



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:** CEO  
**Department No.:** 012  
**For Agenda Of:** January 21, 2014  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, 568-3404  
Jeri Muth, Human Resources Director, 568-2816

Contact Info: Jeri Muth, Human Resources Director, 568-2816

**SUBJECT:** *Appointment of Public Health Department Health Officer*

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Select\_Other

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Appoint Dr. Charity Thoman as the County's Health Officer on an interim basis and direct staff to notify the California Department of Public Health of the appointment; and
2. Determine that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review as it is not a project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378 (b) (2).

**Summary Text:**

The recommended actions are pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 101000 and 101010 and will result in Dr. Thoman operating as the County's Health Officer while Public Health Director, Dr. Takashi Wada, continues to manage two large departments: Public Health and Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services (ADMHS). Staff will return to the Board to recommend Dr. Wada be appointed the County's Health Officer once this dual-department leadership assignment has concluded.

**Background:**

In approximately October 2012, Dr. Takashi Wada began providing leadership to both the Public Health Department and ADMHS. At the time, a consulting firm was reviewing ADMHS for potential structural and operational changes and efficiencies. Since that time, the consultant's findings were finalized and Dr. Wada has been leading change efforts while Dr. Charity Thoman has been performing the duties of the Deputy Health Officer. The recommended actions will result in Dr. Thoman being appointed as the Health Officer for the remainder of Dr. Wada's assignment to lead both departments, and will allow him to devote additional attention to change efforts in ADMHS and focus on ongoing leadership for Public Health. Dr. Wada will maintain a Deputy Health Officer role during this period.

Dr. Thoman will continue to be the County's Health Officer until the Board of Supervisors elects to appoint Dr. Wada or another qualified individual.

cc: Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant CEO  
Dr. Takashi Wada, Public Health Director  
Michael C. Ghizzoni, County Counsel