



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: August 02, 2011  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer  
Director(s) Public Health Department  
Contact Info: Jennifer Bernstein, 681-4934  
Environmental Health Services Director  
**SUBJECT: Funding Agreement # 11-010 for Ocean Water Quality Monitoring & Public Notification Services**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors consider recommendations, as follows:

- a) Approve and authorize the Public Health Department Director to enter into a Funding Agreement (Number 11-010) with the State of California to provide public beach water quality monitoring and public notification services in the amount of \$51,361 for the period April 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.
- b) Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activities may have a significant effect on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The California Health and Safety Code requires public beaches be sampled at least weekly during the period of April 1 – October 31. As a mandated local program, the California Constitution requires that the State reimburse local jurisdictions for the cost of performing this water quality monitoring.

As a result of State budget shortfalls, funding for this program was eliminated. As a one-time stop gap funding mechanism, the State Water Resources Control Board is providing money for ocean water monitoring April 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

**Background:**

In July 1999, Assembly Bill 411 revised the California Health & Safety Code to require that coastal jurisdictions monitor the quality of the water adjacent to public beaches. The statute and the ensuing regulations developed pursuant to the statute, stipulated that public beaches, as defined, were to be sampled for bacteria at least weekly between April 1 and October 31. The results of the weekly monitoring were to be made available to the public by various methods. Beaches that did not meet the water quality standards specified in the regulations were to be posted with warning signs or closed if deemed necessary by the local Health Officer.

As a mandated program, the California constitution requires that the State reimburse local jurisdictions for the cost incurred with the ocean water monitoring and public notification during these months. As a result of the ongoing State budget shortfalls, funding for the ocean water monitoring program was eliminated. In response, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has backfilled this funding gap with one-time grant money to cover the cost of local programs through the 2011 summer and fall.

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the California Department of Public Health seek to enter into a funding agreement, whereby the California Department of Public Health will reimburse the County, up to the limits of the agreement, for the cost of monitoring and reporting water quality at public beaches through December 31, 2011.

After December 2011, Santa Barbara Channel Keepers has agreed to assist with ocean water testing funded by one-time local Tobacco Settlement Endowment funding. Once that funding is expended, Environmental Health Services will take over testing with federal funding provided by the 2011-12 BEACH grant. In this way, we anticipate that ocean water testing can be provided at least through the end of FY 11-12. If the State is unable to once again backfill funding for FY 12-13, there could be a gap in testing until October 2012 when BEACH grant funding for federal fiscal year 2012-13 is anticipated to become available.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Approval and acceptance of these funds from the State Water Resources Control Board to Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services will provide beach water quality monitoring and public notification services from April 1, 2011 thru December 31, 2011. The \$51,361 is included in the Public Health Department's Fiscal Year 11-12 Recommended Budget. There is no projected use of general fund dollars for this project.

The approval of the recommendations will neither decrease nor increase current staff levels. No additional facilities would be needed as a result of entering into this agreement.

**Special Instructions:**

Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to PHD Contracts Unit at: [PHDcu@sbcphd.org](mailto:PHDcu@sbcphd.org)

**Attachments:**

State of California Funding Agreement # 11-010

**Authored by:**

David Brummond, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist, Environmental Health Services