

**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:** 10/18/04  
**Department Name:** Sheriff  
**Department No.:** 032  
**Agenda Date:** November 2, 2004  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Sheriff Jim Anderson  
Sheriff's Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lt. Chuck Gerhart  
ext. 5752

**SUBJECT:** Sole Source Procurement of Safety Equipment, Taser weapon systems

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Authorize sole source procurement of Taser equipment necessary to conduct initial training for Sheriff's Department employees. Initial cost not to exceed \$60,000.
- B. Approve the acquisition of the above safety equipment.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

Minimizing injuries to suspects and employees is consistent with meeting the County's goal of a safe and healthy community and of paramount concern to the Sheriff's Department. Many agencies throughout the United States have found the Advanced Taser Electro-Muscular Disruption (EMD) weapon to be an effective less-lethal weapon, which is designed to reduce injuries or death in situations where less-lethal or lethal force may be justified. In fact, the Sheriff of Orange County, Florida reports that since the introduction of the Advance Taser, employee injuries have been reduced some eighty percent.

The research conducted by the Sheriff's Department Training Bureau offers the following insight into the use feasibilities for the Advance Taser within the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. The Advanced Taser offers employees an additional less-lethal force option at distance. The Taser has lower incidents of

suspect injury than that of other intermediate force options. Agencies currently using the Advance Taser report a reduction in the number of employee injuries resulting from struggles with violent subjects. Additionally, the Taser offers repeated application availability should the subject continue to resist. Finally, the Advance Taser is a less intrusive application of force when viewed by members of the public.

With the exception of the Sheriff's Department, all of the major Law Enforcement agencies in this county deploy the Advance Taser as an intermediate use of force option.

Attached is a letter from Taser International identifying Davidsons/Proforce Marketing as the sole authorized police distributor for the southern California (South of Monterey).

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

Current County policy requires that the acquisition of equipment in excess of \$25,000 be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There is no fiscal impact to the County general fund. Sheriff's Council fund raisers provide the funding source for this acquisition.

There will be no facilities impacts to the Sheriff's Department as existing space has already been identified for this equipment.

**Special Instructions:**

*Clerk of the Board:* Please send a copy of the signed minute order to Lieutenant Charles Gerhart, Sheriff's Department.