

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 9/4/03
Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 9/9/03
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 30 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Roger E. Heroux, M.P.A.
Public Health Department Director

STAFF CONTACT: Jan E. Glick, x5284
Animal Services Director

SUBJECT: Gardner Ranch Investigation, Mustang Horses

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive a report from County Animal Services pertaining to the mustang horses on the Gardner Ranch.
2. Direct the County Animal Services staff of the Public Health Department to continue the ongoing investigation of the condition of mustang horses on the Gardner Ranch property as needed.
3. Approve the request of the Public Health Department for a transfer of County General Fund Contingency dollars the amount of \$51,795.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with:

- I. Efficient Government: An efficient government able to respond effectively to the needs of the community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On April 8, 2003, County Animal Services staff opened an investigation into allegations of neglect of mustang horses on the Gardner Ranch property. County Animal Services staff remains in close contact with the District Attorney's Office and County Counsel regarding legal consultation on this matter. In addition, the County Sheriff's Department provides active participation in collection of evidence and appropriate documentation.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Under Penal Code Section 597, County Animal Services is the lead agency in determining whether an animal cruelty case will be referred to the District Attorney's Office for filing of criminal charges. Performance of

animal welfare investigations is a mandated responsibility of County Animal Services. This investigation and the increased service level required has resulted in increased costs for staff time and other resources.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

As of the writing of this board letter, the fiscal impact of this investigation is above budgeted expenses for Animal Services in the area of overtime salaries for investigative staff, evidence documentation expenses, veterinary expenses and other associated costs such as specimen collection and laboratory analyses. The spreadsheet attachment details the incurred and projected costs for the first quarter of \$26,150, and the second quarter of \$25,645, for a total projected cost of \$51,795 for FY 03-04. Since these expenditures are not part of the Public Health Department's Adopted FY 03-04 Budget and have no funding source, your Board is requested to consider our request for a transfer from general fund contingency of \$51,795. If approved by your Board, a budget revision request will follow this action. Moreover, these projections were made based upon our current knowledge of the situation, additional fiscal and facilities impacts will occur should any of the horses be impounded by Animal Services.

All costs for investigation time, services, and materials for the previous fiscal year 2002-2003 have been borne by the Public Health Department. In addition, the department will continue to bear the indirect and in-kind administrative costs of the continuing investigation.

Special Instructions: N/A

Concurrence: N/A

Animal Services Program
Santa Barbara County Public Health Department
Gardner Ranch Investigation
Cost Projections for FY 03-04

<u>Projected Expenditures:</u>		First Quarter 7/01/03 - 9/30/03	Second Quarter 10/01/03 - 12/31/03
<u>Investigation Staff Salaries and Benefits:</u>			
Supv ACO, Miller	8 hrs Overtime per week 7/1-9/30/03	2,232	
ACO, Extra Help	100% time 8/25 - 12/31/03	2,651	6,361
ACO, Extra Help	50% time 9/2 - 12/31/03	1,060	3,181
Outreach Coord, Wall	3 hrs Overtime per week 7/1-9/30/03 1.5 hrs Overtime per week 10/1-12/31/03	1,707	854
Subtotal for Investigation Salaries and Benefits		<u>7,650</u>	<u>10,396</u>
<u>Services and Supplies:</u>			
Contract Veterinarian	\$1,000 per week from 7/27 - 9/30/03 \$ 750 per week from 10/01- 12/31/03	\$ 9,000	\$9,000
Laboratory Costs	Diagnostic testing -based on actual	9,000	6,000
Other/Incidentals	Toll calls, film, other	500	250
Subtotal for Services and Supplies		<u>\$ 18,500</u>	<u>\$ 15,250</u>
Total incurred and projected Investigation costs		<u>\$ 26,150</u>	<u>\$ 25,646</u>
Total of projections for both Quarters		\$ 51,795	