



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: October 18, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Daniel L. B. Nielson, MPA
Director Public Health Department
Contact Info: Matthew Higgs, (805) 450-6483
ELC Program Manager
SUBJECT: **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection and ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion allocations for COVID-19 Activities during FYs 2020/2021 through 2024/2025**

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Public Health Department Director to accept and receive a 20-month extension to the funding period for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection (ELC) allocation for coronavirus response from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) per the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act HR 266 with a revised period of May 18, 2020 through July 31, 2024 in the amount of \$6,112,535 (Attachment A); and
- b) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Public Health Department Director to accept and receive a 12-month extension to the funding period for the ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion allocation for coronavirus response from the CDPH per the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, P.L. 116-260, with a revised period of January 15, 2021, through July 31, 2024 in the amount of \$19,162,899 (Attachment A); and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions are not a “Project” with the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and are exempt per CEQA Guideline section 15378(b)(4), since the recommended actions are government fiscal activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to authorize the Public Health Department (Department) to extend the term of two allocations from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH):

- 1) ELC Enhancing Detection that was accepted by your board on October 13, 2020 (for the period of May 18, 2020 through November 17, 2022). This funding comes from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) from the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act HR 266 (Attachment C).
- 2) ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion that was accepted by your board on May 4, 2021 (for the period of January 15, 2021 through July 31, 2023). This funding comes from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, P.L. 116-260 (Attachment D).

Both of these allocations provide critical resources to local health departments in support of a broad range of COVID 19/SARS-CoV-2 testing and epidemiologic surveillance related activities. These allocations can be used for increase response capacity and staffing levels during the coronavirus-related public health emergency, to provide support for increased testing and disease containment, and to lay the foundation for future public health surveillance. Additionally, the CDC, and CDPH, have authorized a portion of this funding to be utilized to increase response capacity and staffing levels during the Monkeypox (MPX) public health emergency (Attachment E).

Background:

The CDC, through CDPH, has made these awards available to Local Health Departments (LHD) as part of a historic U.S. response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (SBCPHD) has used these awards to build infrastructure to protect the community by: preventing, vaccinating, and testing for COVID-19. SBCPHD will utilize the funding extension to maintain, or increase, health capacity and staffing levels to continue to address the necessary public health surveillance beyond the federal emergency period. Since the Coronavirus crisis commenced, it was recognized that LHDs would need additional resources in assisting communities in addressing the disease and responding to the pandemic.

The awards span six different strategies and have provided the majority of SBCPHD's funding to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and have allowed the Department to improve infrastructure to address other emerging infections, and conditions of public health significance over the last two-and-a-half years; while prioritizing and targeting resources to those most vulnerable. The awards will continue to be used locally to help maintain, or increase LHD, capacity and staff by covering some costs associated with PHD vaccination response, isolation and quarantine, epidemiology staff salaries and benefits, SARS-CoV-2 testing, contact tracing, outreach to vulnerable populations, and enhancements to PHD electronic health information data collection and reporting.

Performance Measure:

CDPH requires that SBCPHD develop and submit a work plan and a spend plan for the funds; PHD must report on progress, activities, and expenditures on a quarterly basis. Specific required performance measures will be automatically reported to the state because the PHD is using the state's CalCONNECT platform for disease investigation and contact tracing (Attachment B).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Approving, ratifying, and authorizing the Public Health Department Director to accept and receive these extensions will allow the Public Health Department to continue to charge ELC activities to these awards for the periods of November 18, 2022 through July 31, 2024 for ELC Enhancing Detection, and August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024 for ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion. There are no changes to the dollar amounts of either award and the anticipated amount of FY 2022-23 spending appropriation has been included in the Public Health Adopted FY 2022-23 Budget.

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

- A. Attachment A - ELC Direct Allocation Letter- Funding Extension
- B. Attachment B - ELC_ELCx Deliverable Updated Due Dates 06.16.2022
- C. Attachment C - CDPH allocation letter COVID-19ELC42
- D. Attachment D - ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion COVID Funding Award
- E. Attachment E - MPX Federal Funding Flexibility 08.12.2022

Authored by:

Matthew Higgs, ELC Program Manager, Public Health Department