

**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: 08/12/02
Department Name: District Attorney
Department No.: 021
Agenda Date: 9/3/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas W. Sneddon, Jr.
District Attorney

STAFF CONTACT: Marnie B. Pinsker
District Attorney Assistant Director, x2304

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution Authorizing the District Attorney to renew the State Agreement for the Domestic Violence Prosecution Grant Program

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney's Office to continue its agreement with the State Department of Justice for the Domestic Violence Prosecution Grant program in the amount of \$84,000 with a 20% Santa Barbara County General Fund match of \$16,800 for FY 02-03.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

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

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Spousal Abuser Vertical Prosecution Project has been operational since January 1995 and is partially financed through a grant administered by the State Department of Justice. Consistent with the legislative guidelines of the Battered Women Protection Act, a team consisting of a full-time prosecutor, half-time investigator and half-time victim advocate in the Santa Barbara Office is dedicated to vertical prosecution of domestic violence. This unit has been effective in helping victims to overcome their fear of the criminal justice system and encourage cooperation with the prosecution efforts. This has increased the conviction and sentencing of offenders, whose probation terms include follow up court appearances to ensure compliance with mandated counseling to reduce future domestic violence incidents. The unit will continue to vertically prosecute domestic violence cases, which have consistently totaled roughly 300 cases filed annually.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Renewal of the Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit in Santa Barbara will sustain efforts to aggressively prosecute domestic violence offenders.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Annual State funding in the amount of \$84,000 and the 20% match of \$16,800 are contained in the FY 02-03 budget. The general fund contribution of \$100,420 finances the balance of salary costs, including the match. This program is included in the Criminal Operations cost center of the District Attorney's budget (page D-32 of the budget). Due to the delay in adoption of the State budget and the potential that State grant funding levels could be reduced, the State Department of Justice (DOJ) is withholding roughly 20% of the allocations statewide. Current language in the budget bill retains funding levels provided in FY 01-02, but DOJ has delayed distribution of the full funding level until the State budget is finalized.

Special Instructions: Please return executed resolution to Marnie Pinsker, District Attorney's Office.