



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: June 01, 2010
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
Director(s)
Contact Info: Jennifer Bernstein, Environmental Health Services, Interim Director

SUBJECT: ARRA – Revenue Agreement 10-95322 for Beach Water Quality Monitoring and Public Notification Services

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors approve and authorize the Public Health Department Director to accept American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 Agreement number 10-95322 in the amount of \$28,093. This Agreement with the State of California provides ARRA funding to provide beach water quality monitoring and public notification services.

Summary Text:

The California Health & Safety Code requires that public beaches are to 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 the program was eliminated. As a one-time, stop-gap funding mechanism, the State Water Resource Control Board is providing American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funds for ocean water monitoring from July 1, 2010 thru December 31, 2010.

By approving this recommended action, the Board will authorize the Public Health Department to enter into an agreement with the California Department of Public Health whereby the State will reimburse the County up to the contract amount of \$28,093.00, for ocean water monitoring, dissemination of the results to the public and any necessary posting at public beaches where the water quality does not meet state standards.

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 required that the State reimburse local jurisdictions for the cost incurred with the ocean water monitoring and public notification during summer months. Last year, as a result of the State budget shortfall, the funding for the ocean water program was eliminated. In response, the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) backfilled the funding gap with Proposition 13 monies. However, this source of funding will end on June 30, 2010. The SWRCB American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds will cover ocean water monitoring in Santa Barbara County for the balance of the 2010 summer months testing period.

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the California Department of Public Health seek to enter into an agreement, whereby the California Department of Public Health will reimburse the County, up to the limits of the contract, for the cost of monitoring water quality at public beaches during summer months, disseminating the results of this monitoring to the public and posting at the beaches as necessary.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The service levels required by California law are codified in sections 115889, 115885 and 115916 of the California Health and Safety Code. The regulations adopted pursuant to the statute, are found in Title 17, California Code of Regulations, sections 7956-7962, inclusive. These regulations stipulate that the County is responsible for monitoring the water quality at all public beaches within our jurisdiction at least once per week from April 1 to October 31, inclusive. Other duties include:

- Posting warning signs whenever testing reveals that the water quality does not meet bacteriological standards.
- Closing a beach in the event that a sewage spill contaminates the water adjacent to a public beach.
- Maintaining a telephone hotline to inform the public of any postings, closures or use restrictions at any beach.

While it is not mandated to test in winter months, Santa Barbara County allocated \$15,000 of Tobacco Settlement endowment to a local non-profit organization to perform weekly winter month testing for FY 2009-10 and post the results on the internet. This funding is again proposed in the FY 2010-11 budget so this service can be continued.

No increase in service levels will be required as a result of entering into this agreement as the monitoring frequency and the reporting procedures currently used by the County also meet the guidelines contained in this contract.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Acceptance of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services will provide beach water quality monitoring and public notification services from July 1, 2010 thru December 31, 2010.

There is no projected use of general fund dollars for this project. The \$28,093 is included in the Public Health Department's FY 2010-11 Recommended Budget.

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.

Attachments:

California Department of Public Health, Revenue Agreement Number 10-95322

Authored by:

David Brummond, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist, 346-7348.

cc:

Auditor Controller