



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:** July 13, 2021  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Director  
Director Public Health Department  
Contact Info: Matthew Higgs, ELC Program Manager  
(805) 681-4920  
**SUBJECT: Request to Ratify Execution of California Department of Public Health Valencia Branch Laboratory (COLOR Lab) for COVID Testing**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence: Risk Management**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Director of the Public Health Department to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Santa Barbara and the California Department of Public Health to utilize the State's Valencia Branch Laboratory for expedited COVID-19 testing beginning December 22, 2020 and terminating 30 days after the State lifts the State declaration of the COVID-19 state of emergency; and
- b) Determine that the recommended action is not a "Project" that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), because it is an organizational or administrative activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda for your Board to approve, ratify, and authorize the Director of the Public Health Department (PHD) to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to utilize California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Valencia Branch Laboratory and send collected COVID-19 specimens to assist with efforts to expedite testing as part of the County's COVID-19 response efforts (Attachment A).

**Background:** On March 12, 2020, the Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency proclamation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the County’s response to stop the spread of COVID-19, this MOU was executed so that the County could utilize the State’s Valencia Branch Laboratory for expedited COVID-19 testing.

After determining that the capacity to test and wait time for results was significantly affected due to supply chain issues, CDPH’s Valencia Branch Laboratory was created to provide essential laboratory testing of specimens for SARS-CoV-2. CDPH contracted with PerkinElmer to expand the State’s capacity to respond to the pandemic by providing laboratory equipment, software, and supplies necessary to increase capacity testing for SARS-CoV-2. Additionally, PerkinElmer contracted with Color to provide sample collection kits and shipping materials to increase capacity in sites throughout the State.

Thus, the request is for your Board to approve, ratify, and authorize the Director of PHD to execute the MOU with CDPH ratifying the use of their Valencia Branch Laboratory for testing as part of the County’s COVID-19 response and mitigation efforts.

**Performance Measure:**

N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

CDPH will be responsible for the costs for laboratory testing and collected samples at the Valencia Branch Laboratory. The parties will otherwise bear their own costs in providing services under this MOU. Specifically, the County is responsible for costs for collection, labeling, handling, packaging, and transportation of the specimens.

**Key Contract Risks**

Identified risks include personal health information (PHI) being shared, and the indemnification clause stating that the County indemnifies the State, PerkinElmer, and Color. However, the risk is reduced by the County’s long standing relationship with CDPH, and there was an urgent need to increase testing to help mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in the community.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

0

**FTEs:**

0

**Special Instructions:**

Please retain one (1) Minute Order for pick-up by the department. Please email [Kelly.Lazarus@sbcphd.org](mailto:Kelly.Lazarus@sbcphd.org) when available for pickup.

**Attachments:**

- A. CDPH Valencia Branch Laboratory MOU for COVID-19 Testing

**Authored by:**

Matthew Higgs, ELC Program Manager