



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 Dept.
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: May 03, 2011
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer, Public
Director(s) Health Department
Contact Info: Debra Palacio, Public Health Laboratory Director

SUBJECT: Applied Biosystems Bid Waiver Request

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Purchasing

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

Authorize the Purchasing Manager to issue a purchase order for Applied Biosystems for the purchase and maintenance of a real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) instrument in an amount not to exceed \$81,000 for Fiscal Years 2010-13 without a competitive bid. The vendor is not a local vendor.

Summary Text:

Approval of this request will enable the Public Health Laboratory to replace its current Roche Lightcycler PCR instrument which is both outdated and under-powered. The new Applied Biosystems PCR instrument adds capacity for testing many influenza specimens simultaneously. In a situation such as a pandemic influenza, increased testing timeliness facilitates timely interventions to maintain the health and safety of our community. Applied Biosystems is the sole source for this new PCR instrument.

County Code Section 2-39 states that the Purchasing Agent is obliged to purchase all materials, supplies, furnishings and equipment by using a formal competitive bidding process, unless the Board of Supervisors has waived competition under a particular set of circumstances. Due to "limitations in source or supply" pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, Public Health Department (PHD) is requesting your Board waive the requirement for a competitive bid for the purchase of a laboratory instrument and maintenance. The County Purchasing Department recommends that bid waiver requests be made for each applicable fiscal year. This bid waiver request is for FY 2010-13 which includes the purchase of the instrument and preventative maintenance through May 2013.

Background: Funding for this instrument is provided by Public Health Emergency Response (PHER) grant money which supports the purchase of this instrument in preparation for another pandemic influenza.

The new Applied Biosystems instrument will provide shorter turnaround times for test results and increased volume of tests including:

- Bioterrorism (Bacillus anthracis)
- Influenza A and B (Sub typing)
- Bordetella pertussis
- Norovirus

All Public Health Laboratories that were using the Roche Lightcycler (including our Santa Barbara County Public Health Laboratory) were given a temporary waiver by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to be able to perform influenza testing due to the H1N1 pandemic. Migration to the new Applied Biosystems platform is now being encouraged by the CDC. The State of California Public Health Laboratory has already upgraded to the Applied Biosystems platform and will provide training, reagents and technical reference for the new instrument. The CDC will also provide technical reference.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding for this bid waiver request and the related appropriations not to exceed \$81,000 comes from the Public Health Emergency Response (PHER) Extension Grant. For the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget, the allotment is included as part of the adjusted Public Health Department's budget. It is included in the EMS Cost Center of the Community Health Division of the Public Health Department shown on page D-220 of the County Operating Plan. Pending approval a budget revision request will be submitted to establish a fixed asset line item in the budget.

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

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

There are no staffing impacts as a result of this action.

Special Instructions:

Please return an electronic copy of the Minute Order to PHD Contracts Unit at PHDcu@sbcphd.org and one copy of the minute order to Purchasing, Attn: Gloria Ness.

Authored by:

Rose Davis, Contracts Unit Manager, Administration Division 681-5107