19, 2007 the Board approved last year’s capacity building grant of \$10,000.

**Background:**

The Medical Reserve Corps consists of licensed medical professionals who are willing to volunteer and serve as emergency medical workers in a disaster or emergency. Medical Reserve Corps volunteers may be doctors or nurses, veterinarians, dentists, social workers, pharmacists, chaplains, paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians.

The Medical Reserve Corps volunteers would be called upon when regular emergency medical response systems are overwhelmed, such as during natural disasters or other major emergencies. With the creation of a local Medical Reserve Corps, Santa Barbara County residents will be able to count on a group of volunteers to supplement emergency medical workers in the event of a public health emergency or disaster.

The Medical Reserve Corps program was created after President Bush’s 2002 State of the Union Address in which he asked all Americans to volunteer in support of their country. Currently there are 37 Medical Reserve Corps registered in California and 657 nationwide. The Santa Barbara County Medical Reserve Corps was approved and registered with the Office of the Surgeon General in August 2006.

**Performance Measure:**

A Public Health Department prepared to efficiently and effectively respond to public health emergencies and disasters.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:** This agreement with the National Association of County and City Health Officials will provide \$5,000 to help offset the Santa Barbara County Medical Reserve Corps costs. The costs for the Medical Reserve Corps are included in the EMS cost center of the Community Health Division of the Public Health Department FY 07-08 adopted budget shown on page D-190 of the County’s Operating Plan document.

There are no increases in facility or County’s General Fund Resources as a result of executing this agreement.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**  
0

**FTEs:**  
0

**Special Instructions:** Please return an electronic copy of the Minute Order to the PHD Contracts Unit at [PHDRES.ContractsUnit@sbcphd.org](mailto:PHDRES.ContractsUnit@sbcphd.org).

**Attachments:** National Association of County and City Health Officials Agreement

**Authored by:** John Eaglesham, Contract & Compliance Coordinator, MRC Team Coordinator, Emergency Medical Services Agency, 805-681-5394.