



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

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Department Name: Board of Supervisors  
Department No.: 011  
For Agenda Of: 11/3/09  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: 15 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: 4/5

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Board Member(s) Supervisor Salud Carbajal 568-2186  
Contact Info: Jeremy Tittle 568-2186 *AOC.*

NOV 03 2009

**SUBJECT:** Consider request to fund public health winter ocean water quality testing

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**Recommended Actions:** The Board set a hearing for November 10, 2009 to consider funding winter ocean water quality program from November, 2009 to March, 2010 using TSAC or other non-general fund sources.

**Summary Text:**

Since 1998 Environmental Health Services has conducted an ocean water sampling program to monitor the bacteriological quality of recreational waters at approximately 20 beaches. Funding for the monitoring came from a combination of federal, state and local sources. While funding from state bonds and federal grants was secured for summer water quality testing, there have been no identified funding sources for testing during the winter months of November through March. In FY 08-09 and the current 09-10 fiscal year, winter water quality monitoring by Environmental Health Services was eliminated in response to reduced state funding and loss of County General Fund support for this program in order to meet local budget targets.

In response to this public health issue, Channelkeeper, a local environmental organization, along with the City of Santa Barbara, conducted winter water quality monitoring at select beaches along the South Coast from November 2008 through March 2009 and posted the results for the public. Channelkeeper is proposing to continue their winter water quality testing program this fiscal year and has requested \$15,000 for the five month period from November, 2009 to March, 2010.

**Background:**

Water quality monitoring is an important informational tool for members of the public who use our local beaches and ocean waters for recreation. While state law requires monitoring during the summer months, there is no requirement for testing during the winter months. However, the winter months which compromise the rainy season in Santa Barbara County, pose the added risk of poor water quality that can threaten the public health due to urban runoff, an increase in sewage spills and other factors that contribute to pollution. This is also the time of year when winter storm systems bring waves to our local beaches which increases the number of surfers in the water and their potential exposure to bacteria and other pathogens. Channelkeeper’s winter water quality testing and public reporting of the results give surfers and other members of the public the information they need to evaluate potential risks associated with some of our more popular beaches and surf breaks.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Funding for this public health program will come from TSAC or other non-general fund sources

**Fiscal Analysis:**

General Fund						
State						
Federal						
Fees						
Other:	\$	-	\$	-	\$	15,000.00
Total	\$	-	\$	-	\$	15,000.00

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**Narrative:**

Approval of this request will re-establish a public health program that was previously implemented by Environmental Health.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**  
N/A

**FTEs:**

**Special Instructions:**

**Attachments:**

- A: Channelkeeper letter
- B: Budget revision request

**Authored by:**

Eric Friedman

**cc:**



*Protecting and Restoring the Santa Barbara Channel and Its Watersheds*

714 Bond Avenue • Santa Barbara, CA 93103 • Tel (805) 563 3377 • Fax (805) 687 5635 • www.sbck.org

October 20, 2009

Salud Carbajal, First District Supervisor  
Santa Barbara County  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Supervisor Carbajal,

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is seeking funding to support our effort to conduct weekly sampling at 12 of the County's most popular beaches\* to monitor bacteria levels from November 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010. The total cost of this effort is \$15,000, or \$3,000 per month. This is a serious public health community issue.

Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services (EHS) used to conduct weekly beach bacteria testing year-round, but due to budgetary constraints last year, the Board of Supervisors was forced to cut funding for the effort during the winter months (November-March). Santa Barbara Channelkeeper was able to assume this important public health service last November and to continue until mid-May of this year, when EHS resumed it again. Continued budgetary constraints this year resulted in the same situation – insufficient funding for EHS to carry out the beach testing program this winter. As such, Channelkeeper is again seeking funding to assume the task. As we did last year, we would also share our results with the public on our website ([www.sbck.org](http://www.sbck.org)), via our email list of interested parties, and in the Wednesday editions of local newspapers.

Beaches throughout Santa Barbara County are heavily used in the winter by surfers and beachgoers alike. Many of these beaches are plagued by excessive levels of bacteria that threaten public health. California has standards for certain bacteria (total coliform, fecal coliform and enterococcus) against which the health of the state's beaches is measured. These "indicator bacteria" do not in themselves cause illness in humans, but several studies have shown that as indicator bacteria levels increase, the rate of swimming-associated illness also increases. Testing during the winter months is particularly important because beaches are more polluted due to the stormwater runoff and more frequent sewage spills that come with winter rains. Better waves also bring more surfers into the water in the winter. Since swimming in polluted water can make people sick, ocean users need to know when State health standards are exceeded so they can avoid putting themselves at risk. The suspension of the weekly sampling program for five months could endanger the health of ocean users.

Channelkeeper therefore respectfully requests \$15,000 from the County to assist our effort to conduct weekly bacteria testing at 12 County beaches during the winter 2009-10 to ensure that the beach-going public continues to have this critical information about the safety of recreating in our coastal waters. Thank you very much for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Kira Redmond, Executive Director

\* Channelkeeper will sample at Rincon Point, Carpinteria State Beach, Carpinteria City Beach, Summerland Beach, Hammond's Beach, Butterfly Beach, Hope Ranch Beach, Goleta Beach, Sands Beach at Coal Oil Point, Haskell's Beach, El Capitan State Beach, and Refugio State Beach. The City of Santa Barbara will sample at Leadbetter, Arroyo Burro and East Beach at Mission and Sycamore Creeks.

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# Budget Revision Request

BJE

Budget Journal Entry #

Gov. Code Sec. 29125 & 29130

JE

Related Journal Entry #

**Subject / Title:** Provide a **short description** for this budget revision request. For example: "Designate funds for zoning ordinance amendments" or "Distribute proceeds from sale of 2005 COPS".

Public Health: Release \$15,000 from the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Fund (Fund 1171) to fund the Channelkeeper winter ocean water quality program from November, 2009 to March, 2010.

**Justification:** For all changes: explain what the change is for and why it is needed. Attach additional justification, board Letters or spreadsheet, if appropriate. When moving Appropriation: explain why it's available. When Revenue is adjusted: explain the reason for the increase or decrease. For adjustments to General Fund Contingency: explain why no other alternative funding source is available.

This budget revision request will amend and increase the Tobacco Settlement allocation budget by \$15,000 by releasing funds from the Tobacco Settlement Endowment. This \$15,000 will be used to fund the Channelkeeper winter ocean water quality program for the period of November, 2009 to March, 2010. The Tobacco Settlement Endowment is projected to have a balance of approximately \$2,500,000 at 6/30/10.

## Financial Summary

Increase or (Decrease) in Appropriation for / Uses:	Department / Fund 041 / 0046	Department / Fund /	Department / Fund /	Department / Fund /
Salaries & Benefits	00	00	00	00
Services & Supplies	15,000   00	00	00	00
Other Charges	00	00	00	00
Fixed Assets	00	00	00	00
Other Financing Uses	00	00	00	00
Intrafund Transfers	00	00	00	00
Reserve or Designation	00	00	00	00
<b>Sources:</b>				
Revenue	00	00	00	00
Other Financing Sources	00	00	00	00
Intrafund Transfers	00	00	00	00
Reserve or Designation	15,000   00	00	00	00
<b>Effect on Contingency / RE</b>	-   00	00	00	00

Departmental Authorization	Auditor-Controller	CEO's Recommendation	Board of Supervisor's Action
Department Head _____ Date _____ Department Head _____ Date _____ Department Head _____ Date _____	Budget Journal Entry and Related Journal Entry if applicable Approved as to Accounting Form. _____ Auditor-Controller	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve _____ Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove _____ Date _____ Transfer/Revision in Accordance with Board Policy dated 8/3/93. _____ County Executive Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved _____ Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved _____ Date _____ _____ Clerk of the Board of Supervisors